



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A - 12 March 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

Friends, Roman [Catholics], Countrymen...

Marc Antony wanted your ears, but since they suffer enough from my homilies, I'm talking about your alms and your arms.

On the subject of alms and giving, you can view our 2022 Annual Financial Return submitted to the Diocese and compare it with those from 2018 to 2021 on the noticeboard in the porch or our *Facebook* page. Hard copies are also available on request and I will answer any questions you might have about the figures contained therein.

When I look at those numbers, my heartfelt thanks goes out to you for your generosity in these difficult times. Your giving to the parish and those in need through third party collections is phenomenal: even with the pandemic and all the capital works carried out recently we broke even between 2018 and 2022 and the trend is for increased savings year on year. I must also express my gratitude to the Finance Committee for sharing their skills and for their stewardship and advice, to Asha our bookkeeper for all her diligence in accounting for every penny, to Claudia for her tireless work in increasing hall usage, and to Fr Ben for surviving on bread and water. Every little helps.

You will also notice that the decrease in giving through envelopes is more than made up for through standing orders (STO's) and the use of the contactless machines—the actual loose change and notes is a very small amount. But for some strange reason, while both STO's and the machines can be used to give by *GiftAid* if you are or were a taxpayer, our return from HMRC should be £37,000, not £19,000. And so to your arms. When you give with the machines, if it opens up a dialogue box it means the card you are using is not registered for *GiftAid*. Even if you have completed a *GiftAid* form in the past the machine doesn't know this as it does not recognise people but the card or 'phone you are using. So please, spend a few minutes this Lent engaging with it and we will get £1.25 for every pound you give at no cost to you. Fr Ben or I will help you or you can scan the QR code and register your card or 'phone at home. Likewise, if you give by STO, please complete a *GiftAid* form available at the back of the church. Please do these two simple things which will increase your offering by 25%, an additional £18,000 if everyone did it. But most importantly, God bless you all and thank you again for such generosity. *Fr Kevin*

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

Stations of the Cross

Thursday 6:15pm

Music for Sunday

Gabrieli, A	- <i>Missa Pater peccavi</i>
Kerle	- <i>Media vita</i>
201	All People that on Earth do Dwell
72	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
65	My Song is Love Unknown

Sunday Readings, page 158

Exodus 17:3-7
Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9 R. v 9
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

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)

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

Planned Giving Envelopes are available for collection at the back of the Church after all Masses this weekend. If you would like to give regularly by standing order or learn about other ways of giving or use weekly offertory envelopes, please see the member of the Finance Committee who is distributing the envelopes.

Tea & Coffee is available today in the parish hall after the 9:00am Mass so please join us.

Confirmation Programme continues on Sunday 12 March 2023 from 4:00pm—5:30pm in the hall.

The Passage which serves homeless people is holding a public collection on Thursday 16 March 2023 in King's Cross Underground Station from 7:00am—10:00pm and does not have enough volunteer collectors. If you can help, please contact collections@passage.org.uk by Tuesday 14 March. Full instructions and equipment will be provided. If you cannot help on this occasion but would like to in the future, please get in touch. We collect most weeks in a variety of Underground and mainline stations, generally on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Free Art Classes for Adults every Wednesday from 1:00pm—2:00pm in the parish hall, an hour of creativity to learn drawing and watercolouring.

First Holy Communion Programme continues on Saturday 18 March 2023 from 12:00pm—1:00pm in the parish hall.

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. Please use the envelope or give online at cafod.org.uk/lent. Thank you for your support.

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/>.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony—Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13 May 2023 at 2:30pm to which the Cardinal invites all couples in the Diocese 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 such an anniversary, please email Claudia stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk with the following: husband's and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or if not, a telephone number) by **Sunday 26 March 2023**.

Tired of listening to interminable arguments or constantly depressing news on the radio? Radio Maria England, a growing Catholic radio station, might be exactly what you need! Broadcasting from Cambridge and from its brand-new London studio, it is available on DAB+, online, and through the Radio Maria England app. The 24hr broadcast includes a variety of talk shows about life as a Catholic, a live Rosary to which you can call in with your intentions, beautiful spiritual reflections, and a selection of Christian music. For more information, or if you'd like to get involved, contact anna.fleischer@radiomariaengland.uk.

Electronic Giving. Please see our AFR in the porch and above all, *Gift Aid* using the *Collectins* by following the prompts to register your card or 'phone 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.

Social Media. Do visit <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/>, and Our Lady's RC Church, St John's Wood Facebook page which is regularly updated.

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