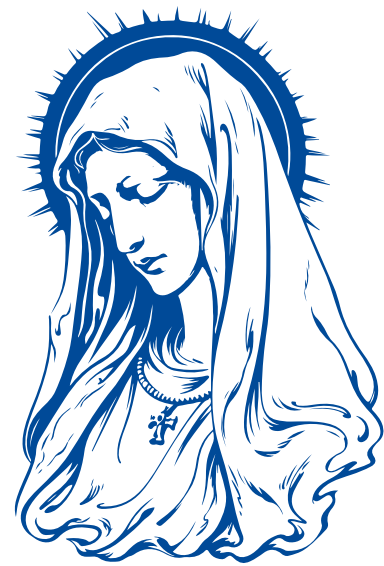


OUR LADY'S,  
ST JOHN'S WOOD &  
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY,  
MARYLEBONE

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020 7286 3214

parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood  
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<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.

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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 3:00pm - 5.30pm

+ SAINTS PETER & PAUL

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**Playing the Buffoon**

*"He was only a priest. He had no dignity. He was a buffoon. That was all right."*

In Graham Greene's *The Power and the Glory*, the main character, who is a priest, not a very good priest, finally understands what being a priest means. It isn't about personal acclaim, of delivering stunning homilies or renowned talks, it is not about personal glory or perfection. Rather, a priest is called to be a sign, a humble icon of Christ himself. Inevitably the human character of the priest makes that icon concealed, somewhat grubby, but nonetheless it is through the priest that Christ has desired to make Himself present to his people.

This weekend, as we celebrate the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, we recall how Jesus asked Peter, "Who do you say that I am?". Peter's confession "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" sums up perfectly what a priest is called to do, to reveal Jesus as the Christ, through Whom we can have a relationship with God and the promise of eternal life.

Both Peter and Paul founded Christian communities throughout the Mediterranean. They served those communities by bringing them to know Jesus by their words

and example. However the time came for them to leave, entrusting their communities to others. That is the call of the priesthood, to labour but then to walk away, remembering that the work done has been for Christ.

For the past two years it has been my privilege to try my best to serve you here in St John's Wood and Marylebone. However I have now been appointed to the parish of St Joan of Arc in Highbury, beginning in September.

I say I've served you here, but so often I feel it has been me who has been helped by you all, by your kindness, patience and faith. If at times I have been more a distraction than a help, concealing that it meant to be Christ we encounter at Mass, I am sorry for those moments.

Please keep me in your prayers as I will keep you in mine. I look forward to seeing you all in the remaining weeks over the summer. Above all, though, please pray for the vocations to the priesthood, particularly from our parishes - that there may be men who, buffoons though they might be, recognise a call to let Christ shine through them.

*Fr Alex*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Parish Clergy

Canon Kevin Jordan

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Fr Alex Balzanella

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### Parish Sister

Sr Brigid Collins, RSM

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### Parish Administrator

Kathleen Reddington

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### Bookkeeper (both parishes)

Asha Stephen

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### Parish Safeguarding Reps

Frances Uchea (St John's Wood)

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safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Valeria Naipan (Marylebone)

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safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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

Martin Toyer

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

## PARISH DIARY

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

**SJW** - 9:00am, term time,

**MB** - 11:00am, 5 July

### Tea and Coffee

**SJW**- after 9:00am Mass,

term time

**MB** - 13 July

### Parent/Toddler Group (SJW)

9:30am - 11:30am Tuesday,

Wednesday & Thursday,

term time, upper hall

### Creative Writing Group

(Scribes in the Wood) (SJW)

10:30am - 12 noon Thursday

## PARISH NOTICES

**Corpus Christi Processions** (an amazing four in total) with our schools and parishes were wonderful. Thank you to everyone who took part in this great witness to our faith in Christ truly present in the Eucharist.

**The Peter's Pence** second collection takes place this weekend. It supports the Holy Father in his mission of service to the Universal Church and is a gesture of communion and participation in the Pope's mission to proclaim the Gospel, promote peace, and spread Christian charity. The website [ObolodiSanPietro.va](http://ObolodiSanPietro.va) explains its significance. Every offering, large or small, will support the Holy Father in his ministry and in charitable activities responding to emergencies and needs around the world. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

**Adult Catechesis.** In the coming weeks an adult will be baptised, two others who were baptised in another ecclesial community will be received into the Catholic Church, and one further adult will be confirmed. At the 12noon Mass in St John's Wood last week, three adults and one teenager received the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is a result of the Holy Spirit working in people's lives, the attractive warmth of our new Holy Father, and the welcoming nature of our parishes. If you are thinking seriously about becoming a Catholic - whether you were baptised in another Christian denomination or have not been baptised at all - we would be delighted to meet with you. In addition, confirmation is necessary for Catholics who want to be godparents or sponsors and, in some countries, is a necessary precondition to marriage. Whatever you are looking for, we offer the opportunity to deepen your faith in a 1-to-1 or small group setting. Please email one of the priests directly and we should be delighted to discuss how we might assist you.

**National Pilgrimage of Reparation & Prayer for the Sanctity of Life** in Walsingham takes place on Saturday 2 August and will be led by Bishop John Keenan of Paisley diocese, Scotland. Everyone is invited to join in this pilgrimage either in person or via the Shrine livestream at <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/> Details of the day and travel arrangements can found found at [www.prolifepilgerimage.org](http://www.prolifepilgerimage.org).

**The Divine Mercy Apostolate** is holding a celebration for St Faustina's birthday at Aylesford Priory, Kent on Bank Holiday Monday, 25 August 2025 from 10:30 am to 4:00pm. The day will include teachings on the message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction, and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. Coaches leave from Ealing Broadway and Victoria. For more information, call Millie on 07957594646

### Catholic Chaplaincy to Universities.

If you are a full-time student (undergraduate or graduate) heading to a university later this year, then why not take a look at <https://www.catholicsatuniversity.org.uk/> to identify the Catholic chaplaincy in your place of study? If you are going to one of the universities or colleges in London or in Hatfield, then the Westminster Catholic Chaplaincy is for you. It is based at Newman House, 111 Gower Street, WC1E 6AR. They have Sunday Masses for students and regular events during the week. In many of the universities and colleges they also have campus-based Catholic societies and activities. Go to: [www.universitycatholic.net](http://www.universitycatholic.net) to find out more or see their Instagram page: [@newmanhouselondon](https://www.instagram.com/newmanhouselondon) You will be made most welcome in all these Catholic communities.