



# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ 4th Sunday of Lent, Year A (*Laetare Sunday*) - 19 March 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

## **In Your Light We See Light (Ps 36:9)**

So we have arrived at the Fourth Sunday of Lent. It is called *Laetare* (rejoice) Sunday on account of the Entrance Antiphon, in Latin, taken from Isaiah 66:10-11. These two verses, 10-11, focus on the joy of Jerusalem and on all those who love her, as they are satisfied by her consoling breasts. There is a sense here of Jerusalem as the mother, who is nursing and consoling her children. This is very suitable considering that today we honour and give thanks for the immeasurable gifts of mothers, on this Mothers' Day. Daffodils will be available after Mass to offer as gifts to all mothers.

Isaiah 66 is the last chapter of the great Prophet's book. In that chapter we are given an account of the eternal day, when evil will be finally defeated and peoples from all nations will come, adore and worship the Lord on His holy mountain Jerusalem. This rejoicing on *Laetare* Sunday is thus inseparable from the ultimately victorious spiritual battle which is always present in the Christian life.

Central to the themes from the readings is the gift of the Lord to us to see truthfully. The Gospel starts with the statement that the man seen by Jesus had been blind from birth. The disciples fail to understand that this reality is foundationally true through the Original Sin. All of us are born blind by the stain of Original Sin. As Jesus is the Lamb of God, as hailed by Saint John the Baptist, His very earthly presence is the cause for all sin to be eradicated. Jesus was sent for this (Jn 3:17; 9:4; 17:3). The man obeys Jesus: he goes and washes in the Pool of Siloam, which means 'sent'. There he receives the miracle of new birth, he can see, washed, baptised, in the Spirit of Him Who was sent. Note that when he is healed the man refers to himself as, "I am the man" (Jn 9:9); the Greek says, "*ego eimi*", which translates as, "I am". Jesus is the great, "I am" - the Bread of Life; the Good Shepherd; the Light of the world; the Way, the Truth, and the Life; the True Vine. So when the man says, "I am", this reflects how in Baptism we become another Christ, another, "I am". The man can now see, and encounters blindness in others. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, who has been given the gift to see aright, we will encounter those who fight to hold onto blindness and evil; but as part of the heavenly Jerusalem, we must, like the man healed, worship the Lord, and rejoice. *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

### **Stations of the Cross**

Thursday 6:15pm

## **Music for Sunday**

Morales - Missa Aspice  
Domine  
Du Mont - Media vita  
Gabrieli, A - Pater peccavi  
246 Now thank we all  
our God  
260 Praise to the  
holiest  
265 The King of love my  
shepherd is

## **Sunday Readings, page 164**

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13  
Psalm 22 R. v 1  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

**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](mailto:kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk))  
Fr Ben Woodley ([benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk))  
Parish Sister: Sr Brigid Collins, RSM ([brigid@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:brigid@rcdow.org.uk))  
Parish Administrator: Claudia McHugh ([stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk))  
Director of Music: Martin Toyer ([martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk))



**Happy Mother's Day** We wish all mothers a very happy and relaxing day.

**A Leaflet** with the times of all Masses and Confessions for the remainder of Lent and Easter week is available to take home with you today. Please give them out to people who might be thinking of coming to our parish over Easter.

**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.

**'The God Who Speaks' - Lent resources** incl. the *March Focus* on Pope Francis and the Bible, Sunday Reflections, and others, visit <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>. For Lent Encounter visit <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/lent23>.

**Confirmation Programme** continues on Sunday 19 March 2023 from 4:00pm—5:30pm in the hall.

**First Holy Communion Programme** continues on Saturday 25 March 2023 from 12:00pm—1:00pm in the parish hall. There is a meeting with Fr Kevin for least one parent/guardian per child in the church at the same time.

**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 **5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto: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 **next Sunday 26 March 2023**.

**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.

**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.

**Tea & Coffee** is available today in the parish hall after the 9:00am Mass.

**English Classes/Parent and Toddler Group/Over 50's:** no sessions from 3 to 14 April. English classes resume on Monday 17 April; Parents & Toddlers and Over 50's on Tuesday 18 April.

**The Passion—Trafalgar Square 7 April 2023**  
Wintershall performances at 12 noon and 3:15pm  
<https://www.wintershall.org.uk/passion-jesus-london>; YouTube: <https://youtu.be/m6rv7de6T4c>,  
livestreamed at <https://www.facebook.com/Wintershallplay>.

**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/>.

**School of Joy.** *Friends of the Holy Land* advised new donations total of £4,011.33. Thank you.

**Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** led by HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols from 21 to 28 July 2023. Book now to avoid disappointment as places are limited <https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimage/lourdes/westminster-lourdes>.

**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.

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