Our Lady's, St John's Wood & Our Lady of the Rosary, Marylebone

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parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood
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Service Times

St John's Wood

Sunday Mass
6:00pm (Sat, Vigil),
9:00am, 12:15pm, 6:00pm

Weekday Mass
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday 10:00am

Adoration
Saturday 10.30am - 11.00am

Confessions
Saturday 10:30am - 11:00am,
5:15pm - 5:45pm

Marylebone

Sunday Mass
10:45am (Sung)

Weekday Mass
Monday & Wednesday 12:30pm
Friday 6:30pm

Confessions & Adoration
Friday 5:30pm - 6:15pm

DONATE

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St John's Wood **Marylebone**

+Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
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Better Safe than Sorry

You won't belive what people have asked over the years to put on the coffins of their loved ones - we're way beyond flags and flowers here! Funeral directors too often ask if we have a pall. This is a large white cloth which, along with the lit Paschal or Easter candle, reminds us of the deceased person's baptism. The symbolism is that as the individual has shared in Christ's death they may rise to new life with Him. Cool, eh?

But when I was a boy and served at funerals - often for a crisp £5 note and a morning off school - you couldn't see the top of the coffin because it was covered in Mass cards. These were given by friends and relatives showing that the Mass, the re-presentation of Christ's sacrifice on the cross which frees us from sin, would be offered for the dead person to purify them so that they might enter into Heaven. But that's pretty much gone now and as you can see from our Mass intention list, often the Eucharist is celebrated for the priest's private intentions.

Everyone thinks about death and their funerals - where it will be, what music to have, where they will be buried, etc. But do we leave instructions for people to pray for us? After all, which of you reading this would say you are so perfect that you're ready to be with God now?

All this stems from an irrational fear of purgatory, the waiting room for heaven, and the morphing of funerals into celebrations of life like canonisations. We are so used to getting everything immediately that we expect God to deliver Heaven to us and our loved ones as if eternal life comes free with *Amazon Prime*.

Let's just take a breath. If we've been out and about playing and working in the world, we are still welcome at the table for dinner. But first we have to wash our hands or more if we've been playing and working really hard. That expectation doesn't make us any less loved. And it is the same with the heavenly banquet. A little time may be needed after this world to get cleaned up from our sins before we sit down as members of God's family in His Kingdom.

However, instead of soap and water, prayers make us worthy for this celestial feast - the prayers of those in heaven and those on earth. And the greatest prayer we have is the Mass, the very thing that cleanses us from the sins which separate us from God, and the prayer that unites those in heaven, in purgatory and on earth. So let's not presume but offer Masses for our loved ones. And whatever else you want on your coffin, like me, ensure it's many, many Mass cards.

Canon Kevin

Contact Information

Parish Clergy
Canon Kevin Jordan
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Musical Director (SJW)
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Parish Diary

Children's Liturgy of the Word
SJW - 9:00am, term time

Tea and Coffee
SJW- after 9:00am Mass, term time
MB - 8 November

Parent/Toddler Group - SJW Upper hall
9:30am - 11:30am Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, term time

Legion of Mary - MB
after 12:30pm Mass, Wednesdays

Parish Notices

Preparation for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2027. Application forms for both sacraments will be available to collect from Canon Kevin or Sr Brigid after all Sunday Masses. Confirmation candidates must collect the forms themselves. Please post completed forms through the presbytery door at either parish by 12 noon on Tuesday 1 December.

Canon Alexander Sherbrooke will give a talk on the life, witness, and legacy of the newly beatified Blessed Fulton Sheen on Monday, 9 November at 7:00pm at St Patrick's, Soho in the parish's Café Manoppello.

***SVP* Foodbank Collection** takes place in both parishes next weekend. Please leave non-perishable items on the tables in the porches. Please ensure that all items are securely wrapped to prevent any spillages. Thank you so much for your support.

A Day with Mary takes place at St George's Catholic Church, Sudbury on Saturday 14 November. For further information including the schedule for the day, please visit the website at https://www.adaywithmary.org/ or see the poster in the porches.

The Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection is next week. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. Caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a fundamental part of the mission of our diocese. You will find donation envelopes at the back of the church today. You can make a one-off donation or you can set up a regular donation and become a patron by completing section four on the envelope form. You can donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations or by scanning the QR Code on the envelopes or poster in the porch. Thank you so much for your support.

November is the month of the Holy Souls, a month dedicated to praying for the dead. Please take an envelope and sheet as you leave church to list your deceased loved ones. Return it to the presbytery with any offering. Names will be entered in the Book of Remembrance in each church and four Masses each week will be offered for those who need our prayers. In return, one day, they will pray for us from heaven.

UCM Christmas Family Fayre takes place on Sunday 29 November in the parish hall at St John's Wood after the 9:00am Mass. Children's tickets cost £5, payable on the door, and include a visit from Father Christmas, a children's book, crafts and games. Festive refreshments, a raffle and a silent auction are open to all.

Baptismal Preparation. The next course preparing parents for the baptism of their child - and prospective sponsors (godparents) - will be held on Saturday, 12 December at 11:30am in the St John's Wood parish office. Please contact the parish office to book a place.

***CAFOD* World Gifts**: Love your neighbour this Christmas by sharing the joy of this holy season with a *CAFOD* World Gift which could be safe water or school meals or even an animal to help those in need. This is a meaningful way to bless loved ones while putting your faith into action in solidarity with families around the world. Please collect a catalogue from the back of the church today or call 0300 777 0030 or visit worldgifts.cafod.org.uk.

If you are sick or in hospital, please tell the ward staff that you are a Catholic and wish to see the chaplian so that arrangements can be made for the priest there to visit you. And do let Canon Kevin know if you are housebound so we can arrange for you to be visited regularly.