



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



+ Fifth Sunday of Easter - 7 May 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

## The Wisdom of Atticus

Before the start of *To Kill a Mockingbird* on Wednesday, there was shock in our little family gathering that I had neither read the book nor seen the film. This vast lacuna in my education has been partially filled and I know now what I have been missing. Indeed, since the curtain fell, with a number of recent conversations and meetings on my mind, one of Atticus's pearls of wisdom has become an earworm: "A mob is where people go to take a break from their conscience". To wit, as I write this, it is a couple of days before the coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla. Opinion polls and talking heads known and unknown on various media say our country is entirely split between *nuovo* cavaliers and roundheads. Of course, people's response to the final question of surveys is skewed in a particular direction by the questions that lead up to it, but you could easily believe that we are about to replay the Battle of Naseby on Union Flag picnic blankets laid out with broad bean and spinach quiches. Thus, since this newsletter goes online on Fridays, I remind you—royalist, republican or indifferent—that Christ exhorts us to love even our enemies and to pray for those who "persecute" us. So why not come to Mass at 7:30pm on Friday 5 May to pray for two very public figures who will pledge, as we have done, to uphold our nation's Christian principles in a world which is often hostile to our Faith? And just last week a parent lamented that their child no longer comes to Mass because "they all stop at that age", while at the previous Mass a teenager said their peers had lapsed not out of existential angst but to "follow the crowd". Moreover, we can't address people as if they all are in a "mob" like a senior Diocesan figure did when delivering a set patter to your Finance Committee with flagrant disregard for their expertise and success at turning around the balance sheet, all the while juggling hectic work and family lives. Pope Benedict XVI said, "Truth is not determined by a majority vote". He echoes Christ's words that He is the way, a way we know that is often a narrow and lonely path. So let us not join a trendy mob but first listen to our conscience, the law of God written on our hearts. May God indeed save the King, while I begin a dog-eared paperback belonging to someone with a rather familiar name in class 5C. *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

## Music for Sunday

Palestrina - *Missa Ut, Re, Mi, Fa Sol La*  
Philips - *Christus resurgens*  
Hassler - *Cantate Domino*  
225 Immortal invisible  
242 Love Divine, all loves Excelling  
80 Love's Redeeming Work is Done

## Sunday Readings, page 265

Acts 6:1-7  
Psalm 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19, R. v 22  
1 Peter 2:4-9  
John 14:1-12

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> )

**First Holy Communion.** Please keep the second group of children who are receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time this weekend in your prayers.

**No tea & coffee today.** We look forward to welcoming you back next Sunday.

**Songs of Celestial Revelations: An Evening of Hildegard of Bingen (Concert and Talk).** Enjoy an evening of music and theology to celebrate the canonisation of St. Hildegard of Bingen, a German medieval mystic, on Wednesday 10 May 2023 from 7:00pm—9:30pm, Farm Street Church. Book at <https://londonjesuitcentre.churchsuite.com/events/.13kiv3nd> or see the poster in the porch.

**New Ministers of the Word (Readers') Rota** is available on our website.

**Radio Maria England** is a growing Catholic radio station, 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. A representative will be telling us more at all Masses next weekend. For more information visit <https://radiomariaengland.uk> or see the poster in the porch.

**The International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians** takes place next Sunday, 14 May 2023. Organised by the Catholic charity *Fellowship and Aid to the Christians of the East (FACE)*, together with the Dicastery for Oriental Churches and the Eastern Catholic Churches, it offers an opportunity for Christians from all over Europe, the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and India, to unite in prayer during Eastertide, especially with those suffering from the effects of war and discrimination. To make donations to their charitable projects in the Middle East and Ukraine and for more information, please see poster/leaflets in the porch or visit [www.facecharity.org](http://www.facecharity.org).

**The SVP Foodbank collection** will take place next weekend. Please leave non-perishable items on the table in the porch. *Thank you.*

**English Classes** will resume on 15 May.

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

**The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London** is holding a Divine Mercy Retreat 2023 at St Agnes RC Church, 35 Cricklewood Lane, NW2 1HR on Saturday 20 May 2023 from 1:30pm—4:30pm led by the Marian Fathers. For full itinerary please see poster and leaflets in the porch. All welcome.

**Thank you** to those who have suggested topics for our six adult catechesis sessions beginning on Thursday 25 May 2023 at 7:30pm in the parish hall. More ideas are most welcome. Please note that the sessions on 13 and 20 July will be combined into one talk on 13 July.

**Visit of Blessed Carlo Acutis's Mother.** Antonia Salzano, the mother of Blessed Carlo Acutis, will be visiting the Church of Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane, on Thursday 1 June at 6:30pm. Following a Sung Mass, Antonia Salzano will give a talk about her recently-beatified son, his life and his relationship with Our Lord. There will also be the opportunity to venerate a relic of Blessed Carlo.

**For current Diocese of Westminster vacancies** please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>.

**Your Offerings** can be given electronically via <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/donating-to-the-parish/> but please remember to say what your donation is for, and if you pay tax, please complete the *Gift Aid* form. Standing orders, the easiest way to give regularly, can also be set up there. To *Gift Aid* using the *Collectins* follow the prompts to register each card or 'phone on the machine, or scan the QR code and register them at home. God bless you for whatever and however you give to us and to those in need.

Day	Location	Time	Group
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