



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 22 January 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

The Word of God is Light, Eternal Light

"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (Jn 8:12). When our Lord utters these words, let us reflect that He is not 'a' light but 'the' light; furthermore, He is the light of the world. In other words, He is the light of the entire universe. So what can it mean to be the light of the world, the entire universe?

To grasp something of the almost unutterable importance of Jesus' words, we must grasp that this Light is eternal. Never was this Light not. Never. Before the creation, time and change of the universe, this Light is. Saint John says, "this is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all" (1 Jn 1:5). Saint John was present for the Transfiguration, He saw this Light.

Every Sunday in the Creed we pray, God from God, Light from Light, it also forms one of the verses in *O Come All Ye Faithful*, and we do this because Jesus Christ is this Light in flesh. Let us radically ponder on this fact, as Mary did, our teacher in the Faith. Jesus Christ, who was born from the Virgin Mary, is this Light. Eternal Light, God, has come in human flesh.....stop and wonder, be awe-filled. Glory has been born in His universe; and He offers to each of us this Light. Human lives are created to receive divine light. The way we live our lives reflects how much or how little we are willing to be saved, healed, conformed to Him Who is Light, the Way to the "kingdom of heaven" (Mt 4:17). The readings for this Sunday speak of the coming of this great light. Isaiah says that it will shine in the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali. This is important: these lands were exiled by the Assyrians some eight centuries before Jesus Christ. The Lord permitted this to take place in response to Israel's lack of faith; however, the glorious Isaiah prophecies a time when "a great light" will bring joy again to these places through One, Who will destroy the darkness through His Cross, "for the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor" (Is 9:4). It is; therefore, not surprising that Saint Matthew quotes this passage, from Isaiah, as Jesus commences His public ministry in Zebulun and Naphtali. Dearest in Christ, Jesus has come; so heaven demands that we honour and adore the Light. *Fr Ben*

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

Guerrero - *Missa Batalla*
Escoutez

White - *Manus tuae fecerunt*
me

258 Praise my soul the King of
heaven

221 Guide me O thou great
redeemer

212 Dear Lord and Father of
mankind

Sunday Readings, page 127

Isaiah 8:23-9:3

Psalms 26:1, 4, 13-14 R. v 1

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Matthew 4:12-17

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)

Today is “Sunday of the Word of God” Pope Francis invites us all to rediscover the Bible on this special day. Make time for Scripture and its power to transform our life. The God Who Speaks team has gather together resources:
<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/about-the-bible/>.

First Holy Communion Programme continues on Saturday 28 January from 12:00pm—1:00pm in the parish hall.

Confirmation Programme continues on Sunday 22 January 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), and at Our Lady's RC Church, St John's Wood *Facebook* page which is updated almost daily.

‘A Day with Mary’ at Holy Apostles, Winchester Street, SW1V on Saturday 28 January 2023 from 10:00am—5:30pm. A day of instruction, devotion & intercession, based on the message given at Fatima in 1917. For more information and dates please see poster in the porch.

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. The crib will remain in place until the Presentation of the Lord. Thank you for your support.

Open Morning for Prospective Chorister Families
 Westminster Cathedral Choir School warmly welcomes families interested in chorister places for boys currently in Years 2, 3 or 4, for an open morning on Sunday 5 February 2023 from 10:00am to 12noon. Becoming a chorister offers boys the opportunity to sing in our world-famous choir, and to join a world-class school for boys age 4 – 13, with up to 100% off fees on a means-tested basis. Interested families are invited to contact Lucy Auger to register for open morning, 020 7798 9081 or lauger@choirschool.com or visit www.choirschool.com for more information.

‘Lunch Together at Penfold’ every Wednesday, 12 noon to 3:00pm at the Penfold Community Hub, 60 Penfold Street, NW8 8PJ. See poster in porch.

Tea & Coffee, Please join us today in the parish hall after the 9:00am Mass.

Next SVP Foodbank collection on 11 and 12 February 2023. Thank you for your donations.

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.

World Day of the Sick On Saturday 11 February 2023, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and the 31st World Day of the Sick, Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate Mass in Westminster Cathedral at 2:30pm. During this Mass anointing of the sick will be offered. For tickets please contact Claudia stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk by next Sunday, 29 January 2023 advising if you are booking for wheelchair users who require anointing, walking sick who require anointing or assisting the sick, who do not require anointing.

The Little Sisters of the Poor would like to convey their most grateful thanks to all parishioners for their generous response of £2,781.86 received towards St Anne's Home.

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.

World Mission Sunday 2022 - Missio would like to thank parishioners for the gift of £60.00. Visit <https://missio.org.uk/> for more information.

Day	Location	Time	Group
Monday	Upper & Lower Hall	10:00am-12:00 noon	English Class
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