

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

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parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood
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<https://www.facebook.com/ourladysjw>



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.

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

+ THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
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The Challenge of Rules

At first glance, none of us like rules. Whether it's reductions to the speed limit (even 30 mph on the Westway!) or confusion over the vast array of recycling bins, we often bristle at restrictions that make life harder. But, when we reflect, rules can also be positive. Without them, our favourite sport would descend into chaos. Goals, offside calls, and time limits create structure, making the game enjoyable. These rules give players boundaries and fans clarity. Without them, the thrill of strategy, teamwork, and victory would vanish.

This understanding of games offers profound insight into approaching God's Word and commandments. Rules—be they the Ten Commandments or Christ's call to love God and our neighbour—should not be burdens that restrict freedom but guides for living a full, meaningful life.

In our First Reading, the Israelites are listening to Ezra read the Law. They weep at its beauty, clarity, and strength. But Nehemiah uses this moment, when their passion for the Law is at its greatest to

remind them of the purpose of the Law: "Do not weep... for the joy of the Lord is your strength." The Law is not something sad but a life-giving force, reorienting their hearts to God and one another. It brings joy because it shows the path to communion and justice.

Against this backdrop of God's rules bringing life and freedom, Jesus declares in the Gospel that He has come to fulfil God's promise. His mission is not to abolish the Law but to embody its ultimate purpose: love and restoration. Christ's teachings, His rules, are those of the "game" that will lead us to eternal life.

Next time we chafe against a rule, divine or mundane, let's remember the wisdom of the Israelites and Christ's message. Rules, used properly, are not about restriction but direction. And the ultimate direction of divine rules is God, who offers the eternal reward of life with Him, the saints, and the faithful departed.

Fr Alex

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy

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Musical Director (St John's Wood)

Martin Toyer

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Retrouvaille

can help couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage.

Next programme,

27 February to 2 March,

Email: info@retrouvaille.org.uk

telephone/text [07887 296 983](tel:07887296983)

or visit: www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

25 July to 1 August 2025

Visit:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/loures/>email:

elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk

or telephone 020 7798 9173

PARISH NOTICES

Sunday Of the Word. The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, 26th January, is the day designated annually by the Pope for special attention to be given to the Word of God. Ideas and initiatives at: <https://liturgyoffice.org/News/sunday-of-the-word-of-god/>

World Leprosy Day on Sunday 26 January is observed to raise awareness of leprosy. The St Francis Leprosy Guild is the UK's Catholic leprosy charity and is grateful to anyone who supports its goal of a leprosy-free world. It provide ideas, information, and materials through its website about about this terrible disease. Cardinal Nichols, the charity's patron, has recorded a video message which can also been viewed at: <https://we.tl/t-iKblbDZ6rM> For further information please contact Katharine Jones at Katharine.jones@stfrancisleprosy.org.

Rest in Peace, Georges Makhoul. Requiem Mass is at Our Lady's, on Monday 27 January at 1:00pm, cremation at Golders Green Crematorium at 2:30pm.

Rest in Peace, Veronica Francois. Requiem Mass is at Our Lady's, on Thursday 30 January at 1:30pm, cremation at West London Crematorium at 3:00pm.

World Day of the Sick. On Saturday 8 February the Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes will take place at Westminster Cathedral at 2:00pm, celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered. This is a ticket only event. Tickets can be requested by emailing the Parish Office: stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk no later than Sunday, 2 February advising if you are booking for either 1. Wheelchair users who require anointing, 2. Walking sick who require anointing or 3. Assisting the sick, who do not require anointing.

Jubilee Year Indulgences In his document on the Jubilee Year Pope Francis wrote that that the gift of the indulgence 'is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy. Not by chance, for the ancients, the terms 'mercy' and 'indulgence' were interchangeable, as expressions of the fullness of God's forgiveness, which knows no bounds' (Spes non confundit, 23). Therefore, during this Jubilee Year, the 'Court of Mercy,' entrusted with all matters concerning the granting and use of indulgences, has established guidelines to help the faithful embrace this unique grace and render spiritually fruitful the practice of the Jubilee Indulgence. This guide provides a simple outline for the faithful in the Diocese of Westminster as to how they can obtain this plenary indulgence, without the need to travel to Rome or other pilgrimage centres around the world and can be found at: <https://rcdow.org.uk/jubilee2025/the-jubilee-indulgence-step-by-step/>

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 the Catholic Chaplain to visit you. Please let Canon Kevin or Fr Alex know if you are housebound, even temporarily, so they can arrange to visit you.

To Donate to our parishes please visit our Diocesan websites at: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/donating-to-the-parish/> or <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/marylebone/donate/> God bless you for however you give to us and to those in need.