

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

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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

+ SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
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From Potatoes to Peanuts

Archbishop Fulton Sheen tells a story about three boys in a row confessing, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. I threw peanuts in the river". Having exhausted the advice he has to give – don't waste food, your parents worked hard to buy them for you, think of the hungry – as soon as the fourth boy walks in, Sheen says, "Don't tell me! You threw peanuts in the river?" "No, Father," a little voice replies, "I am Peanuts." Why does innocent Peanuts go to confession at all? Wouldn't he – and we – be more likely to tell an authority figure about bullying? Whoever Peanuts was, his singular concern was the state of his own immortal soul.

In the first reading, David has the opportunity to save his mortal body from jealous Saul. But recognising the latter's anointed status in the sight of God, despite his many faults and sins, David does not enact revenge. He leaves Saul to God's judgement. The psalm also contrasts God's forgiveness with the human tendency to hold onto grudges. But isn't it so often the case that while we dwell endlessly on what has been done to us, the perpetrators have forgotten it and we just increase our misery?

In the gospel, Jesus takes this a stage further. He challenges His followers to love not just their friends – even if like Peanuts your friends let you down – but also their enemies. He advocates for a radical love that goes beyond societal norms of forgiveness and the transformative power of grace leading us to love even those who may not reciprocate that love.

As Lent approaches it is not only the First Holy Communion children and their parents and families who will be thinking about confession: all of us should be for it is the journey to Calvary where Christ died for our sins, not just other people's. Hence the Church teaches that everyone must go to confession at least once a year.

St John Chrysostom wrote, "Let us not be ashamed to forgive, for the sake of our own salvation, for it is in forgiving that we are most like Christ." First and foremost we must focus on our sins as they are. Disregard the "context" because right is right and wrong is wrong. Blurring those lines imperils our salvation. But to be most like Christ who forgave even those who crucified Him is a tall order. Still, being like Peanuts and thinking about our own sins first would be a good start.

Canon Kevin

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy

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Musical Director (St John's Wood)

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mass for Bereaved Parents

Westminster Cathedral
celebrated by
Bishop Paul McAleenan
Saturday 5 April at 2:00pm.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Westminster Cathedral,
17 May 2:30pm.
Mass for all couples in the diocese
who are celebrating significant
wedding anniversaries of Catholic
marriage in 2025. Email:
stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk with
your details by Monday 31 March.

PARISH NOTICES

Lenten Appeal 2025. This Holy Year invites us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. We invite you to consider supporting work being done in the Diocese of Westminster to bring hope into many lives. Your contributions will help fund vital projects across our diocese, including youth & evangelisation, social action, marriage & family life, and Catholic education initiatives. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, extends his heartfelt thanks to all who give what they can to this meaningful cause. Donation envelopes are available at the back of the church today. You can also contribute online using the QR code on the envelope or on the poster displayed in the porch. Thank you for your kindness and support.

'The Joy of Rome'. In celebration of the Jubilee Year an exhibition 'The Joy Of Rome' featuring paintings by Antonia Covarrubias Noé is running in the Ground Floor Gallery at 114 Mount Street until 28 February. The paintings are a tribute to some of Rome's most special places for the artist, captured in oil paintings and other techniques: *Via Appia Antica*, home to the historic *Domine Quo Vadis* church; the Tiber River; *Via Panisperna*, with its view of *Santa Maria Maggiore*; the Vatican dome bathed in the sunset glow from *Gianicolo* hill, and more. All are invited to view the exhibition but there will also be a private viewing on Tuesday 25 February at 6:30pm, again to which all are welcome.

Vocations: 'Come and See'. If you know any men who may be interested in exploring a vocation to the Priesthood or Permanent Diaconate, then please invite them to come along to the vocations team's 'Come & See' morning on Saturday 1 March, 10:00am-2:00pm, at Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Joseph parish hall, 1 King Edward's Road, Ware, SG12 7EJ. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided.

To find out more and to register attendance please contact Canon Roger Taylor, the Vocations Promoter: rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Tito Pereira, Assistant Director of the Permanent Diaconate: titopereira@rcdow.org.uk or telephone 07977 599 110.

Ash Wednesday —the start of Lent.

Masses on Wednesday 5 March will be at 10:00am and 7:30pm at St John's Wood and at 12:30pm at Marylebone. Don't forget to do something extra as well as giving things up during Lent—perhaps an extra Mass or pray the Stations of the Cross on Thursdays at 6:15pm in the church at St John's Wood or 11:45pm on Fridays at Marylebone. Or offer your time to help in the running of our parishes and their ministries?

Jubilee Matters. 'Walk the Westminster Way'.

Another great theme of this year is that of pilgrimage and walking pilgrimages in particular. Here in the diocese the Westminster Way has been devised, a gentle walk of about 5 miles from Tower Hill to the Cathedral, passing through Moorfields, Charterhouse, Ely Place, Maiden Lane and Westminster. There are resources to accompany those who undertake this, including a leader's guide and passport, all available on the diocesan website at: <https://rcdow.org.uk/jubilee-2025/>

Ways to Donate to your Parish

and to Gift Aid your donation. Details are available at the following links: <http://tinyurl.com/OLSJW> (St John's Wood) and <http://tinyurl.com/OIMarI> (Marylebone). Contactless giving devices are also available in both churches for parishioners who would like to donate to the parishes in a swift and simple way using a contactless debit/credit card or smart phone/device. Thank you for your ongoing support in whatever way you give.