



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



+ 4th Sunday of Advent, Year A & Christmastide - 18 December 2022

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

## God of Surprises

Each year, when it comes to writing Christmas cards, I spread out my selection in front of me. This year I noticed that many of them, like the Honthurst painting below, show the Christ child illuminating the



darkness around Him. But this should *not* be a surprise because, as Pope Francis says, "It is on the night of Christmas that the biggest surprise comes: the Most High is a small child. To celebrate Christmas is to welcome the surprise of Heaven on earth. If we can be silent in front of the crib, Christmas will be a surprise even for us, not something seen before. Be silent in front of the Nativity. This is an invitation for Christmas, take some time. Go before the Nativity and stay in silence. Every one of us has, hidden in our heart, the capacity to be surprised. May we be surprised by Jesus this Christmas."

As we thank God for all you give to one another and to us during the year and especially at Christmas, our prayer is that in silence you see anew and are awed by the Light that is Christ come into the world which no darkness can overcome. May that Light fill the hearts of you and your loved ones now and always. *Fr Kevin, Fr Ben, Sr Brigid & Milo*

## Mass Times

### Sunday 18 December

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

### Monday 19, Tuesday 20 & Wednesday 21 December:

10:00am

### Thursday 22 December:

7:00pm

### Friday 23 December:

10:00am

### Saturday 24 December,

### Christmas Eve

10:00am

6:00pm (Christmas Vigil, Sung  
with Carols & Nativity Play)

Midnight (Sung with Choir)

### Christmas Day, 25 December

9:00am

10:30am (Sung with Choir)

12 noon (Sung with Carols)

*For other Confession times and  
the rest of Christmastide  
please see the separate leaflet.*

## Music for Sunday

Palestrina - *Missa Alma  
Redemptoris*

Byrd - *Laetentur coeli*

7 Lo! He Comes with  
Clouds Descending

157 O Mother Blest, Whom  
God Bestows

36 The Angel Gabriel from  
Heaven Came

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

020 7286 3214 [www.olsjw.org.uk](http://www.olsjw.org.uk) or [stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk)

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

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|-----------------------|---|
| Parish Clergy:        | Fr Kevin Jordan ( <a href="mailto:kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk">kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk</a> )<br>Fr Ben Woodley ( <a href="mailto:benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk">benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk</a> ) |
| Parish Sister:        | Sr Brigid Collins, RSM ( <a href="mailto:brigid@rcdow.org.uk">brigid@rcdow.org.uk</a> )   |
| Parish Administrator: | Claudia McHugh ( <a href="mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk">stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk</a> )   |
| Director of Music:    | Martin Toyer ( <a href="mailto:martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk">martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk</a> )   |

**Christmas Offering.** This week you can take home a Christmas offertory envelope. This is your Christmas gift to the parish and is not taxed by the Diocese, so if you are going away please do use it. Thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity throughout the year.

**A Christmas Leaflet** with the times of all Masses and Confessions for the season is available to take home with you today. Please give one to anyone who might be coming here over Christmas.

**Extra Confession Times** will be offered in the church from 9:15am-9:45am on 19, 20, 21 & 23 December, 6:15pm-6.45pm on 22 December.

**Rest in Peace: Nazik Hanna.** Requiem Mass at Our Lady's on Monday 19 December 2022 at 12:30pm, committal at St Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

**Ricardo Gomes.** Requiem Mass at Our Lady's on Wednesday 11 January 2023 at 11:30am, committal at West London Crematorium.

**Nativity Play Rehearsal** will take place on Thursday 22 December at 5:00pm. If you would like your child to be involved as a shepherd or an angel, please contact Sister Brigid.

**Crib Offerings** will be donated to the *Catholic Children's Society* to support their work with local children and families, many of whom are facing severe hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis.

**Solemnity of the Epiphany Masses** on Thursday 5 January at 7:00pm (Vigil) and on Friday 6 January 2023 at 10:00am and 7:30pm.

**First Holy Communion Programme** continues on Saturday 7 January 2023 from 12:00pm—1:00pm in the parish hall.

**Confirmation Programme** continues on Sunday 8 January 2023 from 4:00pm—5:30pm in the parish hall.

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

**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 application.

**Westminster Year Book 2023** now available priced £5.00 from the repository.

**Next newsletter** available 7/8 January 2022.

**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). 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.

**Little Sisters of the Poor Collection:** £1,228.46. Thank you for your generosity.

**The SVP** would like to thank all parishioners for their kind and generous donations throughout this year. The first collection of 2023 will take place on the weekend of 7 & 8 January 2023.

**SVP Vinnie Packs** cold weather essentials for the homeless. To sponsor a pack at £4.10 each please send your donation to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ, cheques payable to SVP or via BACS to Nat West S/C 60-60-04, A/c Nr 46088237.

**Universe Catholic Weekly Newspaper.** After a four week free introductory offer you'll be entitled to take out a quarterly subscription (13 weeks) for just £20 available to download to your tablet or smartphone. Contact Michelle on 07436 617650 or [sales@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:sales@universecatholicweekly.co.uk).

**Catholic Listeners** is a new confidential helpline launched this year during Holy Week. The service, part of the Diocese of Westminster, is for those who are returning to the Faith as well as to support those who need someone to talk to. Although not a counselling service, there is a professional team trained in signposting callers to other services/agencies. For further information email [Catholiclisteners@gmail.com](mailto:Catholiclisteners@gmail.com) or call 0800 4480704.