

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

+ THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
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The Joy of Paradoxes

It may seem that the shortage of clergy and my recent requests for help in different areas to keep our parishes afloat have become a burden, a cross laid upon your shoulders. This will seem doubly unfair as you already have a very heavy burden to bear in me!

Today, the Church celebrates the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. It can seem strange to speak of exalting the Cross, an instrument of suffering and shame. But for Christians, the Cross is no longer a sign of defeat - it is our hope, the very place where God's love was poured out most completely.

When we gaze upon the Cross, we are not only remembering something that happened long ago. We are invited to see our own lives reflected there. Each of us carries crosses - big or small - through illness, loss, difficult relationships, or hidden daily sacrifices. On our own, these burdens can feel heavy, even crushing. But when we unite them to Christ's Cross and carry them together, they are transformed. What feels like weakness becomes strength, what feels like an ending becomes the beginning of something new and wonderful.

The feast invites us to look at the Cross not as a symbol of pain, but as a sign of hope. Jesus promised,

"When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself." On that Cross, He lifted up every wound, sin and sorrow and redeemed them. Because of this, no sacrifice or suffering is meaningless. In a world that tells us to avoid hardship at all costs, the Cross offers us a different message: God can bring life out of death, light out of darkness, and joy out of sorrow. This doesn't mean our crosses disappear, but it does mean we never carry them alone. Christ walks with us, and gives our struggles purpose.

And in the way some of you have offered to serve in new roles, the paradox of the glory of suffering and sacrifice for Christ and your fellow parishioners has been revealed.

So this week, take a moment to look at the Cross in prayer rather than as an object on a wall or around our necks. See it as a living reminder that God's love is stronger than anything we face. Then ask, "Where is Christ inviting me to embrace the Cross in my own life with trust? How can I "exalt" it—not by glorifying suffering, but by choosing love, even when it costs me something?"

And then I'll be right here, with some other willing souls, to carry and glorify that cross, our shared paradoxical hope and joy, a new beginning, with you. *Canon Kevin*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy

Canon Kevin Jordan
kevinjordan@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,

Creative Writing Group (SJW)

10:30am - 12 noon Thursdays

Fr Alex's Leaving Party

Sunday 19 October following
12noon Mass

PARISH NOTICES

Education Sunday falls today just as the new academic year starts and is one of the oldest days of special prayer in England and Wales, established 175 years ago in 1848. It provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all involved in making Catholic schools places of enlightenment, as well as to look forward in anticipation to the year ahead. The Catholic Education Service has provided a range of resources which can be found at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/education-sunday>. We would like to wish our parish schools and all of our 'student' parishioners, a successful and inspiring year of learning.

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

The Cardinal has asked us to pray for peace in the Holy Land and in Gaza. On Monday 15 September, on the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, the 10:00am Mass at St John's Wood will be offered for this intention. You may well have seen Bishop Nicholas Hudson's recent statement on the situation in Gaza, available at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishop-hudson-gaza-needs-prayer-and-action-now-more-than-ever/>.

Cardinal Pizzaballa's homily for the Assumption is also worth reading: <https://www.lpj.org/en/news/homily-assumption-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary-2025>.

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 Canon Kevin to book a place.

A Day with Mary takes place at St Aloysius Church, Phoenix Road, Euston, on Saturday 20 September. Please see the poster in the porches for full details of the programme.

A Macmillan Coffee Morning is being hosted by Sr Brigid at 53 St John's Wood Court, St John's Wood Road, NW8 8QS, on Friday 26 September from 10:30am onwards. Coffee, tea and lots of homemade cakes will be available. All donations will be used to help people with cancer. More information at: : <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee-morning>. Please also see the poster in the porches.

Fr Alex will celebrate the 12noon Mass in St John's Wood on Sunday 19 October after which there will be a leaving party in the parish hall. Anyone who would like to contribute to Fr Alex's leaving collection can do so using the baskets available after Mass, or by posting cash or cheques in an envelope clearly marked 'Fr Alex' through the presbytery door. Donations can be made online again with the reference 'Fr Alex' at: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/donating-to-the-parish/>

Mary's Meals. Special envelopes are still available at the back of church for you to place any of your foreign coins/notes (and UK coins/notes that are no longer legal tender) no matter how old or obscure, and post through the presbytery door. By giving in this way to Mary's Meals you can help feed the next hungry child. Their low costs mean they can do this for as little as £19.15 per child per year. Envelopes will be collected until the end of September. Thank you so much for your support.

Divine Word Missionaries have kindly sent the parishes some free 2026 diaries. Please pick up one from the porch.