

OUR LADY'S,  
ST JOHN'S WOOD &  
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY,  
MARYLEBONE

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SERVICE TIMES

**St John's Wood**

**Sunday Mass**

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

**Weekday Mass**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
10:00am  
Thursday 7:00pm  
Friday 10:00am  
Saturday 10:00am

**Confessions**

Saturday 10:30am - 11:00am  
5:15pm - 5:45pm

**Adoration**

Saturday 10.30am-11.00am.

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**Marylebone**

**Sunday Mass**

6:00pm (Sat), 11:00am (Sung)

**Weekday Mass**

Monday  
Wednesday & Friday 12:30pm

**Confessions**

Saturday 5:15pm-5:45pm

**Adoration**

Saturday 3pm-5.30pm

+ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
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**Not Another Lent?**

In the Cathedral on Tuesday, the canons processed in and out in silence. It was reminiscent of Lent when the *General Instruction on the Roman Missal* states that the playing of the organ and musical instruments is allowed only to support the singing. Of course, this is not Lent but Advent. And yet the purple vestments remind us that it is a penitential season. Indeed, it was known in the past as St Martin's Lent because it began soon after the feast of St Martin of Tours on 12 November. Yes, it was seven, not six weeks long! And it involved abstinence from meat for the whole time with a rigorous fast on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Can you imagine how much fun all our early Christmas parties would be with those instructions still in place today? Yet striking a balance between the more traditional marking of the season and the countdown to Christmas it has become, would be a worthwhile spiritual exercise for as we all know, when Christ is born there is no room for Him at the inn. Hence Pope Francis said, "Make room for Jesus who wants 'to give us his joy'". All too often there are things in our hearts and our lives that occupy the space

where Christ wishes to make His home. Pope Francis calls these the distractions of external things. Hence it would be good for us to make more time and room for Christ by taking up an additional devotional prayer each day like a decade or more of the rosary, particularly the joyful mysteries. More importantly, the guilt of our sins takes up unnecessary room in our hearts and minds. Availing ourselves of the extra opportunities for Confession in the coming weeks as the leaflets for Advent and Christmastide show, will free up space for Christ. And as well as obvious sins, often we try to convince ourselves that some of the "wrong" things we do are actually alright, while some of the good deeds we avoid are not a sign of our lacking in Christian charity. These spiritual machinations (*macchine-ations, Fr Alex?*) make Christ's coming to us complicated. So enjoy this wonderful season, but take the time to do as St John the Baptist proclaims: "make the path of the Lord straight...level the way of the Lord", and make room for Him to come and find us worthy to be with Him not just in adoration at the crib, but for eternity in His Heavenly Kingdom whenever He comes again. *Canon Kevin*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Parish Clergy:

Canon Kevin Jordan  
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### Parish Sister:

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### Parish Administrator:

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### Parish Safeguarding Reps:

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### Director of Music:

(St John's Wood)  
Martin Toyer  
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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**The Divine Mercy Apostolate,**  
**London** is holding a Divine Mercy  
Retreat at All Saints Church  
Kenton HA3 0UL  
Saturday 14 December  
1:00pm to 4:30 pm.  
For more information telephone  
Millie on 07957 594 646 .  
No need to register

**Annual Christmas Celebration in  
Westminster Cathedral**  
takes place on 18 & 19 December  
at 7:30pm. Tickets are now on sale  
and can be purchased from the  
Cathedral Gift Shop or from:  
[www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)  
For full details please see the  
poster in the porch

## PARISH NOTICES

**Assisted Suicide Bill.** In the light of the decision of MPs to vote in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill at its second reading on Friday, Bishop John Sherrington, in his role as lead bishop for life issues at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has issued a statement: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/assisted-suicide-bill-second-reading/>. Bishop John says, in addition to his statement, *'Please thank those MPs who voted against the bill and encourage them to continue their opposition to this dangerous bill. I also encourage pastoral support and prayer for those who feel more fearful after this decision.'*

**An Advent/Christmas Leaflet** with the times of all Masses, Confessions for those seasons are available to take home with you today. Please give them out to people who might be thinking of coming to our parishes.

**Advent Giving Calendar** items should be placed in the collection box at the back of the church. The SVP will bring them to our local foodbank. Please check the calendar on the noticeboard in the porch today for items to bring next week. Thank you so much for your support to those in need this Advent.

**Christmas Offering.** This week you can take home a Christmas offertory envelope. This is your Christmas gift to the parish and is not taxed by the Diocese, so if you are going away please do use it. Thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity throughout the year.

**Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.** Even though there is a rota for Christmas, we know that some of you will be away so we thought it

might be easier if you volunteered on the list which is outside the sacristy at St John's Wood and inside the sacristy at Marylebone. Servers should check with their parents and then indicate their availability on the list also. God bless you for your generous service.

**Advent Carol Service.** All are welcome to attend the Carol Service on Saturday 14 December at 3:00pm at Marylebone. This will be followed by a reception in Rosary Hall. Parishioners are invited to bring festive treats that can be shared together at the reception.

**Children's Liturgy in Marylebone.** Over the period of Advent the children's liturgy will run every week at the 11:00am Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church. At the Carol Concert on the 14 December, the children are invited to take part, and they may dress as a character from the Nativity if they wish (Mary, Joseph, an Angel, or shepherd. Please find Fiorenza at the end of Mass for more details.

**The Christmas Big Clean** needs you to help give an added sparkle to our well-kept church and sanctuary at St John's Wood. Please come along to the church on Monday 16 December at 6:00pm followed by festive refreshments. Ana will be coordinating the clean so our church is pristine for Christmas. All are needed and welcome. Remember 'many hands make light work.'

**SVP Vinnie Packs** cold weather essentials for the homeless. To sponsor a pack at £4.20 each please send your donation to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ, cheques payable to SVP or via BACS to NatWest S/C 60-60-04, A/c Nr 46088237.