



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

+ 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 22 October 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



## Don't Mind the Gap

Despite its slightly "Big Brother" portrayal of God, the song *From a Distance* also rather beautifully suggests ways in which people far apart can be brought together. For us who believe that God is present in all times and places, it is He who brings us together. And since we also believe that Jesus is truly God Who we receive in Holy Communion, then every Mass unites us in Christ's Real Presence.

Romano Guardini writes about this in *The Art of Praying*: while in personal prayer we are alone with God, in liturgies (praying with others) we offer a united prayer of we, not I. And that "we" is not just the individuals gathered but the entirety of the Church throughout the world. Citing St Paul and St John he says that the Church comprises not only all those who are Christian, but the entire world whether individuals accept Him or not because He made all things. Thus, in the Mass and other services, our prayer beats with the heart of Christ for the whole world. How amazing is that reality?

This means that when we're struggling with what to do for someone in difficulty or to mark a happy milestone in their lives, having a Mass offered for them unites us with them in God's greatest gift of oneness between us and every other person in the world.

Faced with the terrible situation in Israel and Gaza, as well as the rather forgotten wars in Ukraine and other places, we can feel powerless given the distances between us. And yet asking to have a Mass offered for peace and justice as well as for the dead, injured, bereaved and displaced serves to unite us in the Prince of Peace, the Lord of Justice, and the hope Christ offered and continues so to do to those most in need. Hence the call of the Patriarch of Jerusalem to come together and pray as we did on Tuesday morning and will continue to do, alongside practical acts, until all conflicts are ended.

But it goes beyond this world for St Paul teaches, Christ is Lord of the living and the dead and wishes to lose none of those the Father has given Him. This is why in November we write down the names of all those who were close to us in whatever way on earth, hand those lists in with an offering, and unite with those named at Masses for the dead thus sharing in God's work of bringing them to perfection.

Whatever or for whomsoever your prayers might be, have a Mass offered too so as to unite that prayer to the whole world in Christ. Then know that God and we are not at a distance from you. *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

260 Praise to the Holiest  
110 Praise to the Lord  
266 The Lord's my Shepherd

Morales *Missa L'homme arme*  
White *Appropinquet deprecatio mea*

## Sunday Readings,

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Isaiah 45:1, 4—6

Psalms 95: 1, 3—5, 7—10

R. v 7

Thessalonians 1:1—5

Matthew 22:15—21

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Facebook: Our Lady's RC Church, St John's Wood <https://www.facebook.com/ourladysjw>

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**October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary** and the best way to celebrate the month is to pray the rosary every day. Cardinal Vincent Nichols has asked the faithful to continue to pray for peace in Israel and Gaza. As he said on 7 October, the feast of the Most Holy Rosary, *'Please pray the great prayer of the Rosary that this conflict, in the homeland of Mary herself, will quickly come to an end.'*

**Today is World Mission Sunday** a day of prayer for the Church's missionary activity to support Catholics across the world living in poverty and turmoil. The theme is: *'Hearts on fire, feet on the move'* (based on Luke 24). Donation envelopes are available at the back of the Church. For more information, please visit: <https://missio.org.uk/wms>.

**There will be no tea and coffee today** nor next Sunday. Please join us again in the parish hall after 9:00am Mass on Sunday 5 November.

**Eucharistic Rosary Procession 2023** takes place on Saturday 28 October at St Dominic's Priory, Southampton Road NW5 4LB. This will be a day of music workshops designed for people involved in parish choirs or people who simply enjoy singing. The day will be led by the Dominican Liturgical Centre from Poland. To get the most out of the day, being able to read music is helpful but it is still possible to come along even if one can't. The day will culminate in a Eucharistic Rosary Procession around St Dominic's which will be led by Bishop Philip Moger. Please see the poster in the porch for full details.

**ProLife Events.** There are two important ProLife events in the coming weeks. The first is the annual Solemn Witness in Parliament Square on 27 October, to commemorate the passing of the Abortion Act in 1967. The second is a 'Rethink Abortion Training Day' to be held at St Dominic's Priory, Haverstock Hill, on 11 November. This training will help participants to develop skills in how to talk to people about abortion and to remind them why it is important to continue to fight for the unborn and their parents. Please see the poster in the porch.

**The Parents & Toddlers Group** is closed over half term and will resume on Tuesday 31 October.

**The Creative Writing Group** is closed over half term and will resume on Thursday 2 November.

**November is the month of the Holy Souls.** Please 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 rectory behind the church. 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 recorded there.

**All Saints, Wednesday 1 November 2023,** is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be a said Mass at 10:00am and a sung Mass at 7:30pm

**Fr Ben, Farewell 'Bring and Share' 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.

**Upper Room Leadership Programme** for those aged 18-22 years old, run by *Westminster Youth Ministry*, is a training programme for Young Catholic Leaders taking 20 young Catholics on an exciting leadership training course. It will begin at the start of Advent and culminate in a pilgrimage to Lourdes in July, during which the young leaders will support the Redcaps as they accompany sick or elderly pilgrims. Be quick as applications close on 11 November via: <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/programmes/upper-room-leadership-programme/> or email [youth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk) for more information.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>
Wednesday	Upper Hall	1:00pm-2:00pm	Art Class