

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

54 Lodge Road, NW8 8LA  
020 7286 3214

parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood  
parish.rcdow.org.uk/marylebone

<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.

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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

+ THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD  
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**Seasons and Feasts: God's Perfect Timing**

Living in London, one can quickly become detached from the seasons. Flowers flown in from thousands of miles away fill petrol stations. Even in unoccupied buildings, lights shine, illuminating winter's long nights. Meanwhile, though the ground is hard (or sodden, weather-dependent), cherries sit plump and ripe on greengrocers' shelves on the Edgware Road.

In this context, it's easy to miss the cosmological timing of the Church's feasts. Christmas falls at the darkest time of year, when days are shortest. Six months earlier, at summer's height, we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist, marking the days' gradual shortening—a sign in the heavens of John's prophetic words: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

These feasts weren't randomly assigned to match cosmology. Rather, they coincided with real moments in time, revealing God's preordained plan. His actions are not reactive, like a politician's, but part of a carefully laid design for our salvation, brought into effect at the perfect moment.

Today's feast of the Presentation is one such moment. It falls midway between the darkest day and the spring equinox—the tipping point where winter begins to yield to spring. A time when new life, though small and fragile, begins to emerge, heralding the end of darkness and death.

At spring's onset, the smallest, most delicate blossoms announce winter's passing. In Jerusalem, the end of sin and death was proclaimed by the arrival of the most fragile of infants. A poor child, for his parents could offer only the sacrifice of the poor. Yet concealed within him was the majesty of God—the one who would conquer death forever.

Despite city life, we should reflect on nature's stillness, the quiet signs of new life, and the change they foretell. Nature teaches that transformation isn't signalled by great explosions but by subtle, easily missed moments. So too in our spiritual lives: faithfulness, observance, and contemplation bear the fruit that sustains our souls.

*Fr Alex*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Parish Clergy

Canon Kevin Jordan

[kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk)

Fr Alex Balzanella

[alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk)

### Parish Sister

Sr Brigid Collins, RSM

[brigid@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:brigid@rcdow.org.uk)

### Parish Administrator

Kathleen Reddington

[stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk)

[marylebone@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:marylebone@rcdow.org.uk)

### Bookkeeper (both parishes)

Asha Stephen

[stjohnswoodbookkeeper@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stjohnswoodbookkeeper@rcdow.org.uk)

[rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rcdow.org.uk)

### Parish Safeguarding Reps

Frances Uchea (St John's Wood)

[stjohnswoodsg@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stjohnswoodsg@rcdow.org.uk)

[safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Valeria Naipan (Marylebone)

[marylebonesg@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:marylebonesg@rcdow.org.uk)

[safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

### Musical Director (St John's Wood)

Martin Toyer

[martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Mass for Bereaved Parents

Westminster Cathedral

celebrated by

Bishop Paul McAleenan

on Saturday 5 April at 2:00pm.

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

25 July to 1 August 2025

Please visit:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or email:

[elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk)

or telephone 020 7798 9173

## PARISH NOTICES

**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 at: [stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk) no later than today 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.

**In-person talks on "Looking at the Scriptures"**, takes place at Vaughan House, Westminster: 6:30pm – 8:00pm on Tuesday 18 February and Thursday 13 March. Please book by emailing: [catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk). For more information please see the poster in the porch.

**Diocesan Seminary Allen Hall.** To celebrate the Jubilee Year and the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, the Diocesan Seminary, Allen Hall is to host a series of talks on 'Exploring the Theological Virtue of Hope and its Relation to the Nicene Creed'. The first talk is on Saturday 22 March (in Lent): Consubstantial with the Father – 'Christ our Hope'. There are further talks in June and December. The talk starts at 3:00pm, followed by refreshments, a tour of Allen Hall and Sung Vespers at 5:30pm. Address is 28 Beaufort St, London, SW3 5AA. All welcome but as numbers will be limited to 50, please email: [parector@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:parector@rcdow.org.uk) to reserve a place.

### Jubilee Companion Booklets.

Please help yourself to a booklet, there are still some remaining at the back of the church. Do make use of it during this Jubilee year. More information regarding the Jubilee at: <https://rcdow.org.uk/jubilee-2025/>

**Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony** takes place at Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 17 May at 2:30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2025. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please email Kathleen in the parish office: at: [stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk) with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by Monday 31 March. Your details will be sent to the Diocese who will post you an invitation prior to the event.

### WE NEED YOU - Church Cleaning Volunteers.

We are currently extremely short of volunteers at St John's Wood for this important ministry. At the moment cleaning takes place weekly on a different day each week either Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays. We have a very limited number of cleaners for each day, in fact on three days there are now only two persons cleaning. If you can help on any of the specified days please let Kathleen in the Parish office know. We could also create a Friday team if this day would suit any volunteers better. Please consider putting your name forward as soon as possible. Thank you so much.

**Mass Intentions.** Thank you for your greatly appreciated Mass intentions. The Sacrifice of Christ brings our prayers right to the heart of the Father. There can be no greater gift for another person. If you would like one offered, please either take a Mass offering envelope from the church and place it in the collection or email: [stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk) or telephone 020 7286 3214. The offering suggested by the Diocese is £10 per Mass.