

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,
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

+ TWENTY- SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
PAGE 130 - 31 AUGUST 2025

Remember the Small Things Count

"My son, perform your tasks in meekness; then you will be loved by those whom God accepts. The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord".

These words seem very poignant to me in my final weekend at our parishes. The Lord does not measure us by worldly standards of success, but by the humility with which we serve Him and one another.

It's a lesson we can never hear enough times. We always think what everyone notices or remembers are big things we achieve, when, in reality, it is the small acts of kindness and generosity we do that touch others' hearts, and not only those, the reading tells us, but God's too.

Fundamentally, living in this kind of way is how Jesus wants us to bring about kingdom of heaven on earth. By recognising that true power comes in forgiving, in serving, in giving without expectation, hearts are transformed, minds opened and the new dawn that Jesus promises begins to shine its rays from beyond the horizon.

Preparing for that dawn of Christ's return is the mission of the Church and part of that mission is preparing human hearts to be able to recognise Him.

In our parishes I've seen the example of that kindness that lies in the heart of being part of the Church. Those little, humble actions taken on without any expectations: preparing the church, visiting the sick, helping at coffee morning, organising Easter egg hunts and nativities, serving at Mass, tidying up afterwards. It is in these hidden acts, offered in faith and love, that Christ is at work among us. That we build the kingdom. We must never lose sight of that, and it's those things I will remember fondly.

I must thank, in particular, Sister Brigid and Father Kevin for their example and friendship. It's an oddity of the priesthood that we arrive at a house in a strange area and are told to make the best of it. Both of you, however, really made this place a wonderful home for me these past two years. Thank you! Saying farewell is always hard. It is something like coming to the end of a favourite play or television series. You want it to continue, you want to see more, but you also know the story has to move on. For me, this chapter is closing, but not without immense gratitude. Gratitude for your friendship, your kindness and generosity. Thank you to you all!

Fr Alex

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 Rep

Frances Uchea (both parishes)
stjohnswoodsg@
safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Musical Director (St John's Wood)

Martin Toyer
martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk

PARISH DIARY

Children's Liturgy of the Word

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

Tea and Coffee

SJW- after 9:00am Mass,
term time
MB - 14 September

Parent/Toddler Group (SJW)

9:30am - 11:30am Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday,
(recommences 9 September)

Creative Writing Group (SJW)

10:30am - 12 noon Thursdays

Fr Alex's Leaving Party

19 October following 12noon
Mass

PARISH NOTICES

A Day with Mary takes place at Our Lady's, St John's Wood on Saturday 6 September. Please see the poster in the porches for full details of the programme.

St John's Wood Parish Patronal Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Monday 8 September, will begin with Mass at 7:30pm celebrated by HE Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, the Apostolic Nuncio to the Court of St James, and be followed by a bring-and-share social in the parish centre. We will provide the drinks.

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) meeting takes place on Monday 15 September at 8:00pm in the upper hall in St John's Wood. All welcome.

Baptismal Preparation. The next course preparing parents for the baptism of their child, will be held on Saturday, 20 September at 11:15am. Please contact the parish office to book a place.

Mary's Meals. You will recall there was a notice in the newsletter before the summer holidays inviting you to collect all your foreign currency (and UK coins/notes that are no longer legal tender) no matter how old or obscure. Special Mary's Meals envelopes are now available at the back of church for you to place any of your foreign coins/notes in to and post through the presbytery door. 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.

Marriage. There is a notable spike in separation and divorce enquiries after the summer holidays as stresses and pressures come to a

head. Within our Catholic setting there are movements, who provide well-established models of support and accompaniment to help a couple to work through disillusionment in marriage and discover new narratives.

The following provide resources for marriages in crisis.

- *Retrouvaille* helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next course date: 17-19 October. www.retrouvaille.org.uk
Telephone: 07887 296 983
- *Marriage Care* provides a relationship counselling service for couples when life gets tough and it is hard to find a positive solution.
www.marriagecare.org.uk/
Telephone: 0800 389 3801

Roger Carr-Jones, the Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Coordinator, has written a piece that may help direct people to seek support.

<https://rcdow.org.uk/marriage-and-family-life/news/sea-glass---beauty-from-brokenness-1/>

Fr Alex's Leaving Party will be taking place after the 12noon Mass on Sunday 19 October at St John's Wood parish hall. Fr Alex will also celebrate the Mass. Further details to follow.

Mass Intentions. Thank you for your greatly appreciated Mass intentions. 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 by emailing: 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.