



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 10 September 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

It's My Delight to Introduce Myself to You

I'm Fr Alex Balzanella and for the past two years, I've had the pleasure of being Assistant Priest at Holy Rood in Watford. Prior to that I studied for the priesthood at the English College in Rome, for five of those years with Fr Ben. Like you, I had the pleasure of his kindness and guidance, even though I know he found my singing ability in choir practice left a little to be desired and in need of occasional correction! Perhaps Ben was emulating our Gospel, which is all about being pointed in the right direction. Jesus says "If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother." Jesus doesn't say this to encourage us to look for the faults in other people, to tally up a list of misdemeanours. It was only ten chapters earlier in Matthew that Jesus condemned trying to remove the splinter in our brother's eye whilst ignoring the plank in our own.

Rather, Jesus is calling us to do this because living the Gospel in the world is really hard. Loving our neighbour as ourselves is easy when we don't have to have too much to do with him. But I'm sure Fr Kevin will tell you it's a little more difficult when that neighbour arrives in the form of a new curate with hundreds of boxes that he wants help with. At times as Christians we get lost, we get worried about small things, ignoring the bigger calling of Jesus, we become trapped by principles and ideas, forgetting how much impact small acts of kindness can have.

When that happens to us or to others around us, Jesus is telling us neither to be defensive when we are spoken to nor to be "typically British" and ignore the problem facing others. He is commending the value of the quiet word, of being gently challenged or encouraged. He is saying when a brother or sister speaks, desiring the good of the other, they are speaking with love, even when that message is difficult to hear.

As Christians, we desire the flourishing of each other which comes from following the Gospel closely. In me, I hope you will find someone you can trust, open up to and also to feel you can challenge at times. We all need help in this world to reach heaven, and, as Fr Ben knows, to hit the right notes!

Fr Alex

Mass Times

Sunday

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

Weekdays

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday:
10:00am
Thursday: 7:00pm
Friday, Saturday: 10:00am

Exposition & Confessions

Saturday 10:30am—11:00am

Confessions

Saturday 5:15pm—5:45pm

Music for Sunday

133 All Ye Who Seek a
Comfort Sure
212 Dear Lord and Father
of Mankind
126 O Thou, Who at Thy
Eucharist Didst Pray
Victoria *Missa Dum
complerentur*
Palestrina *Oravi ad Dominum*
Ingegneri *Domine exaudi
orationem meam*

Sunday Readings, page 122

Ezekiel 33:7-9
Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9 R. vv 7-8
Romans 13:8-10
Matthew 18:15-20

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) Fr Alex Balzanella (alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk)
Parish Sister:	Sr Brigid Collins, RSM (brigid@rcdow.org.uk)
Parish Administrator:	Kathleen Reddington (stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk)
Director of Music:	Martin Toyer (martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk)

The SVP Foodbank collection takes place this weekend. Please leave non-perishable items on the table in the porch. Thank you for your support.

Tea & Coffee after 9:00am Mass in the parish hall resumes this Sunday (and we need more helpers for this, please) while the **Children's Liturgy of the Word** will resume next week, 17 September.

Allen Hall Seminary is recruiting a combined post of Library Assistant and Academic Secretary. This role will support the staff of the Seminary and the student body which is made up mainly of those training for the Catholic priesthood. If you feel you have the skills to run the academic administration of the College and to oversee the day-to-day operation of the College Library, please visit our website: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/library-assistant-and-academic-secretary-allen-hall-seminary/> where you will find a full description of the position. For other diocesan job vacancies, please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk>.

St Thomas More Language College Open Evenings on Thursday 14 September and Wednesday 20 September 2023. Doors open at 4:00pm, Headteacher's talk at 5:00pm and 5:45pm. For more information visit www.stmlc.co.uk.

Sacred Heart High School, Hammersmith is holding secondary transfer open days from 9:30am – 11:00am which will be repeated from 4:00pm – 6:00pm on Thursday 14 September and Wednesday 20 September 2023.

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, return around 8:00pm. Cost £35. Bookings open until 16 September via <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/pilgrimage-to-walsingham/>.

The Dominican Community at the Rosary Shrine, Haverstock Hill, are concluding their 800th anniversary celebrations with a Solemn Mass at 10:00am on Saturday 7 October 2023 followed by a reception and a special exhibition of the historical vestments from the Dominican Sister's Convent of Stone, Staffordshire. All are welcome.

The Annual Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers will take place on Saturday 7 October 2023 at 2:30pm in Westminster Cathedral. All altar servers are invited to attend and to vest in the Cathedral Hall in order to be ready to process by 2:00pm. The annual National Mass for Altar Servers takes place on Saturday 14 October 2023 at 12noon in Cardiff Cathedral. All are welcome at both Masses.

Run the Royal Parks Half Marathon in aid of The Passage - Sunday 8 October 2023. This stunning route showcases the iconic sites of London through four Royal Parks – Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park and Green Park. Registration fee: £20; fundraising goal: £300; all money in support of those experiencing or threatened by street homelessness. Sign up at <https://passage.org.uk/get-involved/events/royal-parks-half-marathon/>.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is led this year by Bishop John Sherrington and Fr John Farrell OP, 19 November to 27 November 2023, route: Galilee – Jerusalem – Bethlehem, BA flight from Heathrow. Full board £2,265 per person sharing a room, £682 single room supplement. Travel insurance essential. Book online at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/WHL>.

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 order forms, the easiest way to give regularly, can also be found there too. To *Gift Aid* using the *CollectTins* 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 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

Day	Location	Time	Group
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