

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

+ THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT  
PAGE 160 - YEAR C - 23 MARCH 2025

**Move Over, Gloria Gaynor**

One of the above named great diva's songs is, "I am what I am". But we can do better than that.

Following on from recent editorials about our Lenten efforts to be recollected before Mass begins and to participate fully, consciously and actively by truly listening to and focusing on the words we hear, we'll all have learned today that Moses sees a bush on fire that is not being consumed by the flames – the ultimate in sustainable energy, Mr Milliband. Believing that there were "gods" of this place and that, Moses asks this "god" his name.

The answer shows that this God, the true God, cannot be limited or defined – His name simply is "to be," "The One Who Is". God is not a being among many, but the very essence of being itself. As St Anselm later put it, God is greater than that of which nothing greater can be thought. And as St Thomas Aquinas said, if you can understand it, it isn't God.

Alongside these bits of catechesis on the Mass, Fr Alex, Sr Brigid and I have been supplementing the wonderful teaching of the catechists who run our children's Liturgy of the Word during the 9:00am Mass. You've probably

noticed how quietly the children return to the church as we have helped those volunteers pass on the real mystery of what we celebrate here. And indeed, while the sessions are excellent in helping our children understand out faith, adults and children beyond the age of seven will receive more appropriate instruction by staying in the church. After all, adherence to safeguarding regulations mean there is the correct ratio of helpers with a current DBS certificate to children, and parents and older siblings are only a few meters away if there are difficulties. So relax and stay in church to deepen your own understanding of the riches of the Catholic Church, confident that your children are cared for and well taught.

In this place, during Mass, the One who just Is becomes truly present. Yes, it is a mystery for God is essentially mystery. This originally Greek word means "to shut the mouth." So let us all be silent - before, during and after Mass - and respect others' need for silence. May we all, like Moses, be in awe here of the real presence of the One who knocks Gloria's phrase into a cocked hat. *Canon Kevin*

# 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

# PARISH NOTICES

**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.

**Young Adults' Lent Retreat Day with the Assumption Sisters** on Saturday 5 April, 10:00am – 5:30pm at Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square W8 5HH. The programme includes talks, prayer, adoration and confessions, faith sharing, Mass and social time. Donations only. Register at: [rebecca@assumpta-eu.org](mailto:rebecca@assumpta-eu.org). Please see the poster in the porch.

**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.

**Rediscover Your Marriage** with Retrouvaille which offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Many have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. The next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 20 - 22 June. Call/text 07887 296 983 or 07973 380 443, or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit: [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**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.

**'Hope Springs Eternal'.** To stimulate thinking about the theme of hope and the Jubilee Year, Canon Daniel Cronin has compiled an anthology of meditations in a new book entitled 'Hope Springs Eternal'. With a forward from Cardinal Nichols, contributors include Bishop Sherrington, Bishop Erik Varden, Canon John O'Leary, Canon Philip Gillespie, Fr Robert Smialek, Fr Patrick van der Vorst and Sir Stephen Hough. Published by St Pauls Publishing, copies are available from St Paul's Book Shop next to the Cathedral at £9.99.

**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 contact Kathleen at the parish office email at: [stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk) or telephone 020 7286 3214. The offering suggested by the Diocese is £10 per Mass. Payment can be made online or in cash either at the parish office at St John's Wood or by handing it to one of the Clergy.

**Planned Giving Envelopes** for the new tax year for existing users from both St John's Wood and Marylebone parishes will be available to collect from the porch today.