

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

+ TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
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All the Church is a Stage

In my last year at primary school I played the title role in the Wizard of Oz. My first role at secondary school was a bit more challenging - it was as Truffaldino in "The Servant of Two Masters" by Carlo Goldoni.

In the longer version of today's Gospel (Luke 16:1-13), Jesus tells the parable of the dishonest steward. Though unfaithful with his master's goods, the steward is praised for his shrewdness in preparing for the future. Jesus is not commending dishonesty, but urging us to be just as intentional and wise in preparing for eternal life as the steward was for his earthly future.

Indeed, since I forgot to mention that it was our Holy Father's 70th birthday in the bidding prayers last week, with a nod to the founder of Pope Leo's religious order, St. Augustine reminds us: "He who is a slave to riches is not the master of riches." Money and gifts and talents are meant to serve, not to rule. When used for love of God and neighbour, they become a tool for charity and justice; when hoarded, they become idols and no-one, not even ourselves, gets to enjoy them. Whether we are rich or poor in worldly goods or talents, Christ asks us to use them to be more faithful to Him. Indeed, Pope St John Paul II once wrote that each person has a

unique task that no-one else can take on, and no gift or talent is too small to be used.

Over the next two weeks you will get a break from me. I know the visiting priests will be warmly welcomed in both our parishes. And I am sure you will enjoy some decent homilies with proper theological content for a change. But the very fact that Masses and more will happen at all (fingers crossed!) and that our buildings and administration will be in good hands, is down to those parishioners who have offered to share their talents for our good now so that we might all experience the riches of heaven through the liturgy. By being faithful in little ways, they will enable all our parishioners and visitors to faithfully participate in the greatest gift of God to us on earth. Please do thank them too.

So, can we serve two Masters? Yes, as Christ says, we can, provided that we view whatever we do in and for the Church as being for the earthly Body of Christ, the same person with Whom we hope to spend eternity. In the play, Truffaldino ended up doing this so that they all lived happily ever after. And so will we, here and in the future, if we all play our part in this dress rehearsal for eternal life. *Canon Kevin*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy

Canon Kevin Jordan
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Parish Sister

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Parish Administrator

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Bookkeeper (both parishes)

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Parish Safeguarding Rep

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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

Tea and Coffee

SJW- after 9:00am Mass,
term time
MB - 12 October

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

Today is *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday.

2025 marks 1700 years since the Council of Nicaea when the world's bishops began to formulate the creed we proclaim every Sunday. That creed is our mission so that we may know and love God in this life in order to be happy with him forever in the next. The creed begins with the proclamation, "I believe..." and is the theme for *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday. You will find resources to help you celebrate the day and the main reflection from Abbot Hugh Allen O'Praem, Director of Mission for the Bishops' Conference, at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/egs25-mission-director/>

Maria Fidelis Catholic School, FCJ.

Prospective parents of students in years 5 and 6 are warmly invited to attend our open evening this Wednesday, 24 September, between 4:00pm and 6:00pm. This is a great opportunity to tour the school and speak to current staff and students. There will be speeches by the Headmaster at 4:00pm and 5:00pm. The last tour will be at 5:45pm. Visits are also possible every Tuesday morning between 9:00am and 10:00am. No booking is required.

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 fund people with cancer. More information at: : <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee-morning>. Please also see the poster in the porch.

Readers' Training on Saturday 4th of October from 5:00 to 5:45pm at Our Lady's, St John's Wood. New volunteers from both parishes are welcome as are existing ones to share their experience and tips.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day Appeal on Friday 3 October.

Catholics are asked to fast on this day and donate the money saved to CAFOD. Please pick up an envelope at the church entrance and return it when you next come or give online at: <https://cafod.org.uk/> Our readers will speak about CAFOD after all Sunday Masses next weekend. Please also see the poster in the porch which includes a QR code to take parishioners straight to CAFOD's virtual envelope where they can make their donation.

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/>

For those in both parishes applying to Catholic Secondary Schools and Sixth Forms,

please follow this link for admissions: <https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions> and read the Guidance for Clergy document. If you can meet the criteria for a priest to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice form, contact Kathleen in the parish office to arrange an appointment. Appointments will be on Mondays 13 and 20 October, Friday 24 October and Monday 27 October only and will take place in the St John's Wood office. Appointments for those applying for Catholic nursery, infant and junior schools will be announced via the newsletter after the October half-term break.