

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.

**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

+ FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
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**More Than Just a Building: The Church as Our Loving Mother**

Today, we hear the familiar parable of the Prodigal Son, a story of rebellion, repentance, and reconciliation. We often hear it so frequently that we risk missing its depth: God's boundless mercy and the maternal heart of the Church.

St. Cyprian wrote, "No one can have God for Father who does not have the Church as mother." Our relationship with the Church should not be transactional, as if we were simply visiting Tesco. When we reduce her to this role, we miss her true nature. She is not a service provider. She is our mother, nurturing, forgiving, and guiding us with tender love, and she desires our love and affection.

Christ gave us this mother on the Cross. As blood and water flowed from His pierced side, the Church was born. From this wound of love, the Church's sacramental life pours forth: the blood symbolising the Eucharist, her nourishment; the water, the baptismal font from which she gives eternal life to her children.

Like the father in the parable, Mother Church lavishes grace on her prodigal children when they return. Through confession, she restores the dignity of the sinner, not as a servant but as a beloved

son or daughter. The robe of grace is placed on the penitent soul, and the Eucharistic banquet is set before them. There's no grudging forgiveness, only extravagant mercy. Yet how easily we forget this maternal embrace. We can reduce the Church to mere bricks and mortar, seeing her only as an institution. This human lens treats her like a service provider, available only when it suits us. This "Tesco religion" mindset sees the Church as something to use for what we can get out of it. The danger is that it prevents us from forming a true relationship with the Church, neglecting her role as mother. Without nurturing that bond, we fail to appreciate her love and mercy, and miss the chance to be transformed by her care.

On this Mother's Day, we rightly honour the women who have nurtured us. But let's also turn our hearts toward Holy Mother Church. Whether we are wandering prodigals or faithful children, she loves us with unwavering fidelity. She waits with arms outstretched, calling us home to share in the banquet of the Lord in heaven.

*Fr Alex*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### 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  
marylebone@rcdow.org.uk

### Bookkeeper (both parishes)

Asha Stephen  
stjohnswoodbookkeeper@rcdow.org.uk

### Parish Safeguarding Reps

Frances Uchea (St John's Wood)  
stjohnswoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk  
Valeria Naipan (Marylebone)  
marylebonesg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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

Martin Toyer  
martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk

## PARISH DIARY

ST JOHN'S WOOD (SJW)  
MARYLEBONE (MB)

### Children's Liturgy (SJW) -

Term time

(MB) - 30 March, 6 April, 27 April

### Tea and Coffee (SJW) - After the

9:00am Sunday Mass, term time  
(MB) - 13 April

### Parent/Toddler Group (SJW) -

9:30am - 11:30am Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays & Thursdays in the  
Upper Hall

## PARISH NOTICES



### Happy Mothering Sunday

*Mary, full of grace, I ask for your intercession today for my earthly mother. Pray for her, and pray that her example of love draws me closer to Your son, not only on Mother's Day but on all days. Amen.*

### Stations of the Cross during Lent

will take place every Thursday at 6:15pm before evening Mass in the church at St John's Wood and at 11:45am on Fridays in Marylebone.

### A Holy Week and Easter Week leaflet

with the times of all Masses and Confessions for the remainder of Lent and Easter week is available to take home with you today. Please give them out to people who might be thinking of coming to our parishes over Easter.

**Easter Offering.** This week you can take home an Easter offertory envelope. This is your Easter gift to the parish which can be given in at any time during Holy Week and the Easter season. Thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity throughout the year and especially in these difficult times.

**Readers & Eucharistic Ministers** are invited to sign up, please, for the Holy Week and Easter liturgies outside the sacristy in St Johns Wood and in the porch at Marylebone.

**Planned Giving Envelopes** for the new tax year for existing users from both St John's Wood and Marylebone parishes are available to collect from the porch today. The new envelopes will commence next Sunday 6 April Thank you for your donations, whatever way you give.

### Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the UCM (Union of Catholic Mothers)

for the children in the church garden after the 9:00am Mass until 11:30am on Sunday 6 April. Tickets are £3 per child. Entry includes the egg hunt and a cup cake. A raffle will also be held for a fabulous family hamper. Tickets are available after all Masses this weekend at St John's Wood and after the 11:00am Sunday Mass at Marylebone or via email at: [ucmstjohnswood@gmail.com](mailto:ucmstjohnswood@gmail.com) or by telephoning 07828 148 513. Please also see the poster in the porch.

### Wintershall 'The Passion of Jesus',

live in Trafalgar Square, Good Friday 18 April. Free performances are at 12:15pm and 3:15pm. For more details visit: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk> and see the poster in the porch.

### The Bi-Annual Concelebrated Requiem Masses

at St. Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green, NW10 5NU, are on Monday 16 June at 11:30am and Monday 3 November at 11:30am.

### Lourdes Pilgrimage, 25 July - 1 August 2025.

Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Nicholas is now open via : <https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk> or by contacting the pilgrimage office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane or train are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by Wednesday 30 April.

**Legacy Gifts.** You might like to consider how you could make a lasting impact by supporting your parish or an aspect of our outreach in your will. We all benefit in some way from the kindness of legacy gifts. For more information please visit: <https://rcdow.org.uk/donations/legac> or speak to Canon Kevin or Fr Alex.