



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD

+ 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B - 4 February 2024

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



Tempus Fugit

Having celebrated the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Friday, today the stable is empty. As St Luke writes, "And He [Jesus] went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them [Mary and Joseph]" (Lk 2:51a). This tiny phrase summarises 30 years of the life of Christ, the hidden years as they are called, before John the Baptist heralds the start of our Saviour's ministry.

For us, those 30 years will end in 10 days when Lent begins on 14 February. From then on, as we unite ourselves to Christ's fast for 40 days before His work began, the scriptures will move us, day by day, to a deeper contemplation of the passion and death of Jesus.

But returning to the Presentation, I am always struck by how it is the last time that Our Lady holds her child in her arms until his broken body is pressed to her heart after His crucifixion and death. Hence, at that celebration in the temple, Simeon pointed out that a sword will pierce the heart of Mary, a prophecy about the appalling death her son would undergo to free us from our sins and the pain that will cause she who was conceived without sin.

For us, all too often Lent can become a little like a heathy option or a detox. But it is really about coming to acknowledge how each of us has contributed to the Passion of the Christ though our own sinfulness. Yes, we have rejoiced in the birth of our Saviour and joined in the adoration of the shepherds and the wise men. But I bet that seems like a distant memory and "normal" life has resumed, devoid of the great joy of Christmas only a few weeks ago.

And that is why the source of our ashes is so important. We can buy them from church suppliers, but better still is to make our own. Thus we invite you to bring us your palms from last year before next Sunday, the palms we waved to welcome Christ as our Redeemer. No doubt our enthusiasm has waned since then, even more so than in the short time since 25 December. And thus we will then bless and burn those palms, using the ashes to mark ourselves on Ash Wednesday, a stark reminder of how unsteady our faith can be.

Tempus fugit, time flies, but Lent beginning so soon after Christmas is a real opportunity to hold the infant Christ and our broken Saviour, both one and the same Jesus Christ, close to our hearts. *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

253 O Praise Ye the Lord!
255 O Worship the King
223 How Sweet the Name of
Jesus Sounds
La Hèle *Missa Praeter rerum
seriem*
L'Heretier *Sub tuum presidium*
Massaino *Conserva me
Domine*

Sunday Readings

Page 134
Job 7:1-4. 6-7
Psalm 146: 1-6 R. v3
1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-235
Mark 1:29-39

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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)
Parish Administrator:	Kathleen Reddington (stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk)
Parish Safeguarding Rep:	Frances Uchea (stjohnswoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)
Director of Music:	Martin Toyer (martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk)

Parish Offices. A combination of unforeseen circumstances means that for the next few weeks neither St John's Wood nor Marylebone will have administrators. Please be patient as Canon Kevin and Fr Alex alone will be running this side of operations as well as the usual Sacramental schedules. Thank you for your understanding.

Junior Choir Open Rehearsal on Sunday 4 February at 10:45am for children (aged 5+) who would like to try out singing in the choir. If you are interested in attending, please email our director, Martina at martinasmyth@rcdow.org.uk.

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

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages. 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

On Saturday 10 February, the eve of the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to have lives with your prayers, fasting and support. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London, is holding a Divine Mercy afternoon of reflection on Saturday 10 February from 1:30pm—4:30pm at St George's R.C. Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HY. All welcome. Please call Millie on 07957 594 646 for more information.

World Day of the Sick. On Saturday 10 February 2024 Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate the Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes in Westminster Cathedral at 2:30pm. During this Mass anointing of the sick will be offered. For tickets please email the parish office at: stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk by the end of Sunday, 4 February 2024 advising if you are booking for wheelchair users who require anointing, walking sick who require anointing, or assisting the sick and do not require anointing yourself.

Evangelising post-Christian Britain. Monsignor James Shea, President of the University of Mary (Bismark, North Dakota) co-authored the extraordinary book *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*. In a lively lecture and on Tuesday 20 February at St James Church, Spanish Place, Marylebone, he will draw bridges between the different visions that the Church and the world have for our society, and suggest effective strategies to engage our own time and culture with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The lecture will be followed by a Q&A and then refreshments will be available. Tickets £5 at: guild-ransom.co.uk/events

First Holy Communion Programme continues on Saturday 24 February from 12:00pm—1:00pm in the parish hall.

Job Vacancies. For details regarding diocesan job vacancies, please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.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
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

