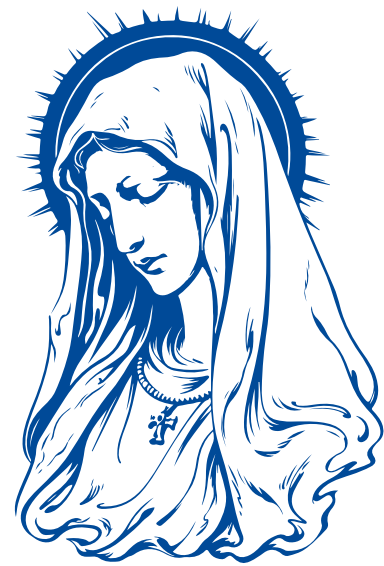


OUR LADY'S,
ST JOHN'S WOOD &
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY,
MARYLEBONE

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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.

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

+ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
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Would you be a Good Samaritan?

When we hear the parable of the Good Samaritan, we so easily imagine ourselves in his role. We like to think we would be the generous helper, a compassionate neighbour. But pause for a moment: do you know what it would have meant for a Samaritan to stop for a Jew?

In Jesus' time, Jews and Samaritans shared a long and bitter history of hostility. After the Assyrian conquest of the northern kingdom of Israel, the Samaritans were seen by many Jews as traitors who had mixed with foreign peoples and abandoned the purity of true worship. The Samaritans built their own temple on Mount Gerizim, refusing to worship in Jerusalem, which the Jews considered the one true holy city. The resentment often turned violent. The Jews destroyed Samaritan shrines, and Samaritans would desecrate the Temple in Jerusalem in return. Insults were common on both sides, and religious leaders taught that contact with the other would defile you. It went deeper than religious rivalry.

When Samaria revolted against Rome, the Romans used Jewish forces to help crush Samaritan uprisings. Imagine how that sharpened the hatred. To a Samaritan, a wounded Jew by the

roadside might well have looked like an oppressor or an enemy responsible for bloodshed and betrayal.

Yet in Jesus' story, it is precisely the Samaritan who sees this wounded man and moves towards him. He risks being rejected, he risks ritual uncleanness, he risks ridicule from his own people. He chooses compassion over inherited hatred. Would we do the same?

The truth is, many people we meet are half-dead by the roadside of life: the person who's had too much to drink, the elderly soul who shuffles painfully slowly in the supermarket queue while we stand impatiently behind. We have no ill will towards these figures, but do we want to bind their wounds?

That's before we consider people we might despise, the politician we rant about at the dinner table, the celebrity we never want to hear about, yet always cause us to click on the article.

The true test is not whether we would help a stranger, but whether we would help our rival. Christ, who died for us while we were still sinners, asks no less. Let's pray this week for the grace to stop, to see, and to love. Even the one we'd rather cross the road to avoid.

Fr Alex

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy

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Musical Director (St John's Wood)

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PARISH DIARY

Children's Liturgy of the Word

SJW - 9:00am, term time,
MB - 11:00am, 13 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

Today is Sea Sunday. Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, or at: www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable *Stella Maris* to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.

The SVP Foodbank Collection takes place this weekend. Please leave non-perishable items on the table in the porch. Thank you.

Children's Liturgy at Marylebone will take place this weekend after which there will be a pause over August and the summer. The classes will resume in September.

Mary's Meals invite you to collect all your foreign currency (and UK coins/notes that are no longer legal tender) no matter how old or obscure. After the summer break, especially if some of you have travelled abroad, we would like you to put any of your foreign coins/notes aside and we will collect them in September in special Mary's Meals envelopes which will be available at the back of church shortly. Currently the charity feeds over 2.6 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education in over 17 countries.. By giving Mary's Meals your foreign currency you can help feed the next hungry child. Because of their low costs they can do this for as little as £19.15 per child per year!

Catholic Listeners is a phone service and website dedicated to being present, when you want to talk to someone about faith and life's big questions. For more information please visit the website: <https://www.catholiclisteners.com/>

London Catholic Social Group have a number of upcoming events for Catholic adults over 30: Saturday 12 July, monthly social at the One Tun pub, Goodge Street, Sunday 20 July, from 12 noon, Mass, Italian Street Fête and Procession of Our Lady of Saint Carmel in Clerkenwell. Saturday 26 July, day trip to Waddesdon Manor. Sunday 3 August, picnic in Regent's Park. Please WhatsApp Brendan on 07425 549 408, Facebook – 'London Catholic Social Group' or email londonswcatholicocial@gmail.com

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

WE NEED YOU - Church Cleaning Volunteers. We are currently extremely short of volunteers at St John's Wood for this important ministry. Thank you to those who came forward following the last appeal. However, we still need more volunteers. If you can help, please let Kathleen in the parish office know as soon as possible. Thank you

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 a Catholic Chaplain to visit you. Please let Canon Kevin know if you are housebound, even temporarily, so we can arrange to visit you.

Summer Holidays. We wish all the early bird holiday-makers safe journeys and a good rest. Do contact us for help to find local churches and Mass times.