



# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 2 October 2022

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

## That Sinking Feeling

When one of us goes away, the one left behind tends to do everything himself, although Fr Lorenzo and Fr Frank are within walking distance with Fr Paul and Fr Martin just a short commute away if needed. Indeed, there are a number of retired priests all over our Diocese who are willing to help out in parishes as and when they are needed. Some years ago there was concern about the vast number of priests approaching retirement age without enough going through the seminary to replace them. This problem has been long-fingered by priests' resignations at 75 not being accepted and hence we have many who are running parishes at 76 or even nearly 80 years of age. Speaking with them and a Vicar General in another diocese, these men would go on happily for years if the administrative burden of parish life was eased. In fact, the weight of "office work" is having a negative impact on all clergy and there is concern among our country's bishops about the morale and retention of younger priests in parish ministry and whether their lifestyle is inspiring to others. Of course, we must pray for and encourage more vocations, but formation takes time. Thus, the alternative is to look at places where this shortage has already taken effect. With that in mind, over the summer I spoke with a 76 year-old parish priest in Suffolk. Unlike here, there are no supply priests near him and so his holidays thus far have been a few Mondays to Fridays. Feeling spoiled and ashamed, I offered to say his Sunday Masses (he recently went from three to two) when I was at home for my break. He and his parishioners were delighted that he could have two whole weekends off in a year. And being there really struck me—everything was organised by parishioners, some of whom drove 20 miles or more for Mass while we can walk to Marylebone in 15 minutes; they were all fine about no weekday Masses for a short while; out of a congregation of 150 (we have 600), there were 10 altar servers (we have 15) and five counting teams (we have one, and almost a second). It was so encouraging. Whatever size or shape your finger, there is a gap, a role, you can fill. Without your finger, our ability to provide that which attracted us to the Priesthood and that for which we were Ordained will be unsustainable. This is an opportunity. It is not a crisis...yet. *Fr Kevin*

## Mass Times

### Sunday

6:00pm (Saturday)  
9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00 noon,  
6:00pm

### Weekdays

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday:  
10:00am  
Thursday: 7:00pm  
Friday & Saturday: 10:00am

### Rosary

After weekday Mass

### Exposition & Confessions

Saturday 10:30am—11:00am

### Confessions

Saturday 5:15pm—5:45pm

## Music for Sunday

Ingegneri- *Missa Gustate et  
Videte*

Lassus - *In illo tempore*

Porta - *Sapientia ubi invenitur?*

221 Guide me, O Thou Great  
Redeemer

129 Soul of my Saviour

235 Lead us, Heavenly Father,  
lead Us

## Sunday Readings, page 146

Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4

Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v.8

2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Luke 17:5-10

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Facebook: Our Lady's RC Church, St John's Wood <https://www.facebook.com/ourladysjw>

Parish Clergy: Fr Kevin Jordan ([kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk))

Fr Ben Woodley ([benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk))

Parish Sister: Sr Brigid Collins, RSM ([brigid@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:brigid@rcdow.org.uk))

Parish Administrator: Claudia McHugh ([stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk))

Director of Music: Martin Toyer ([martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk))

**Our Lady of Kibeho.** Giuseppina Carelli has written to say how kind and generous we were last weekend: she raised £300.70, which will be sent to the Diocese of Gikongoro to help build a free dormitory for the poorest pilgrims in Kibeho. She was most grateful to all the parishioners here at Our Lady's.

**Please join us for tea and coffee** today after 9:00am Mass in the parish hall. We desperately require more volunteers to assist in this important ministry—please contact Claudia in the office.

**For those who are applying to Catholic schools,** please follow this link for Admissions - <https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions> and read the *Guidance for Clergy* document. This explains what you need to provide in order for a priest to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice. If you can meet these criteria then please contact Claudia in the parish office to arrange an appointment to discuss secondary and sixth form applications. Primary and nursery applications will be dealt with after half-term but the same criteria apply for the completion of the Certificate of Catholic Practice.

**Rest in Peace: Hilda Griffiths.**  
Requiem Mass at Our Lady's on Thursday 6 October 2022 at 10:30am followed by committal at West London Crematorium.

**CAFOD Collection.** The Church's aid and development agency, marks its annual Family Fast Day on Friday 7 October with an appeal to Catholics in England and Wales to help the millions of people around the world struggling to put food on the table. Please do pick up an envelope at the entrance to the church and return it the next time you come to church. Your offerings will help feed those in great need. Thank you.

**SVP Foodbank Collection** will take place after the weekend Masses on 8/9 October. Please bring any non-perishable items along to assist the local foodbank. If you would like to be involved with the valuable work of the SVP please do look in the porch of the church where you will see a poster giving details. Thank you.

**A Mass of Celebration for 45 years of the mission of Caritas St Joseph's** will be held on Saturday 8 October 2022 at 2:00pm at Westminster Cathedral, followed by refreshments. All welcome.

**Procession of Our Lady of Willesden** on Sunday 9 October 2022 at 7:00pm at The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, 1 Nicoll Road, London NW10 9AX. Candlelit procession through the streets of Willesden, praying for the gift of vocations of the priesthood. Please see the poster in the porch.

**'A Day with Mary'** will take place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 15 October 2022 from 9:45am—5:30pm, a day of instruction, devotion and intercession, based on the message given at Fatima in 1917. For the full itinerary please visit <https://www adaywithmary.org/>.

**St Bernadette Relics' Tour** will be at St George's Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7HY from 9:45am on 19 October to 10:00am on 21 October 2022. For other dates including Diocese of Westminster venues <https://stbernadette.org.uk/>.

**Modern Media.** Do follow our parish website [www.olsjw.org.uk](http://www.olsjw.org.uk) and our microsite <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/> which is slowly being updated (could you help with this, please?) and Our Lady's RC Church, St John's Wood *Facebook* page which are updated regularly.

**Offerings** Standing orders are the easiest way to give regularly and can be set up via [www.olsjw.org.uk](http://www.olsjw.org.uk). To *Gift Aid* using the *Collections* register your usual card on the machine or scan the QR code and register your card at home.

Day	Location	Time	Group
Sunday	Upper Hall	After 9:00am Mass	Tea and Coffee
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Upper Hall	9:30am-11:30am	Parents & Toddlers
Tuesday	Upper Hall	1:00pm-4:30pm	Over 50's