



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ The Baptism of the Lord, Year A - 8 January 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

The Epiphany points to an epiphany of divine love

On Friday, Holy Mother Church celebrated the great Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. Its importance is universal, cosmic. The star, which shone and dazzled over the place where the true King of the universe was being cradled, has been credibly accounted for in history. The wise men, Gentile gentlemen, most probably versed in astronomy, were entranced by this constellatory event; let us neither overlook the Gentile prophecy from Balaam, at least a thousand years before the birth of Christ the King, "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel." (Num 24:17). The one Lord of the universe, heralded by His universe in the starry firmament, is the purpose and goal of every human life. The wise men are a sign that all nations desiring Truth, desiring Wisdom, will be led to the King, Jesus: Son of God, Son of Mary.

For an Epiphany blessing of your home, please take a piece of blessed chalk home with you after Mass and mark the top, side or step of your front door as follows: 20 + C + M + B + 23 and say: "*The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty three years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen*". With this blessing you invite Jesus to be with you in the routine of daily life, with all the ups and downs that might bring.

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus at the Epiphany is paid homage by the cosmos and the Gentile nations, and rightly so, He is Lord and King; however, His Baptism reveals the meaning of divine Kingship and Lordship. He Who *is*, is prepared to be made subject to sinners, to creatures; Light from Light bends down to human ministrations. The Baptism of Jesus fulfils, "all that righteousness demands", fulfils the Father's will, which will be accomplished on Calvary for us. With the open and public ministry of Jesus now underway, with salvation on the move, the heavens are opened, the Holy Spirit alights on the Christ, and the Father declares His undying love for His Son: for Jesus *is* the Saviour Lord and King. The Baptism is an epiphany of the Trinity rejoicing in Their mission to save us. An epiphany in which the sacrifice of divine love shines. *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 (Sung)
Friday & Saturday: 10:00am

Rosary

After weekday Mass

Exposition & Confessions

Saturday 10:30am—11:00am

Confessions

Saturday 5:15pm—5:45pm

Music for Sunday

Tallis - *Missa Puer natus est nobis*
Valcampi - *Tribus miraculis*
Hassler - *Tribus miraculis*
47 Songs of thankfulness and praise
9 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
48 The race that long in darkness pined

Sunday Readings, page 118

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 28:1-4, 9-10, R. v 11
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

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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) 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)

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.

The SVP Foodbank collection takes place this weekend. Please leave your non-perishable items on the table in the porch. Thank you.

First Holy Communion Programme continues on Saturday 14 January from 12:00pm—1:00pm in the parish hall.

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

English Classes continue on Monday 9 January from 10:00am—12:00 noon in the parish hall.

The Parents & Toddlers and Over 50s Groups resume next Tuesday 10 January in the parish hall.

Next free Creative Writing Session in the lower hall on Thursday 12 January 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.

The next UCM Meeting will take place on Monday 16 January 2023 at 8:00pm.

Rest in Peace: Jaime Lopez Trigo. Requiem Mass at Our Lady's on Monday 16 January 2023 at 1:00pm, committal at West London Crematorium.
Patrick Watson. Requiem Mass at Our Lady's on Thursday 19 January 2023 at 11:00am, committal at West London Crematorium.
Anne "Mena" Morrissey. Requiem Mass at Our Lady's on Thursday 26 January 2023 at 10:30am, committal at Mill Hill Cemetery.

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.

Tea & coffee today in the parish hall after the 9:00am Mass. We look forward to welcoming you back.

Next Sunday - White Flower Appeal 2023 by the Society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC). SPUC wants a world where abortion is unthinkable, and is raising awareness of the widespread problem of abortion coercion. According to an independent poll, 87% of GPs are concerned that the Government's "pills by post" scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. SPUC is calling on the Prime Minister to condemn this abhorrent tragedy. Please fill in a postcard, available from the back of the Church, and post it to SPUC. Thank you for your support.

Inquiry into Assisted Suicide. The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has launched an inquiry into assisted suicide and is inviting individual members of the public and interested organisations to comment. Assisted suicide presents profound dangers to public safety and the common good, and so it is crucial that as many people as possible engage with the Parliamentary Inquiry and oppose the introduction of assisted suicide into UK law. It is especially important that those who respond should oppose the idea of a 'Citizens' Assembly' or referendum, as these are easily abused to try to legalize assisted suicide. Submissions must be in by Friday 20 January. A short 2-page briefing by the Anscombe Bioethics Centre including links for the questionnaire and for longer responses, is available from the back of the Church to help anyone interested in responding or contact admin@bioethics.co.uk.

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

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