



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 2 July 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

Do We Long For The Faith And Courage Of Saint Paul?

Last Thursday, we celebrated the Holy Day of Obligation, the Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul. When we reflect on Saint Paul, let us never forget that this man was, once, so vehemently opposed to the followers of the Way (Acts 9:2), how he would drag men and women out from their very homes to be committed to prison (Acts 8:3). That this man should become the one of the greatest Apostles and teachers of the Faith reveals two things: the everlasting and supreme love of the Lord, Who is able to melt even the hardest of hearts, which are open to Truth; and also the docility of Saint Paul to made anew in the everlasting grace of Jesus, the risen Son.

The readings for this Sunday focus on the goodness and far reaching love of the Lord to reach all peoples, but also the necessary response from us, His children. The first reading, from 2 Kings, details the faith of the Shunammite who senses deep within that this man, Elisha, "must be a holy man of God" (2 Kings 4:9). How wonderful that this lady was so open to receiving gifts from God, that her faith was so alive and thirsting for God, for learning about, for longing to be near holiness. She builds a room for Elisha where he could rest, read, and pray. Metaphorically speaking, what is the room like which we have built within our hearts and minds for the holy One of God, the Lord Jesus Christ? Is the floor regularly swept and mopped by the graces of Confession; is the lamp wick kept trim and ready to burn brightly with the heavenly fire of the Most Holy and Blessed Sacrament by weekly attendance at Sunday Mass; do we pray with childlike devotion?

The generosity of the Shunammite does not go unrewarded by the Lord: she is promised a son, despite the old age of her husband, and, later in the Book, after the death of their son, Elisha restores him to life (2 Kings 4:32-37). Jesus in the Gospel also states that all who care for His disciples, all who welcome a true holy person, will receive their reward. The Lord commends and encourages faithfulness.

Let us return to Saint Paul. In the reading this Sunday, from Romans, the Apostle proclaims that the Son of God, Jesus, died for our sins, and rose from the dead that we might share in His glory. My dearest friends, Jesus commands us to take up our cross, choosing Him, regardless of trial or blessing, like Saint Paul, for He is the Way. *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

Vaet Missa Ego flos campi
(94-363)

Rota Suscepimus Deus a 6

258 Praise my soul the King
of heaven

141 Crown him with many
crowns

126 O thou, who at thy
Eucharist didst pray

Sunday Readings, page 96

2 Kings 4:8-11, 13-16

Psalms 88:2-3, 16-19 R. v 2

Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

Matthew 10:37-42

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020 7286 3214 <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/>

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

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Director of Music: Martin Toyer (martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk)

A second Collection for 'Peter's Pence' takes place this weekend. This is one of the ways in which we support the Holy Father in his work for the many different needs of the Universal Church.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Retreat on Saturday 8 July 2023 from 1:30pm—4:30pm at St Georges RC Church, 970 Harrow Road, Sudbury, Wembley, HA0 2QE. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. Call Millie on 07957 594646 for more information.

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

Next Sunday is Sea Sunday when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate at www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) to continue its

Our sixth adult catechesis session on 'Why is there Suffering' and 'Job and Redemptive Suffering' will take place on Thursday 13 July 2023 at 7:30pm in the parish hall.

'A Day with Mary' On Saturday 29 July 2023 at Westminster Cathedral from 9:45am—5:00pm. A day of instruction, devotion & intercession, based on the message, given at Fatima in 1917. For detailed itinerary for the above, and a selection of venues please see posters in the porch.

Over 50's will not be meeting this week, please do share this information with those concerned. The club will continue next week, as usual.

Tea & Coffee after 9:00am Mass in the parish hall today. We are looking for more volunteers so if you can help please contact Claudia in the office.

Junior Choir Recruitment. We are also looking for new members to sing with our Junior Choir. The Junior Choir has been singing at the 12 noon Mass since September 2021 and has been going from strength to strength. We would love to gain some new voices, particularly from our First Holy Communion cohort. If you would like more information about how to join and what is involved, please speak to Martina after Mass or email her at martinasmyth@rcdow.org.uk.

Dominican Order 800th Anniversary Walk to Blackfriars This year is the 800th anniversary year of the foundation of the first Dominican house in London so on Saturday 15 July 2023 the Dominican friars will be making a special pilgrimage walk to their roots. Beginning with 10:00am Mass in St Dominic's Priory Church, Haverstock Hill, followed by a walk to Blackfriars, with a lunch and drink break in a Blackfriars pub, followed by prayer around the vicinity of the Apothecaries' Hall. There will then be a tour of St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield at 3:00pm with a short talk by Fr Richard Finn OP, followed by sung Vespers at 4:00pm in St Bartholomew the Great. All welcome.

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