



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 23 July 2023 and Summer 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

Holiday Checklist

There are soaring temperatures and aridity around the entire world which, among other things, pose enormous challenges for arable and livestock farmers alike. Ironically, the current cycle of Gospel parables are all about the Kingdom as a farming exercise. For example, this week we hear how the devil sows bad seed among the good at night. As *The Screwtape Letters* describes, Satan is cunning and gets at us when we least expect it, sowing bad seed that can't be recognised until it is too late. We see this in our own lives: little by little we let things slip thinking it doesn't matter on this occasion and that one and the next until we have slipped out of a good habit altogether and/or into a bad one or has taken a deep hold of us. Sound familiar? This was highlighted by the pandemic as the closure of our churches meant that people simply got out of the habit of going to Mass. It wasn't a deliberate decision but a drip-feed effect that had lasting consequences for some people. Of course, as we also discovered in the Synodal conversations a couple of years ago, the flipside of this was that many people felt the loss of their religious practice keenly and found the little we did on social media incredibly helpful in keeping alive the delicate seeds and the rich harvest of their faith. And probably the greatest contributors to this was Claudia. Newly arrived in February 2020, she worked tirelessly from home to reorganise the parish office. And as the prospect of reopening dawned, she alone ensured we had all the volunteers, materials and legal requirements in place to celebrate liturgies again at the earliest opportunity. Without her we would have been in the position of so many parishes who returned to normality at a slow pace. Having promised us a year, she gave us more than we could have hoped for and is now moving on. We all, Fr Ben and I in particular, owe her an enormous debt of gratitude as this parish would not be what it is today without her: from the bottom of our hearts, thank you, Claudia. Thus, while a long, hot summer looms with much changing in all our lives, one thing remains the same—our hearts will continue to need the refreshing water and love of Christ in the sacraments to keep us spiritually alive. So do pack plans for going to Mass wherever your travels may take you. And best to put in your sun-cream too. *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 Jesu
Redemptio nostra*
Lassus - *Custodi me Domine*
Arcedelt - *O sacrum convivium*
199 All hail the power of Jesu's
name
46 O worship the Lord in the
beauty of holiness
265 The King of love my
shepherd is

Sunday Readings, page 105

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
Psalm 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 R. v 5
Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43

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

This Sunday is World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The theme this year is 'His Mercy is from Age to Age'. For ideas, ways to celebrate, and helpful resources see <https://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org>; and for the Pope's message visit <https://www.ukvocation.org/grandparentsday>.

'New Dawn in the Church' Catholic Conference for young and old takes place at the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk from Monday 31 July to Friday 4 August 2023, visit <https://www.newdawn.org.uk/>.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham in Reparation & Prayer for the Sanctity of Life led by Most Rev. Kevin McDonald, Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark, on Saturday 5 August 2023, commencing with the 12 noon Pilgrim Mass. Pick-up points: Westminster Cathedral, Harpenden, St Albans and Letchworth so visit www.prolifepilgrimage.org or call 01858 571242 / 07779 122365. Follow online at walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/.

The SVP would like to thank everyone for their generous donations. The next collection will be on 12/13 August. Please leave non-perishable items on the table in the porch.

Holy Day of Obligation—The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on Tuesday 15 August 2023 with Masses at 10:00am and 7:30pm (Sung).

March for Life, 2 September 2023. This year's theme is Freedom to Live'. 10:30am: Mass at Westminster Cathedral; 10:30am-1:00pm: Events/Stalls/Talks/Testimonies at The Emmanuel Centre; 1:30pm: March for Life (Emmanuel Centre to Parliament Square); www.marchforlife.co.uk.

World Youth Day Summer Picnic: 2 September 2023 from 11:00am—4:00pm at the Youth Ministry Retreat Centre, 125 Waxwell Lane, HA5 3EP. Join Westminster Youth Ministry for a taste of Lisbon at their Summer Picnic. This event is aimed at any young person (12-35) in the Diocese who wasn't able to make it to World Youth Day. Sign up at <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/world-youth-day-summer-picnic/>.

Next newsletter available 2/3 September 2023.

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.

Over 50's resuming Tuesday 5 September.
Parents' & Toddlers' Group resuming Tuesday 12 September. **Art Class** runs through the Summer except Wednesday 26 July and 30 August.
Creative Writing resuming mid-September.

A Memorial Mass for Peggy Kellerd RIP at Our Lady's will take place on Thursday 7 September 2023 at 1:00pm. Everyone is welcome.

Parish Patronal Feast, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 8 September 2023. Sung Mass at 7:30pm celebrated by Rt Rev Hugh Allan o. praem followed by bring and share in the parish hall.

Tea & Coffee after 9:00am Mass in the parish hall. We look forward to welcoming you back on Sunday 10 September. We desperately require more volunteers to assist in this important ministry, if you can help please contact the office.

Westminster Youth Ministry is taking a group of young people (16-25) by coach to Walsingham as part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage on Saturday 23 September 2023. Coach leaves at 7:00am from Westminster Cathedral, and should return around 8:00pm, cost is £35, which includes the pilgrimage contribution. Bookings open until 16 September, sign up at <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/pilgrimage-to-walsingham/>.

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
Wednesday except 26/7, 30/8	Upper Hall	1:00pm-2:00pm	Art Class