



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD

+ The Epiphany of the Lord, Year B – 7 January 2024

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



Do Try this at Home

An ancient Epiphany tradition is to ask God's blessing on our homes and on those who live in it or visit it, to invite Jesus to accompany us in our comings and goings, conversations, work and play, joys and sorrows. We will bless the chalk at Mass and you join in as follows:

V. Our help is the name of the Lord:

R. The maker of heaven and earth.

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in.

R. From this time forth for evermore.

When the prayer of blessing is complete, take a piece of chalk home and mark the lintel (top) of your front door (or the porch step) as follows: 20 + C + M + B + 24 while saying: "*The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.*" As well as being the names of the three Magi, CMB is an acronym for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house," the "+" sign representing the cross and 2024 being the year.

Finally, offer the following prayer: "*Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.*"

Chalking the door is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and homes. It is also a timely reminder that it is still the liturgical season of Christmas despite the fact that people were throwing out their trees on Boxing Day or even earlier. And while the chalk may fade, we pray that the meaning of the symbols once seen by all who cross that threshold will sink into the depths of their hearts so that Christ will be manifest in every word and action of their daily routine.

Lastly, thank you to all who made our church so beautiful and the liturgies so prayerful over Christmas, and for your incredibly generous gifts. May God bless you and your loved ones in 2024. *Canon Kevin, Fr Alex, Sr Brigid & Cosmo, who got the most presents.*

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

43 Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning

39 Unto Us is Born a Son

41 As with Gladness Men of Old

Palestrina *Missa Alma*

Redemptoris (1-1)

Sheppard *Reges Tharsis*

Byrd *Reges Tharsis a5*

Sunday Readings

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Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 R cf v 11

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

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Telephone: 020 7286 3214 Website: <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)
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Parish Safeguarding Rep:	Frances Uchea (stjohnswoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)
Director of Music:	Martin Toyer (martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk)

Crib Offerings will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society (CCS) to support their work with local children and families in need. You can donate at the crib or via the CCS website at: www.cathchild.org.uk/crib. Thank you.

Westminster Year Book 2024 is now available priced £5.00 from the repository.

Rest in Peace: Ines Maria Cheney. Requiem Mass at Our Lady's on Tuesday 9 January at 11:30am, committal at St Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

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

First Holy Communion Programme continues on Saturday 13 January from 12:00pm—1:00pm in the parish hall.

Confirmation Programme continues on Sunday 14 January from 4:00pm—5:30pm in the parish hall.

SVP Foodbank Collection will take place next weekend on 13/14 January.

Next Sunday - 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 from 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

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.

Tea & Coffee will resume in the parish hall after the 9:00am Mass on Sunday 14 January. To be able to continue with this important ministry we need more volunteers to assist. If you can help, please contact Kathleen in the parish office.

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages. Help Your Marriage. Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the next programme commencing with a virtual weekend on 8—11 February or a face-to-face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June, call or text 07887 296 983/07973 380 443 or email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Have you watched the video "The Letter: A Message for our Earth"? www.theletterfilm.org. The Letter tells the story of a journey to Rome of frontline leaders to discuss the encyclical letter *Laudato Si* with Pope Francis. The exclusive dialogue with the Pope, included in the film, offers a revealing insight into the personal history of Pope Francis and stories never seen since he became the Bishop of Rome.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024 will take place from 19 - 26 July 2024. Join the pilgrimage as a pilgrim. Serve the sick as a St Frai Helper (18+). Support the sick by sponsoring a St Frai helper to care for them on the pilgrimage and praying for our care team. Please see the poster in the porch.

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