



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year A - 5 March 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

Grace is Offered, Let Us Strive to Obey

Last Sunday, in the Gospel, we encountered Jesus being tempted by the devil three times; the devil also appeared to Adam and Eve, in the first reading. Eve and her husband fell in three areas: an inappropriate attraction to bodily comfort, here food; a temptation to possess something which was forbidden, here the apple; and thirdly, the choice to ignore the Lord their God's loving instruction, and so define their own laws, usurping God's eternal authority.

Last Sunday, in Fr Kevin's editorial, we also read about the importance of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting for Christian discipleship, which necessarily seeks to serve others. These three royal paths of Lent - almsgiving, prayer, and fasting - commanded by Jesus in the Gospel on Ash Wednesday, are linked to the sins of Adam and Eve, and their saving remedy in Jesus. Our fasting echoes Jesus' fasting and victory over Satan, when he tried to tempt Jesus to eat, Adam and Eve ate; our almsgiving echoes Jesus' rejection of all possessions which could separate Him from His Father, Adam and Eve took the apple; our praying echoes Jesus' total trust in His Father's eternal love for Him, and not putting Him to the test, Adam and Eve disobeyed. Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting are royal paths which follow in the grace of Him, Who must be obeyed, for He is our salvation, light, and joy.

This Sunday, as we continue to pilgrimage through the holy season of Lent, armed with the grace of Jesus through almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, the readings remind us that all our acts of Lenten charity and penance serve to orientate us to God's holy will, present in our lives. Everything from God serves to make us holy, everything. "God created us without us: but he did not will to save us without us", these words from Saint Augustine capture the purpose of every human life: learning to welcome and co-operate with the call from the Lord, which always comes furnished with the necessary graces. In Genesis, the Lord speaks to Abram about his future name as a blessing to multitudes; gradually Abram will surrender his heart to the Lord for this to happen years later. The Transfiguration reveals the glory of heaven to three disciples, who, also, will slowly discover the meaning of this Revelation. Jesus, too, has great plans for each of us; so where do we need to surrender, and so welcome His transformation? *Fr Ben*

Mass Times

Sunday

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

Weekdays

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday:
10:00am
Thursday: (**Stations of the Cross
from 6:15pm**) 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

Palestrina - Missa Fratres ego
enim accipi
Gabrieli, A - Beati immaculati a 8
Philips - In splendenti nube
225 Immortal, Invisible
55 My God I love thee, not
because
71 There is a green hill far
away

Sunday Readings, page 155

Genesis 12:1-4
Psalm 32:4-5, 18-20, 22 R. v 22
2 Timothy 1:8-10
Matthew 17:1-9

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

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)

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal This Lent, CAFOD is supporting families with the skills and tools they've asked for to fight the climate crisis. In Bangladesh, 14-year-old Dristy and her mum Rupali are building seed beds and planting palm trees to protect their crops from flooding and cyclones. Give today to help families grow in strength to adapt to the climate crisis. There will be a short talk after each Mass. Please use the envelope or give online at cafod.org.uk/lent.

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

Shroud of Turin Exhibition From Monday 6 March—Wednesday 22 March 2023 at the Christian Heritage Centre based at Stonyhurst. Accompanying the display of a replica will be a historical and scientific commentary, looking at both its authenticity and its importance for Christians. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/shroud-of-turin-exhibition/>

Free Art Classes for Adults. Join us for an hour of creativity to learn drawing and practice watercolour. Everyone can draw, so don't be shy and join in! Bring your own drawing pad and paints with brushes or if it is your first time, we will provide materials. Every Wednesday (from 8 March) from 1:00pm—2:00pm in the parish hall.

Green Doctors. For free, impartial energy advice and support to households in several London boroughs—<https://london.greendoctors.org.uk/>.

'The God Who Speaks'. For free resources, events and ideas to help you deepen your faith visit <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>.

Next Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) Meeting on Monday 6 March 2023 at 8:00pm in the parish hall.

The SVP Foodbank Collection takes place next weekend. Please leave your non-perishable donations on the table in the porch. The SVP is meeting on Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 8:00pm in the parish hall. Anyone wishing to know more about the society is more than welcome to come along.

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

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> or <https://hallow.com/>.

First Holy Communion Programme continues on Saturday 11 March 2023 from 12:00pm—1:00pm in the parish hall.

London Jesuit Centre Lent retreats <https://www.londonjesuitcentre.org/whats-on/retreats>

J.S. Bach's St John Passion at Westminster Cathedral on Thursday 16 March 2023 at 7:30pm. Take advantage of 50% off ticket prices, visit <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F005D88A31F16CD?did=saint50john>, enter code SJP50.

Electronic Giving. Please *Gift Aid* using the *Collectins* by registering your usual card on the machine or scan the QR code and register it at home. 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/>. Thank you.

School of Joy. *Friends of the Holy Land* would like to thank the parishioners for their generous donations of £1,260.71.

Social 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.

Day	Location	Time	Group
Monday	Upper & Lower Hall	10:00am-12 noon	English Class
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Upper Hall	9:30am-11:30am	Parents & Toddlers
Tuesday	Upper Hall	1:00pm-4:30pm	Over 50's
Wednesday	Upper Hall	1:00pm-2:00pm	Art Class
Thursday	Lower Hall	10:30am-12 noon	Creative Writing