



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 19 February 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

May We Love as God Loves

Jesus in the Gospel wants us to be stopped in our tracks and transformed regarding the infinite extent to which God loves. He wants us to live in this love, for God to dwell within us, for God is love. One of the pivotal examples that our Lord gives us relates to the sun: "for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good" (Mt 5:45). The sun does not choose on what or whom it shines, it just shines, it illuminates. And so it is with God: They do not love some of us more than others. God is not taken hostage by our foibles, ideas, and bargains; but seeks to transform us, we who have been made in Their image and likeness. This is why in Leviticus, the Lord says to Moses, "be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy" (Lev 19:2), and Jesus in the Gospel says, "you must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 4:48). Saint Paul teaches that we Christians are especially close to the love of God, for we have received the Holy Spirit explicitly in the Sacraments: we are the temple of God (1 Cor 3:17).

There is a story of the then Mother Teresa giving an example of the indiscriminate and indefatigable love of God. Whilst looking for food for the poor, she approached a man who appeared to be materially fortunate, and asked for some help. He spat in her face. With grace and gratitude she, wiping the spit from her face, thanked him for his gift to her and her sisters, and then asked whether he could still spare something for the poor. Her peaceful response, her forgiveness, her radiant example of offering the other cheek disarmed the bitterness and anger of the man. The man, like so many of those healed by Jesus, our Lord, was never the same again.

Jesus is inviting each of us to live this holiness, this perfection, this love, for this is Who God are, and we are called to be perfect and holy, like our heavenly Father. This is what Jesus wills for each of us. The love of God, which is necessary for our divinisation, for our preparation for heaven, does not foundationally teach us to embrace 'fight or flight', but is there to change, heal, bring transformation to us and to all whom we encounter. This Lent the Lord calls each of us to a deeper and necessary intensification of prayer, fasting, and alms giving. Let us live integrated lives and so bring God's love to all. *Fr Ben*

Mass Times

Sunday

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

Weekdays

Monday, Tuesday: 10:00am
Ash Wednesday: 10:00am, 7:30pm
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

Gombert - *Missa Quam pulchra est*
Guerrero - *Usquequo Domine*
de Monte - *Domine deduc me in justitia tua*
96 Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty
92 Come Down O Love
Divine
73 At the Lamb's high
feast we sing

Sunday Readings, page 139

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
Psalm 102:1-4, 9, 10, 12-13 R. v 8
1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

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020 7286 3214 <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/>

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)

Ash Wednesday—22 February 2023 Mass at 10:00am and 7:30pm with distribution of ashes.

Stations of the Cross during Lent will take place every Thursday at 6:00pm before evening Mass from 23 February 2023.

Café Lent resources: A six DVD series designed to give practical help to those wishing to pray more. Inspired by the Catechism of the Catholic Church <https://faithcafe.org/collection/strength-to-strength>.

Creative Writing No class on Thursday 23 February 2023.

First Holy Communion Programme continues next Saturday 25 February 2023 from 12:00pm—1:00pm in the parish hall.

Confirmation Programme continues on Sunday 26 February 2023 from 4:00pm—5:30pm in the parish hall.

Thank you to those who have suggested topics for our adult catechesis sessions beginning in May. More ideas are most welcome. As a taster, you might follow Fr Mike Schmitz's *Catechism in a Year* podcasts <https://www.youtube.com/@TheCatechismInAYear>

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) will be holding a meeting on Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 8:00pm in the parish hall. Anyone wishing to know more about the society are more than welcome to come along.

CAFOD Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal. We are responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. For more details on how to donate to CAFOD's Syria-Turkey Emergency Appeal visit <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

Offerings. Standing orders are the easiest way to give regularly and can be set up via <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/donating-to-the-parish/>. Please *Gift Aid* using the *Collectins* by registering your usual card on the machine or scan the QR code and register it at home which takes about 30 seconds.

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

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony—Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13th May 2023 at 2:30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please email Claudia stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or if not, a telephone number) by **Sunday 26 March 2023**.

'Caspar's Dream: Bartholomew on the Road' A simple text beautifully illustrated describing the path of life and its pebbles along the way (which are allegories for sins), and the various events on the road don't prevent us from moving forward and finding true happiness. It's a story to understand the companionship with God, available from the repository at £9.20, age 7+.

Weekly 5-a-side football Whether you're an experienced player or just starting out, we would love for you to join us for some friendly competition and exercise. To express your interest, email Simone blackssampo@gmail.com with your name, preferred position, and any other relevant information. We are planning to play locally on a weekday evening, but this is yet to be confirmed and we will update you once finalised. Please note that there will be a small fee to participate, which will cover both the rental of the pitch and the donation to our local parish. This fee will help support the church and its ongoing mission to serve our community. We look forward to hearing from you.

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