



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD

+ 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 29 October 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



A Tale of Two Parishes

As you know, after consultation with the Cardinal, we met with members of both parishes last Friday. No-one needed reminding of the massive shortfall between priests being ordained and those retiring, nor the additional burdens on priests today, nor the serious financial challenges we must face in Marylebone. Instead, we focussed on the privilege of being trusted to be your parish priests and what we should and could be doing as your pastors.

This came from the Cardinal's heartfelt desire for Fr Alex and me to be firmly embedded in Marylebone and St John's Wood. To be able to minister as priests it is so important that we know you: equally important is you feel we are accessible, available and eager to provide the friendship, support and presence of Our Lord in your life. As Pope John Paul II said, "Times change...but man's heart...always needs love." These are all truths we both hold dear.

The current schedules can only be maintained thanks to numerous supply priests. But the consequence has been seeing each other far less and fewer opportunities to build the relationships Christian discipleship is based on. Mind you, some might like to see less of me. Hence, with our parishes' schools showing great generosity by adapting their timetables, we have a schedule which will allow both Fr Alex and myself to celebrate all the Masses at St John's Wood and Marylebone. We will also be more available to be seen and to keep the church open in Marylebone whilst also offering greater freedom to families in both places for funeral dates among many other things. So, from 27 November, Masses in Marylebone will be on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 12:30pm; Saturday at 6:00pm; Sunday at 11:00am. In St John's Wood: Monday to Saturday at 10:00am (except Thursday, 7:00pm); Saturday at 6:00pm; Sunday at 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00 noon and 6:00pm. Our first weekend on this new timetable will be the First Sunday of Advent. As we begin the Church's year, we mark a new chapter in both of our parishes' lives.

A wise man once wrote, "If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change." We want both parishes to see and know us as their priests and while this new schedule is a stretch, we are fit and able enough to do it and can then be those parish priests you deserve. As Dickens almost said of our two parishes, this is a far, far better thing that we do than we have ever done. *Fr Kevin & Fr Alex*

Mass Times

Sunday

6:00pm (Saturday)
9:00am (Sung), 10:30am (Sung Latin), 12:00 noon (Sung),
6:00pm

Weekdays

Monday & Tuesday: 10:00am
Wednesday: 10:00am &
7:30pm(Sung)
Thursday: **10:00am** & 7:00pm
Friday, Saturday: 10:00am

Exposition & Confessions

Saturday 10:30am—11:00am

Confessions

Saturday 5:15pm—5:45pm

Music for Sunday

- 268 There's a Wideness in
God's Mercy
233 King of Glory, King of
Peace
53 Lord Jesus, Think on Me
Guerrero *Missa Beata mater*
Lassus *Benedicite Gentes*
Byrd *Ego sum panis vivus*

Sunday Readings,

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Exodus 22:20—26
Psalm 17: 2—4, 47, 51
R. v 2
Thessalonians 1:5—10
Matthew 22: 34—40

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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:	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)

There will be no tea and coffee today but please join us again in the parish hall after 9:00am Mass from next Sunday, 5 November.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Collection. Our parish raised £560.25. Thank you for your generosity.

All Saints' Day, 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

November is the month of the Holy Souls. All Souls' Day will be celebrated on Thursday 2 November with Masses at 10:00am and 7:00pm Please pick up an envelope and sheet as you leave the church on which to write the names of your deceased loved ones. Then 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.

Fr Ben's Farewell 'Bring and Share' Celebrations will take place on Friday 3 November at 7:30pm in the upper hall to thank him 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.

Sick & Retired Priests' Fund Collection takes place next weekend. Last year, the Diocese of Westminster provided care to 82 retired priests. The number of our priests over the age of 65 is steadily increasing, and caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness is a fundamental part of the mission of our diocese. By giving to the fund you will ensure these priests are cared for. Please take a donation envelope as you leave the church today or scan the QR code on the poster in the porch to give online. Finally, if you feel you would like to give to the fund on a more regular basis, please do consider joining our Patron's Programme. Leaflets are available at the back of the church. Thank you so much and please continue to pray for all our clergy: active, retired or ill. Thank you.

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 for more information.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024 will take place from 19—26 July 2024. The Sanctuary's theme for the year is *'Come here in procession'*. Please see the poster in the porch.

Church Cleaning. We desperately require more volunteers. Cleaning normally takes place Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 6:30pm; Thursdays at 7:30pm; and Saturday after the 6:00pm Mass. We particularly need more volunteers on a Monday, Thursday and Saturday. 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.

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

<u>Day</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>
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