



# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 1 October 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

## Our Life in Christ

In preparing to take leave of you after four years, four years in which I have had the honour of serving as your Assistant Priest, providence has blessed us with readings this Sunday which ask us to take stock of our lives: how have we been living in response to almighty God? Both the Prophet Ezekiel and Jesus teach starkly about whether a human person is either following the Lord's will or not. There is no middle ground.

In the Gospel, Jesus encounters from the chief priests and elders of the people a reluctance to relinquish their sense of self-sufficiency and pride. They are filled with a sense of their own importance, their success, which closes them off from seeing how deep is their need to turn everything to the Lord. Jesus mentions John the Baptist as an example of one who was prepared to turn all to the Lord, and that they, the leaders, were unwilling to embrace his way and acclaim, "yes, all for the Lord". My dearest brothers and sisters in Christ, over these last four years, are we learning to cry ever more deafeningly, "yes, all for the Lord", or is it a, "well, surely that's enough, isn't it?" We can ask, and indeed we must, why is it that Christianity asks disciples of the Lord Jesus to be so radical? Why is it that Jesus asks so much of us, "if you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions" (Mt 19:21)?

The radicality of Christianity springs from the very eternal Son of God emptying Himself (Phil 2:7), debasing Himself, to take on our frail flesh, to enter history, to take on our sin. Saint Paul, in the reading from Philippians, describes the Son's humility in entering creation as a man and accepting death, even death on a cross (Phil 2:8). It is from this self-emptying, this earth-shattering humility (literally), that Jesus arises victorious. Jesus has permeated His entire creation and offers to man His sinless glory, love, and friendship, risen from darkness. In taking stock, let us concretely turn towards Jesus' glory? During these four years, you have helped me long to say yes to Jesus more ardently and to desire a more childlike dependence on Him. How can I ever thank you? "I will lift up the cup of salvation". *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

65 My song is love  
unknown  
121 Lord, enthroned in  
heavenly splendour  
223 How sweet the name of  
Jesus sounds  
Arcadelt Missa Ave  
regina coelorum  
Clemens non Papa Ecce quam  
bonum

## Sunday Readings, page 134

Ezekiel 18:25—28  
Psalm 24:4—9  
R. v 6  
Phillippians 2:1—11  
Matthew 21: 28—32

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 ( <a href="mailto:kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk">kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk</a> ) Fr Ben Woodley ( <a href="mailto:benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk">benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk</a> ) Fr Alex Balzanella ( <a href="mailto:alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk">alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk</a> )
Parish Sister:	Sr Brigid Collins, RSM ( <a href="mailto:brigid@rcdow.org.uk">brigid@rcdow.org.uk</a> )
Parish Administrator:	Kathleen Reddington ( <a href="mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk">stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk</a> )
Director of Music:	Martin Toyer ( <a href="mailto:martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk">martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk</a> )

**Rest in Peace: Emma Louise Dennehy.** Requiem Mass at Our Lady's on Friday 6 October at 12noon, committal at West London Crematorium.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day appeal – Harvest Collection.** The Church's aid and development agency, marks its annual Family Fast Day on Friday 6 October with an appeal to Catholics in England and Wales to help the millions of people around the world struggling to put food on the table. Please pick up an envelope at the church entrance and return it the next time you come to church or give online at: <https://cafod.org.uk/> Thank you.

**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](mailto: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 the gift of vocations to the priesthood.

**Westminster council are closing Lisson Grove** to resurface the road between 9-11 October. On those dates there will be no access to the car park between 8:00am and 6:00pm; however, the church and halls will still be accessible by foot. More information is available on the noticeboard in the porch.

**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.

**The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London** is holding a Divine Mercy Retreat at St Anthony's RC Church, 5 Garratt Road, Edgware, London HA8 9AN on Saturday 14 October from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. 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. Please telephone Millie on 07957 594 646 for more information.

**Mass Intentions** Thank you for your Mass intentions which are greatly appreciated. The Sacrifice of Christ brings our prayers right to the heart of the Father. There can be no greater gift for another person. If you would like one offered, please either take a mass offering envelope from the Church and place it in the collection or contact Kathleen at [stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk) or 020 7286 3214 (option 2). The offering suggested by the Diocese is £10 per Mass. The payment can be made in cash or online at: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/donating-to-the-parish/> quoting 'Mass Intention.'

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

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