



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ 1st Sunday of Advent, Year A - 27 November 2022

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

The Long and the Short of It

Dad once decided it would be a good idea for mum to have some help around the house. Mum then spent the entire day before said lady arrived cleaning the house from top to bottom as she couldn't let her think our house was messy. The delightful woman lasted one day. Today, Advent begins, marked, among other things, with me wearing purple vestments as I do during Lent. Lent is easy—it's 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday inclusive, minus the Sundays, but who can give up giving up for one day and then get back on the wagon? Advent is more complicated as it begins four Sundays before Christmas Day and so can range in duration from 28 days down to just 21. On that subject, this year is the longest it can be as Christmas Day is on a Sunday—the long of it. Next year, with Christmas Day on a Monday, it will have the minimum number of days, the short of it. Hence your Advent calendars are really just December calendars. During Lent we fast and abstain from things and go to Confession to acknowledge the sins which Jesus carried to and bore on the cross. In Advent, we are preparing to celebrate Christ coming into our world—in the future as King of the Universe and historically as a child. The former is something we all like to put on the long finger but happen it will and we must be ready. With that in mind, I urge you to go to Confession and clear the slate to be ready. The current times are to the right of this article and there will be extra times when you can be reconciled to God in the last two weeks of this holy season. Go for it. But even if the Second Coming doesn't fill you with overwhelming enthusiasm, consider the celebration of the historical coming of God as a human being purely out of love for us. Don't you wish to make this home, this body and soul, that we share with Him less messy? What is it that has been lying around for years unreconciled, ignored, swept under the carpet? Clear it out, let it go and create a truly beautiful home for when our Saviour comes, whenever that might be. Christmas marks the entry of God into our world—in the Gospels, the adult Christ teaches us how to keep the house of our souls neat and tidy better than any human cleaner ever could. So why not make these 28 days special by also reading a chapter of that Divine cleaning plan in St Matthew's Gospel each day? Happy Advent. *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

Morales - Missa Tristezas me matan
Lassus - Alma redemptoris mater a5
Manchicourt - O Virgo virginum
264 Tell Out My Soul
5 Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes
1 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Sunday Readings, page 82

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9 cf v 1
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44

Catholic Church of Our Lady, St John's Wood, 54 Lodge Road, London, NW8 8LA

020 7286 3214 www.olsjw.org.uk or stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk

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

Parish Clergy: Fr Kevin Jordan (kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk)
Fr Ben Woodley (benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk)
Parish Sister: Sr Brigid Collins, RSM (brigid@rcdow.org.uk)
Parish Administrator: Claudia McHugh (stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk)
Director of Music: Martin Toyer (martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk)

A Christmas Leaflet with the times of all Masses, Confessions, and church opening times for the season is available to take home with you today. Please give them out to people who might be thinking of coming to our parish over Christmas.

'The God Who Speaks'. For inspiration and resources for the season of Advent, visit <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/advent/>.

Free English Conversation Classes, For anyone interested, please join an informal get-together next Monday 28 November 2022 from 10:00am—12:00 noon in the church hall. We'd like to welcome former students and volunteer tutors, as well as anyone new. All are welcome.

Caritas - Can you help in some market research? This year is the 10th anniversary of Caritas Westminster, the social action arm of the Diocese. We are inviting anyone who would be interested to take part in one of three Zoom focus groups on: Thursday 1, Tuesday 6 & Wednesday 7 December from 6:30pm—7:45pm. Your opinion would be very helpful. Please email Julie Christie-Webb, Caritas Fundraising Manager, to register, juliechristiewebb@rcdow.org.uk.

A special Advent Carol Service in Westminster Cathedral, in aid of trafficking charity, *Mary Ward Loreto UK*, is on Thursday 1 December 2022 at 7:30pm. <https://www.thecatholicnetwork.co.uk/advent-service-of-readings-and-carols-at-westminster-cathedral/>.

Tombola, Tea & Scones & Homemade Cakes, Irish Coffee and Children's Activities at Our Lady's Next Saturday 3 December 2022 from 2:00pm in the parish hall. We would be grateful for donations of homemade cakes, whisky and toiletries—please drop these off at the rectory by Friday 2 December. Entry is £1.00 per person, kids go free. All proceeds to various charities and the parish.

London Jesuit Centre. Would you like to make more time to pray? Then this Week of Guided Prayer for Advent is for you! Introductory Zoom meeting on Sunday 4 December 2022 at 5:00pm—6:30pm. For more information visit <https://london.jesuitcentre.churchsuite.com/events/1fccxskw>.

Modern Media. Do look at our parish microsite <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/> (which is replacing the old website www.olsjw.org.uk), and at Our Lady's RC Church, St John's Wood *Facebook* page which is updated almost daily.

Preparation for Sacraments of First Holy Communion & Confirmation in 2023. Application forms for both Sacraments are available to collect from one of the clergy after Mass. Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation must collect the forms themselves. Only if you can attend all the sessions should you post completed forms through the rectory door by 12 noon on Tuesday 6 December 2022.

Rest in Peace: Marie Shannon. Requiem Mass at Our Lady's on Thursday 8 December 2022 at 11:30am followed by committal at Kensal Green Cemetery.

If you are applying to a Catholic nursery or primary school, follow this link to [Admissions \(https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions\)](https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions) and read the *Guidance for Clergy* document. If you can meet these criteria then please contact Claudia in the parish office to arrange an appointment to discuss applications.

Free Creative Writing Sessions in the lower hall on Thursdays from 10:30am—12:00 noon. No previous writing experience is necessary. All adults are welcome to have-a-go/share ideas in a friendly supportive environment.

Offerings. Standing orders are the easiest way to give regularly and can be set up via www.olsjw.org.uk. Please *Gift Aid* using the *Collections* by registering your usual card on the machine or scan the QR code and register your it at home which takes about 30 seconds.

Day	Location	Time	Group
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Upper Hall	9:30am-11:30am	Parents & Toddlers
Tuesday	Upper Hall	1:00pm-4:30pm	Over 50's
Thursday	Lower Hall	10:30am-12 noon	Creative Writing