



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

+ 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 15 October 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



## Better Late than Never

It's quite common for brides to arrive late, though the delay rather depends on the bride. I've had one situation when I insisted the bride go around the block again when she was early, and because some of the wedding party had arrived without their wedding garments (a story for another time!). I've had another where the bride was so late, I had to warn her that her marriage might soon be invalid, as it had long past the time on the marriage schedule that the supposed marriage should have taken place. Needless to say, the bride's appearance was pretty instantaneous!

One expects the bride to be late, but as the priest, I'm also witness to those guests who arrive late. They slip in at the back, crouching and tiptoeing in, praying for an empty bench, only to find the remaining seats next to the bride's mother on the front row.

As weddings are costly affairs, couples and families are understandably annoyed if people, are not only late, but never show up at all. Even so, the response of the king in today's Gospel seems a little fierce, to burn down the city and destroy them from the face of the earth.

We shouldn't draw from this parable that God is waiting for us with thunderbolts, to strike us down when our enthusiasm lapses or we drift off in the homily. Not always easy to avoid. The description of the anger Jesus uses as a symbol of the determination of God to put everything right. God is repeatedly calling us to be in right relationship with him, to live lives of holiness that will bring us greater joy, peace and contentment than any worldly desire could.

When the Jewish people of the New Testament reject these calls, God does not abandon humanity, instead he invites the whole of humanity to come to the wedding feast, to rejoice and celebrate. All who respond to the King's invitation wholeheartedly are treated as friends and siblings in heaven.

Today, we are the ones to have that invitation from God directed to us. To come to Mass each Sunday and holy day of obligation. But do we respond to this call? We're asked to come to confession at least annually, or whenever we are weighed down with grave sin, but do we take up the chance? Today's Gospel is here to both encourage and challenge us, to lead us to respond wholeheartedly to the Lord's invitation and truly rejoice at the wedding feast that the Mass is. Even if we're a little late!

*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

201 All People that on Earth  
do Dwell  
258 Praise my Soul  
128 Once, only Once, and  
Once for All  
Gombert *Missa sur Tous les  
regrets*  
Phinot *Ad Dominum cum  
tribularer*

## Sunday Readings,

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Isaiah 25:6—10  
Psalm 22  
R. v 6  
Philippians 4:12—14, 19—20  
Matthew 22:1—14

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 ( <a href="mailto:kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk">kevinjordan@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> )

**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.

**November is the month of the Holy Souls** so from this weekend you can pick up an envelope and sheet as you leave the church on which to write the names of your deceased loved ones. Please return the sheet in the envelope, with any offering you may wish to include, to the presbytery. The sheets will be placed in our Book of Remembrance which will be in the sanctuary during November. Four Masses each week will be said for those whose names are listed there.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day Lent Appeal.** You can still return your donation envelopes in the collection.

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

**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.

**Fr Ben, Farewell Celebrations** will take place on Friday 3 November at 7:30pm in the Upper Hall to thank Fr Ben for his service here and wish him well in his new appointment as Parish Priest of Whetstone. There will be a collection for him after Mass or just drop your offering in at the Rectory.

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

**The Good Counsel Network Black Tie Ball** will take place at 6:00pm Saturday 18 November in Kensington, London. Live Band. Silent Auction. London's Catholic Pro-Life Ball is raising money to help save lives and change lives. Tickets £125 each. For bookings and enquiries email: [gcnball@gmail.com](mailto:gcnball@gmail.com) or telephone 07795 205 117.

**Church Cleaning—Volunteers** We desperately require more volunteers. Cleaning normally takes place Monday, Tuesday, Wednesdays at 6:30pm, Thursdays at 7:30pm and Saturday after the 6:00pm Mass. We don't have a Friday team at the moment so it would be good to get some people together to increase the rota from every 5 to 6 weeks. If you can help, please contact Kathleen in the Parish office. Thank you.

**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. 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.

**If you are sick or in hospital,** please make it known to the ward staff that you are a Catholic and that you want to see a priest so that arrangements can be made for a Catholic Chaplain to visit you. Please let Fr Kevin or Fr Alex know if you are housebound, even temporarily, so we can arrange to visit you.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>
Sunday	Upper Hall	After 9:00am Mass	Tea & Coffee
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Upper Hall	9:00am-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