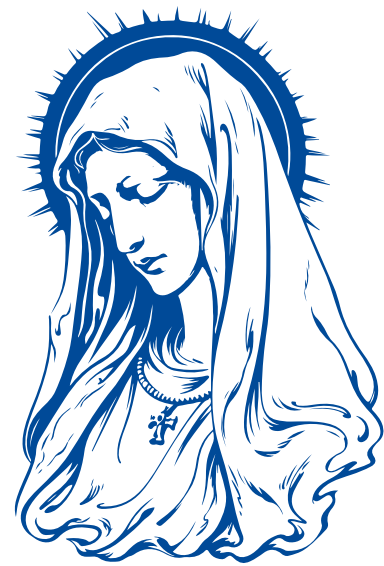


OUR LADY'S,
ST JOHN'S WOOD &
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY,
MARYLEBONE

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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,
Friday & Saturday 10:00am;
Thursday 7:00pm

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 OF EASTER PAGE 275 - YEAR C - 1 JUNE 2025

The Holy Spirit Be With You?

The first time I was taken to the cinema was to see a rerun of one of the original Star Wars Trilogy. *The Empire Strikes Back*. Leaving the film, with the imagination only a six year old can have, I decided that my goal in life was to become Darth Vader. Having the power to control things and even take the air out of someone's lungs was, with hindsight, quite a disturbing role model for a child to take.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit is treated like the force in Star Wars. Something that is used by God and by holy men and women to do miraculous things or show particular courage. In the first reading from Acts, we hear that Stephen, the Church's first martyr, was "filled with the Holy Spirit." And being so filled, he was able to bear witness to God.

The Holy Spirit is not like a superpower or a Jedi skill. The Holy Spirit is God Himself, dwelling within the Church and the hearts of believers. When Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit he was caught up in God's life. He saw Jesus, standing at the right hand of the Father in the way that God can see the reality of Heaven. Moreover, he became a living image of Christ: forgiving his enemies, speaking the truth, even as stones rained down.

The Holy Spirit does not just influence us; he sanctifies and saves us. And since something can only act from what it is, the Spirit must be God. Only God can create, and only God can save. So when the Spirit acts in us, creating new hearts, making us holy, it is nothing less than God's own life being poured into us.

Stephen's calm witness is not the result of good character alone. It is the result of grace, the Comforter widening his heart. In a noisy, fearful world, how much we need that kind of presence. The Church today continues her journey through history led by the same Spirit who filled Stephen, even if at times we feel our own weakness more than God's power. But the Spirit is not an optional extra in the Christian life. He is Lord. He is the one who makes us holy.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled, not with power alone, but with God himself. May we desire that gift more deeply, and open our hearts to receive him.

Fr Alex

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy

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Musical Director (St John's Wood)

Martin Toyer
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PARISH DIARY

Children's Liturgy of the Word

SJW - 9:00am, term time,
MB - 11:00am, 1 June

Tea and Coffee

SJW- after 9:00am Mass,
term time
MB - 8 June

Parent/Toddler Group (SJW)

9:30am - 11:30am Tuesdays,
Wednesdays & Thursdays,
term time, upper hall

Creative Writing Group (Scribes in the Wood) (SJW)

10:30am - 12 noon Thursdays

Confirmation 2025 Rehearsal

12noon Saturday 7 June
at St John's Wood

PARISH NOTICES

Today is World Communications

Day World Communications Day invites us to be 'communicators of hope', a mission from the spirit of the Gospel. For the Pope's full message, prayers:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wcd25-papal-message/>

Children's Liturgy of the Word in Marylebone

will take place during the 11:00am Sunday Mass today and on: 15 June (focussing on the Trinity), 22 June (focussing on *Corpus Christi*). Please note that while there won't be a children's liturgy on 8 June (Pentecost) or 29 June (Ss Peter and Paul), please do speak to your children about these very special dates in the calendar and look out for printed information in the porch of the church. The *Hallow* app has brilliant catechetical material for family members of all ages. Visit: <https://hallow.com/>

Confirmation 2025 Next Sunday 8 June at the 12 noon at Our Lady's, St John's Wood our young people from both parishes will be Confirmed. Please pray for them and their families as they make this big step in their lives as Catholic Christians.

Pentecost Mass 8 June 12noon As this Mass is the Confirmation Mass, at which 24 candidates will be confirmed, the church will be particularly busy. You may wish to attend one of our other services. Please note that the central benches will be reserved for the candidates, sponsors and family.

The SVP Foodbank collection takes place next weekend. Please leave non-perishable items on the table in the porch. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Corpus Christi Processions through the local streets will take place on Sunday 22 June after the 11:00am Mass in Marylebone and 12 noon Mass in St John's Wood. All are welcome but our First Holy Communion children are particularly invited to participate in their celebratory outfits. In the days leading up to this, please deadhead your flowers or approach florists you know and place the petals in the buckets in our church porches. The children will walk ahead of the Blessed Sacrament and lay them as a path worthy for the Lord truly present in the Eucharist.

Rediscover Your Marriage A chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. The next programme begins with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City 20 - 22 June. No group therapy and group work. Call/Text: 07887 296 983 or 07973 380 443 Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit : <https://retrouvaille.org.uk/>

WeBelieve Festival a project of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom and St Mary's College, Oscott. It is a Festival of Catholic Life celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope, taking place on the beautiful grounds of St Mary's College, Oscott, on 25 - 28 July. For more information please visit: <https://www.webeliefefestival.com/festival/programme> or see the poster in the porch.

Legacy Gifts You might like to consider how you could make a lasting impact by supporting the Diocese of Westminster, 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/legacy/>. Leaflets are also available at the back of our churches.