



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



+ Palm Sunday, Year A - 2 April 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

## **Palm Sunday is also Passion Sunday**

Saint Paul writes, "his state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave" (Phil 2:6-7). In the Passion, this year from Saint Matthew, Judas accepts thirty pieces of silver to betray Jesus (Mt 26:15). In Exodus (Ex 21:32) a slave, who has been gored to death by an ox, is worth thirty pieces of silver from the owner of the ox to the master of the slave. Jesus will be gored by nails, indirectly owned by the chief priests, and Judas will be paid thirty pieces. Jesus Who is the Master has become the Slave, and Judas.....the master.

Saint Paul's words, taken from the second reading today, capture something of the essence of Palm Sunday: that from the heights of the Son's eternal existence, He lovingly consents to be made as one of us, made in the flesh of a creature. As such He is rightly hailed as the long-awaited Son of David, the Davidic King prophesied in 2 Samuel 7, Who will, at last, fulfil the eternal throne of David in Person.

We begin to see why the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem is a moment of such importance, an event of true cosmic and salvific depth: the Promised One is, at last, entering into Jerusalem, which is the 'true pole of the earth' (Ps 48), for it was there that the eternal, "I AM WHO I AM" (Ex 3:14), chose to dwell in the Temple, until the unfaithfulness of Israel led to His departure (Ezek 11:22). But still Jerusalem, and the Temple, remained the holiest place in His universe.

So when we wave palms at the beginning of the sacred Liturgy today, we are sharing the true expectation of those Jews who travelled with Jesus to Jerusalem, for here is the long-awaited Messiah, the Son of David, Who will be able to rescue them from Roman oppression and from the false Herodian monarchy which was currently reigning in Jerusalem. Although their vision is understandable, it was only part of the entire truth; Jesus' kingdom is not of this world.

Jesus has come to suffer and die for our sins. Saint Paul speaks of the eternal Son, "accepting death, death on a cross", assuming the condition of a slave. The thirty pieces of silver lends Biblical credence that Jesus has become a slave for us. When we wave our palms for the entry of the King of the universe into His holy city, Zion, "true pole of the earth", will we then live as if this is actually true? *Fr Ben*

## **Holy Week Mass Times**

### **Palm Sunday**

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

### **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday:**

10:00am

### **Maundy Thursday**

7:30pm (Evening Mass of the  
Lord's Supper)

Watching at the Altar of Repose  
until 12:00 Midnight

12:00 Midnight *Compline*

### **Good Friday**

11:00am Stations of the Cross

3:00pm The Celebration  
of the Passion of the Lord

7:30pm *Maria Mater Desolata*

### **Holy Saturday**

8:00pm The Easter Vigil  
in the Holy Night

### **Easter Sunday**

9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00 noon,  
6:00pm

## **Holy Week Confessions**

### **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday**

9:15am—9:45am

### **Good Friday and Holy Saturday**

10:00am—11:00am

See also [Easter-2023.pdf](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/)  
([https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/  
stjohnswood/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/))

## **Palm Sunday Hymns**

60, 68, 148

**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 ( <a href="mailto:kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk">kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk</a> ) Fr Ben Woodley ( <a href="mailto:benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk">benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk</a> )
Parish Sister:	Sr Brigid Collins, RSM ( <a href="mailto:brigid@rcdow.org.uk">brigid@rcdow.org.uk</a> )
Parish Administrator:	Claudia McHugh ( <a href="mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk">stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk</a> )
Director of Music:	Martin Toyer ( <a href="mailto:martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk">martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk</a> )

**A Holy Week and Easter Week leaflet** with all the times of Masses and Confessions is available in the Church or at [Easter-2023.pdf \(https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/\)](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/).

**Easter Offering.** Your Easter gift to the parish using the special envelopes can be given at any time during Holy Week and the Easter season and can be *Gift Aided* <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/wp-content/uploads/sites/48/2023/01/Gift-Aid-Form.pdf>. Thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity throughout the year and especially in these difficult times.

**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.

**The Chrism Mass** takes place at Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday 4 April 2023 at 12:00 noon.

**Volunteer Readers** are invited to sign up, please, for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday outside the sacristy and collect their readings. **Servers** should also sign up there.

**Big Church Clean** at 6:30pm on Tuesday 4 April—all welcome. If you can also help one evening every five weeks, please contact Claudia in the office.

**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.

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

**Holy Places.** On Good Friday we will be taking a collection for the Holy Places of Palestine.

**Art Class.** No session on Wednesday 12 April 2023.

**The next SVP Foodbank collection** will take place a week later than usual on 15/16 April 2023.

**After the Easter Break, English Classes** resume on Monday 17 April, **Parents and Toddlers Group and Over 50's** on Tuesday 18 April, and **Creative Writing** on Thursday 20 April. All are welcome.

**First Holy Communion Programme** The last session takes place on Saturday 22 April 2023 from 12:00pm—1:00pm in the parish hall.

**Tea & Coffee** in the parish hall after 9:00am Mass will resume on Sunday 23 April 2023. If you would like to help set up before mass and serve refreshments after, approx. every 2 to 3 weeks, please contact Claudia in the office.

**The Cistercian Nuns of Holy Cross Abbey,** Whitland, Pembrokeshire, are inviting single Catholic women between the ages of 25 and 45 who are discerning a vocation to experience their monastic life over a weekend including Friday 28 April—Monday 1 May [www.hcawhitland.co.uk](http://www.hcawhitland.co.uk) and to register contact [comeandsee@hcawhitland.co.uk](mailto:comeandsee@hcawhitland.co.uk).

**Mass for Migrants** The Ethnic Chaplaincies of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster are celebrating the annual Mass for Migrants on Monday 1 May 2023 at 12:00 noon. Hosted by the Diocese of Brentwood at St Antony of Padua Church, Forest Gate E7 9QB, the celebrant will be Bishop Alan Williams, sm. See the poster in the porch.

**Vocations Evening.** On Wednesday 17 May 2023, there will be an open evening at St James, Spanish Place, for any men interested in learning about or discerning a vocation to the priesthood. The regular evening Mass at 6:00pm will be followed by a gathering in the social centre for a short presentation, informal conversations and refreshments. Do come and join us if you can. Nearest tube: Bond Street and Baker Street.

Day	Location	Time	Group
Wednesday	Upper Hall	1:00pm-2:00pm	Art Class