



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD

+ 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B - 14 January 2024

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



Your New Year's Resolution or Bust

I don't make new year resolutions but a priest suggested I resolve to take my day off each week. He has a point—I've been home twice since October. Fr Alex has fared no better. And we are not alone. Part of the reason for this is that many priests, like us, are running multiple parishes because there is no-one available to fill all the vacancies. For three months our Mass schedule doubled and even with a few cuts it is still up 50% with two priests, not three. Plus, 44 more parish priests will retire in the next five years; three young and active in their parishes died in the past few months; and there will be 14 ordinations to replace them all in the next five years. 47 out, 14 in. Sit with that sum for a moment. Absolutely frightening, isn't it? Hence, the clustering of parishes will increase. And I have already been warned not to expect Fr Alex to be here for much more than a year. Something will have to give here again and across our Deanery. So, first we must shed a congregationalist mentality and accept that a favoured Mass time may change or resolve to attend Mass at that time in one of the other six churches within a mile and a half of us. Second, people might help more with the day-to-day running of things. For example, in Marylebone people often say, "Fr Michael did that", as with putting up the crib. Actually he didn't but God bless those who responded to our call for help to erect it in time. And in St John's Wood, much of the work of our sacristans who went away for Christmas was done by Sr Brigid with a few helpers on an *ad hoc* basis but that left a lot of the little stuff to us. In both places we really need welcomers, cleaners, sacristy helpers, counters, etc., plus good H&S advice and people who could do small maintenance jobs. Please, consider doing anything you can as every little helps. Lastly, do show people the hard copy newsletter or the websites. For example, we've advertised times to see people about school forms since October. But the 'phone has been red hot today because they "didn't know". How is that possible? The deadline is Monday and we could see them but who will say Mass, visit the sick, bury the dead? Due mainly to administration, priestly morale is flagging. But priests don't need sympathy: they need *you* to make a resolution to *do* a little something to avoid all of us losing so much more. *Canon 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

Rosary

After weekday Mass

Exposition & Confessions

Saturday 10:30am—11:00am

Confessions

Saturday 5:15pm—5:45pm

Music for Sunday

- 46 O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness
119 Just as I Am, Without One Plea
263 Take My Life and Let it Be
Lassus *Missa Amor ecco colei (8-36)*
de Monte *Laudate Dominum de caelis*

Sunday Readings

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1 Samuel 3:3-10,19
Psalm 39:2,4,7-10 R vv 8,9
1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20
John 1:35-42

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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)
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Today is Peace Sunday Peace and the theme chosen by Pope Francis is 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. Pope Francis' overriding concern is that artificial intelligence should be used in the service of humanity and the protection of our common home and not to further injustice and inequality or to fuel division and violent conflict. Please read the Pope's full message for the 2024 World Day of Peace here at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/artificial-intelligence-and-peace/>. Pax Christi have also produced a series of resources to mark the day so visit: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday/>

This weekend is the White Flower Appeal 2024 by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). SPUC's vision is for a world where abortion is unthinkable. This year's appeal calls for the Government to end the pills-by-post DIY abortion policy. As well as ending the lives of precious babies, the policy lacks safeguards against illegal late-term abortions, and puts mothers at physical and psychological risk. 86% of GPs are concerned that this scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. Please fill in a postcard, which will be available at the back of the church, and post it to SPUC. Please be as generous as you can to help defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis. Thank you.

The SVP Foodbank collection takes place this weekend. Please leave non-perishable items on the table in the porch. Thank you for your support.

Tea & coffee today in the parish hall after the 9:00am Mass. We look forward to welcoming you back. To be able to continue with this important ministry we need more volunteers. If you can help, please contact Kathleen in the parish office.

The next UCM Meeting will take place on Monday 15 January at 8:00pm in the Upper Hall.

First Holy Communion Programme continues on Saturday 20 January from 12:00pm—1:00pm in the parish hall.

Confirmation Programme continues on Sunday 21 January from 4:00pm—5:30pm in the parish hall.

CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day Briefing. Johnny our Parish CAFOD rep will be attending this briefing and anyone else is welcome to come along and join him on Saturday 20 January at Romero House 10:00am - 1:00pm sign up at: [South East Lent Family Fast Day 2024 Volunteer Briefing. Tickets, Sat 20 Jan 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite.](#)

Rest in Peace

Thomas Emmett Dunne. Requiem Mass at Our Lady's on Friday 26 January at 11:00am, committal at St Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

Barry James Buckley. Requiem Mass at Our Lady's on Friday 2 February at 11:30am, committal at Kensal Green Cemetery.

Day of Recollection for Readers. On 3 February we are having an afternoon of prayer, reflection, development and support for those undertaking ministries in both St John's Wood and Marylebone parishes. New volunteers are most welcome and refreshments will be provided.

March for Life UK. Would you like to connect locally, in-person, with other people who support the pro-life cause? March for Life UK are inviting people to be part of a new initiative called 'Connect' which will help establish local pro-life groups to pray, fundraise, socialise, educate and get involved in outreach. To find out more and be part of an initial online meeting please email Isabel at info@marchforlife.co.uk

PARISH HALL DIARY

<u>Day</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>
Sunday	Upper Hall	After 9:00am Mass	Tea/Coffee
Monday	Lower Hall	10:00am - 12 noon	English Conversation Group
Monday	Upper Hall	8:00pm	UCM
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Upper Hall	9:30am-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