



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 8 October 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

What's in a Name?

A few parishioners have asked how I should be addressed now. When Abbot Basil Hume was appointed Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and asked the same question by Sir Robin Day he said, "I can cope with anything apart from, 'Hey you,'" I leave it with you. Ultimately the only title that matters is that of "Father" provided, as Christ instructs, such fatherhood is exercised in a spiritual way as practiced by Abraham, Joseph and Elijah in the Old Testament—a desire to bring people to a closer union with God by accompanying them on their journey through life. This too is what Christ sought to do as the ideal rabbi/master/teacher immersed in the midst of people's ordinary lives. He then instructed His apostles to continue that role of teaching all nations what He had passed on to them in a way that any ever-present father would. Hence Saints Peter, Paul and John often refer to the different church communities they are addressing as children.

Interestingly, this pedagogy or way of teaching was something we looked at in a recent catechetical class. The *General Directory on Catechesis (GDC)* helps us understand this by advising priests to "read the signs of the times...and speak to men as friends" (*GDC 146*) and so develop their teaching "with careful concern for... human nature" (*Dei Verbum 13*).

Since our parishes began to share their priests six weeks ago such accompaniment has been easier with Fr Ben still being here. But now that he has moved to his new parish, we need to find a way that your two priests can provide a more stable continuity of presence in both parishes. Yes, supply priests (assisted by the generosity of many laypeople who have taken on new roles in both St John's Wood and Marylebone) can provide the invaluable Sacramental personal encounter with Christ, but those priests cannot give that sense of shepherds "living with the sheep" as Pope Francis calls us to offer.

Thus, Fr Alex and I invite you to discuss with us a way forward for both parishes at 7:00pm on Friday 20 October at Our Lady of the Rosary, NW1 5QT. Then, as the Catechism puts it, we might better be "a gentle guest and friend who inspires, guides, corrects and strengthens [you] in this life", whatever you call us. *Fr Kevin*

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

221 Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer
129 Soul of My Saviour
235 Lead Us Heavenly Father, Lead Us
Gallus *Missa ad imitationem Pater noster*
Dulichius *Ego dormio*

Sunday Readings, page 137

Isaiah 5:1—7
Psalm 79:9, 12—16, 19—20
R. Isaiah 5:7
Philippians 4:6—9
Matthew 21:33—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:	Canon Kevin Jordan (kevinjordan@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)

Please join us for tea and coffee today after 9:00am Mass in the parish hall, a nice way of catching up with old friends and making new ones.

October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The best way to celebrate the month is to pray the Rosary every day. *"The Rosary is my favourite prayer. A marvellous prayer! Marvellous in its simplicity and in its depth."* Pope St. John Paul II.

CAFOD Collection. You can return your envelopes by either placing them in the collection or posting them through the Parish Office door. Thank you for your support.

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 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. Please see the poster in the porch.

Westminster City 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.

SVP Foodbank Collection will take place next weekend on 14/15 October. Please bring any non-perishable items along to assist the local foodbank. Thank you.

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.

Autumn Concerts at the Annunciation, Marble Arch on Sunday 15 October, at 6:00pm, features the premiere of the glorious Dvorak concerto arranged for a piano quintet by pianist Sasha Grynyuk (along with the much loved Schumann piano quintet). A wine reception with the artists follows. Half of the proceeds go to the church. Tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dvorak-and-schumann-two-masterpieces-for-piano-and-string-quartet-tickets-717047537487>

The Bi-Annual Concelebrated Requiem Mass at St. Mary's Cemetery NW10 5NU, Kensal Green will be on Monday 6 November at 11:30am.

Catholic Chaplaincy to London's Universities. Are you a student at one of the universities or colleges in London, or in Hatfield? Our Catholic Chaplaincy is for you! It's based at Newman House, 111 Gower Street, WC1E 6AR. We have Sunday Masses for students and regular events during the week. And in many of the universities and colleges we also have campus-based Catholic societies and activities. Go to: www.universitycatholic.net to find out more. You will be made very welcome at our Catholic community here, a 'home from home.' If you are heading to a university outside London, then why not take a look at <https://www.catholicsatuniversity.org.uk/> to identify the Catholic chaplaincy in your place of study. Your Catholic chaplains look forward to meeting you!

<u>Day</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Upper Hall	9:30am-11:30am	Parents & Toddlers
Wednesday	Upper Hall	1:00pm-2:00pm	Art Class
Thursday	Lower Hall	10:30am-12 noon	Creative Writing