



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD

+ 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 12 November 2023
Remembrance Sunday

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



Past, Present and Future

When someone is canonised or declared a saint by the Church it is not because the Pope woke up one morning and made this arbitrary decision. Rather, since miracles occurred by asking the intercession of someone who lived a holy life, the Church understands that their soul must be in the presence of God in heaven. Hence, they have God's "ear" if you like, and by granting a miracle at their request, God reveals, for our good, that they are with Him in His Kingdom.

But have you noticed that while this can occur quite soon after their death, it often takes many years or even decades for this revelation to be made known to us? Of course, this could be because God's ways are beyond our ways—hence the feast of All Saints when we celebrate those in Heaven known to us and those unknown— and God is outside linear time. But equally, we might consider the well-known phrase, "Every saint has a past and very sinner has a future."

Pope Saint John Paul II told us not to be afraid to be saints. But why would we be afraid of this? Part of the reason is the past that each of us has. And I suspect, that like me, you would not be the first to declare your past perfect in every respect—indeed, I'm struggling to find one tiny area that is even remotely sinless. That said, we all strive to be good people but at times we stray off that narrow path to Heaven. When we do, while we are forgiven by God through the Sacrament of Confession and assured of eventually being one with Him for eternity, those sins leave a scar on our souls that needs time to be removed before we can sit at peace in the presence of pure Perfection Himself. This cleansing takes place in Purgatory which is part of the final journey to Heaven. And there, while these holy souls can see God, they rely as St John Henry Newman puts it, on "prayers in Heaven" (by the saints) and "Masses on the earth" by us to bring them to the eternal life for which they were made.

Thus, no matter the past of those we love, writing their names on the November Dead List and having four Masses a week offered for them in the present might assure them of a glorious future. And remember to ask others to do that for us when we leave them here while those we have helped become saints will pray for us in Heaven. *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

- 249 O God our Help in Ages Past
250 O Jesus, I have Promised
252 O Perfect Love

Cardoso Missa pro Defunctis

Sunday Readings,

page 152
Wisdom 6:12—16
Psalm 62:2-8
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25: 1—13

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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:

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Thank you for so generously supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection last weekend. If you did not get the chance to donate, it is not too late. Envelopes are still available at the back of the church or you can give online at: www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. You may also wish to consider becoming a Patron of our Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. If so, please take a leaflet home today. Please keep our sick and retired priests in your prayers.

SVP Foodbank Collection—this weekend. Please leave your donations on the table in the porch.

Preparation for Sacraments of First Holy Communion & Confirmation in 2024.

Application forms for both Sacraments are available to collect from one of the clergy after Mass. Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation must collect the forms themselves. Only if you can attend all the sessions should you post completed forms through the rectory door by 12 noon on Tuesday 5 December 2023.

If you are applying to Catholic nursery , infant and primary schools, follow this link to Admissions: <https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions> and read the Guidance for Clergy document. If you can meet these criteria then please contact Kathleen in the Parish Office to arrange an appointment..

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. 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.

UCM (Union of Catholic Mothers) will have its annual study morning on Saturday 18 November at 10:30am in the Lower Hall at Our Lady of the Rosary, Marylebone. A presentation will be given by the CAFOD Community Officer. All are welcome.

UCM Afternoon Vintage Tea takes place on Saturday 2 December at 2:00pm. Tickets cost £10 per head and will be available after all Masses next weekend. There will be a raffle at this event. If anyone can donate a bottle, toiletries etc... for the raffle this will be greatly appreciated. Any donations can be left at the Parish Office.

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at: cafod.org.uk/ipc or telephone 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you.

St Anne's Care Home (which is run by the Little Sisters of the Poor) Christmas Fayre at 77 Manor Road, London N16 5BL on Saturday, 25 November from 12noon to 4:00pm. All are welcome.

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.

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 they 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