



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ Seventh Sunday of Easter - 21 May 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

His Ascension is the Heavenly Hope for All Humanity

Thursday last, the Church celebrated The Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. One of the lines from this Sunday's Gospel, "now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was" (Jn 17:5), teaches so clearly Who Jesus is and why the Ascension is the total fitting culmination of Jesus' mission. Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, is utterly clear that He was with the Father, as the eternal Son, before the creation of the universe. Thus Father and Son, united in the bond of the eternal Spirit, are the Foundation, Source, and Sustainer of all created life, all creation, so to have seen Jesus is to have seen God, (Jn 14:9).

Jesus says to His Father, "all I have is yours and all you have is mine" (Jn 17:10). Jesus, in this intimate conversation with His Father, which the disciples are so privileged to hear, is teaching so clearly that God is a communion of Persons and that He, having almost completed His mission in His created universe, is now ready to return to the embrace of His Father. But the Ascension is more than the 'fruitful Son' returning to His Father's house.

And it is this second part of the Ascension which concerns you and me so importantly: for the eternal Son will take with Him, into the eternal realm of heaven, into the heavenly sanctuary, created and eternally glorified human nature and human flesh, "for Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, [], but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf" (Heb 9:24). As you read this, Jesus - the eternal Son, the eternal Word, Who was born of the Blessed Ever Virgin Mary in creation, in flesh - is present in the eternal realm of heaven, with our humanity. May we open our souls, hearts, and minds to this truth ever more keenly at all times and in all places. Our own glorification, our own deification in the risen grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is the meaning, the Truth, the goal of every human life. Jesus is Lord, Jesus is God.

In the first reading this Sunday, Mary, the Apostles, and others are gathered to pray following the Ascension of Jesus. They are waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit, as promised by Jesus, (Jn 14:16, Acts 1:5), they are realising with ever greater clarity that Jesus is the Son of God and to pray in His name is Life. May we, too, do likewise. *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

Music for Sunday

Victoria - *Missa Ascendens
Christus*
Dressler - *Unam petii a Domino*
261 Rejoice the Lord is
King
87 Hail the day that sees
him rise
141 Crown him with many
crowns

Sunday Readings, page 275

Acts 1:12-14
Psalm 26:1, 4, 7-8 R. v 13
1 Peter 4:13-16
John 17:1-11

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Facebook: Our Lady's RC Church, St John's Wood <https://www.facebook.com/ourladysjw>

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This Sunday is World Communications Day The theme for this year, chosen by Pope Francis, is 'Speaking with the Heart'. "It is the heart that spurred us to go, to see and to listen, and it is the heart that moves us towards an open and welcoming way of communicating." For the Pope's full message, prayers and resources, visit <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/world-communications-day>.

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.

No Tea & Coffee today after the 9am Mass— Apologies for the short notice. We will break for 3 weeks and resume on 18 June.

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) Meeting planned for Monday 22 May 2023 is postponed to Monday 19 June 2023 at 8:00pm in the parish hall.

English Classes—Monday 22 May 2023 is the last session before the Summer break.

PACT Harold Hood Lecture—"Is there a Christian answer to the problems of the criminal justice system?" On Wednesday 24 May 2023 at 6:00pm—8:30pm at Maria Fidelis Catholic School, Drummond Crescent, NW1 1LY. Free, optional £25 suggested donation towards the support of prisoners and their families, Speaker: Dr Chijioko Nwalozie (Senior Lecturer in Criminology at De Montfort University). <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/sir-harold-hood-memorial-lectures>.

Our first adult catechesis session on 'Why the Trinity Makes Complete Sense' will take place on Thursday 25 May 2023 at 7:30pm in the parish hall.

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.

No Parents & Toddlers group and Art class over half term w/c 29 May 2023.

Eucharistic Adoration event for young people in the diocese, hosted by Bishop Nicholas Hudson and Westminster Youth Ministry on Wednesday 31 May 2023 from 7:30pm—9pm at Farm St Church in Mayfair. Antonia Salzano, Carlo's mother, has very generously agreed to speak at this event. Her talk will be focused on Blessed Carlo's trust and on the Lord in the Eucharist. Open to everyone but we especially would like to welcome the young people who have just received the sacrament of confirmation. Antonia is a very compelling speaker and reminds us that sanctity is achievable for all of us. There are not many times in the history of the Church where the parent of a Blessed has been alive to recount to us the journey to beatification of their child.

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

The London Eucharistic Octave—3 to 11 June 2023 The Westminster Parishes of Maiden Lane & Spanish Place, together with the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, and the Order of Malta, invite you to a week of celebrations, centred on the Blessed Sacrament. We invite you to honour Our Eucharistic Lord, celebrate the richness of the Catholic Church and take to the streets of London to share the message that Christus Vincit! For full programme visit <https://catholicengland.org/>.

CAFOD would like to thank all parishioners for their latest donation of £539.01.

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