

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

+ FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

PAGE 176 - YEAR C - 6 APRIL 2025

Passion in Peril

The head of the "civil service" in our Diocese has sent your priests a document. It says that if we do not carry out a fire risk assessment for the Easter fire we will face a £5000 personal fine. I kid you not.

In my third year of formation, the parish priest not only covered the statues and crucifixes but removed all the candle stands during Passiontide. Come Easter, the deprived people of Fulham lit so many votive lights that this lowly seminarian had to run off the sanctuary during Mass and tackle the ensuing blaze with a fire extinguisher. Those were the days... But I digress. The Gospel reading for this Sunday used to include John 8:46-59, in which Jesus "hid Himself" from the crowd who attempted to stone Him. Thus, since the Middle Ages, sacred images were hidden from view to symbolize the growing mystery of Christ's suffering and the impending separation between Christ and His followers. As St. Ambrose wrote, "When the Lord withdrew from the Jews, He departed not in body, but in mystery. You too, if you would escape the snares of sin, must veil yourself in Christ, so that the adversary may not discover your hidden sanctity."

And therein lies the purpose of veiling images during Passiontide which starts today: it is to draw us into a deeper contemplation of the holiness of our own lives without looking at those who have already received a heavenly reward for their earthly sanctity. As our churches become increasingly bare, we should do nothing but meditate on the purpose of the Passion – the forgiveness of our sins – without distraction. By removing familiar images, the Church emphasizes the gravity of this sacred time and invites us to focus entirely on the mystery of our personal redemption and how much we need this most supreme of all God's gifts.

This temporary concealment of holy images reminds us that Christ's suffering and death precede His glorious resurrection - it will happen. But for now, focus on the sacrifice, salvation, and hope that define our Lenten journey. This should lead us to a greater love for Christ's wounds on the cross that we will venerate on Good Friday. Of course, that assumes some faceless bureaucrat won't try and ban that do. But Holy Mother Church has survived far worse than woke, apparatchiks in her long history so we live in hope. *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) - 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,
term time, Upper Hall

Big Church Clean (SJW) -

at 6:30pm, Wednesday 16 April

PARISH NOTICES

Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life Bill).

The Cardinal's pastoral letter on this important issue will be read at Mass this weekend and paper copies are available at the back of the church. Please write to your MP again, even if you already done so, as the bill is at a critical stage. Let us stand for the sanctity of life. Thank you.

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 envelopes

are available at the back of the church. 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.

If you have not already done so, you are invited to sign up, please, for the Holy Week and Easter liturgies outside the sacristy in St John's Wood and in the porch at Marylebone. Thank you.

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

for the children, takes place in the church garden after the 9:00am Mass until 11:30am today. 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. All are welcome to attend.

Big Church Clean

at 6:30pm on Wednesday 16 April in St John's Wood. Easter treats provided, and all are welcome. If you can also help with the regular church cleaning throughout the year, please contact Kathleen in the office.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

starts at St John's Wood Church, Prince Albert Road, at 9:00am. All parishioners are welcome to attend. All children who would like to be part of the Passion procession are asked to please email Sr Brigid at: srbrigid@gmail.com as soon as possible.

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.

Recognising the Risen Lord.

A short series of talks by Fr John Deehan: from 6:30pm-8:00pm at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN;; Tuesday 22 April will be a look at the Easter narratives in the Gospel of Year C. Tuesday 29 April especially the Apocalypse: New Testament Eastertide readings. To book please email: catadmin@rcdow.org.uk or call 020 7798 9152.

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 we can arrange to visit you.

Job Vacancies.

For details regarding diocesan job vacancies, visit: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk>.