



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 24 September 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

May We Learn From Saint Paul

“Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ” (Phil 1:27). These words from Saint Paul in our reading today present to us the importance of Jesus. To be frank, even describing Jesus as important is to do Him a disservice. Jesus transcends the important: He is Life. Saint Paul writes, “life to me, of course, is Christ, [] I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake” (Phil 1:21, 23-24).

Following his conversion to Jesus, Saint Paul would spend every moment of this earthly life dying to himself, so as to root the living gift of his conversion in the risen eternal Lord, Jesus Christ. When we read Saint Paul’s letters, do we read them as written by a very ardent disciple of Jesus from long ago who was writing in a way which does not have much relevance for today? Or, when we read them, do we see and hear something of the glory and utterly transcendental, the heavenly Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, shining His radiance into the heart, mind and body of the Apostle? I pray that, as each of us grows in faith and discipleship, it becomes ever more the latter.

The readings from Isaiah and Saint Matthew’s Gospel are crystal clear that the kingdom of heaven and the Lord’s ways are so different from ours. How important this is. You see, Saint Paul’s writings reflect this glory. His words bring the power and real transformative dynamism of the Lord to us.

In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that the kingdom of heaven is so wonderful that the saints who live there would never be envious of another’s gifts. The saint in heaven would never begrudge his or her journey into heaven regardless of its long or arduous path. Isaiah also stresses that the Lord’s thoughts and ways are so high above ours; that the Lord is rich in forgiving.

If a man or woman were to become so enamoured of the kingdom of heaven; if a man or a woman were to become so taken by the Lord’s eternal ways of glory and love, they would, in some way, reflect Saint Paul’s total abandonment to the risen glory of Jesus. They would seek the kingdom of heaven in every part of their daily lives. Well, Saint Paul is our brother, so how are we to live? *Fr Ben*

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

141	Crown him with many crowns
227	Jesu, Lover of my soul
122	O Bread of heaven, beneath this veil
Tallis	Missa Salve intermerata
Guerrero	Simile est regnum coelorum
Victoria	Salve Regina

Sunday Readings, page 131

Isaiah 55: 6—9
Psalm 144:2—3, 8—9, 17—18
R. v 18
Phillippians 1:20—24, 27
Matthew 20: 1—16

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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>

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)

Tea & Coffee after 9:00am Mass in the parish hall this Sunday. We desperately require more volunteers to assist in this important ministry. If you can help, please contact the office.

109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is this Sunday 24 September. Pope Francis has chosen as this year's theme, *'Free to choose whether to migrate or stay'*, and the full text of the Pope's message can be found here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-francis-message-for-the-world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees/> Resources to support the day, prepared by Westminster Caritas and the Jesuit Refugee Service, can be accessed at: <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/WDMR-23.php> There will be celebration of the annual International Mass in the Cathedral on Sunday 24 September at 5:30pm at which the Cardinal will preside. All are welcome.

The Annual Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers will take place on Saturday 7 October 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 at 12noon in Cardiff Cathedral. All are welcome at both Masses.

Rosary to be broadcast worldwide from St Dominic's in Camden. On the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Saturday 7 October join *Radio Maria England* in the beautiful shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Dominic for the rosary. Starting at 3:00pm, it will be broadcast to every *Radio Maria* station around the world accompanied by beautiful choral music from the Rosary Shrine singers. Before the rosary is Mass and a walk from Tyburn Convent, with lunch on Primrose Hill. Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/vhv36kim>. For more details please visit: <https://radiomariaengland.uk/> or email: anna.fleischer@radiomariaengland.uk.

Candlelit Procession of Our Lady of Willesden on Sunday 8 October at 7:00pm at The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, 1 Nicoll Road, NW10 9AX. Candlelit procession with the Statue of Our Lady of Willesden from the shrine church and through the streets of Willesden, praying for the protection of London and for the gift of vocations to the priesthood. Please see the poster in the porch.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a Catholic-based movement all over the world. Their aim is to give couples who are married the opportunity to enrich and refresh their relationships by taking part in one of their weekend experiences. The next local experience is 30 September - 1 October at St George's Parish Centre 970, Harrow Road, Sudbury HA0 2QE. For further information and to book on an experience please go to: [Home - World Wide Marriage Encounter England and Wales \(wwwme.org.uk\)](http://wwwme.org.uk).

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

For those who are applying to Catholic schools, please follow this link for Admissions - <https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions> and read the Guidance for Clergy document. This explains what you need to provide in order for a priest to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice. If you can meet these criteria then please contact Kathleen in the parish office to arrange an appointment to discuss secondary and sixth form applications. Primary and nursery applications will be dealt with after half-term but the same criteria apply for the completion of the Certificate of Catholic Practice.

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

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

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