

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/ourladysjw>



## SERVICE TIMES

### St John's Wood

#### Sunday Mass

6:00pm (Sat, Sung Latin),  
9:00am (Sung),  
12:15pm (Sung),  
6:00pm

#### Weekday Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &  
Saturday 10:00am

#### Confessions

Saturday 10:30am - 11:00am  
5:15pm - 5:45pm

#### Adoration

Saturday 10.30am - 11.00am.

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### Marylebone

#### Sunday Mass

10:45am (Sung)

#### Weekday Mass

Monday & Wednesday 12:30pm,  
Friday 6:30pm

#### Confessions & Adoration

Friday 5:30pm - 6:30pm

## + FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT PAGE 82 - 30 NOVEMBER 2025

### **The Devil Wears Prada [Other Designers are Also Available]**

The show above is a great night out. So successful is it, and obviously fun to be in, that the wonderful Vanessa Williams has extended her run as Miranda until April 2026. This year, she switched on the Christmas lights in Oxford Street. On November 2. I have a reputation for being organised, but please.

At this time of year the world bombards us with clawingly sweet advertising campaigns to make us hyperactive consumers. The "devil" can indeed wear Prada or Uniqlo, or John Lewis and so on. By contrast, the scriptures call us to stay awake and stand ready. And there is a real paradox here for true spiritual wakefulness is not hyperactivity, nor is it anxious vigilance like we exercise to make sure we're in the queue to get that "must-have" Christmas gift: it is interior attentiveness. It is recognizing the presence of Christ in the moment.

In other words, as the secular calendar rushes toward Christmas with lights, music, and endless lists of things to do, Advent moves at the pace of a quiet dawn. It asks us to slow down, to breathe, to listen, to prepare room. It invites us to make a spiritual journey even as the world makes a commercial one. As the world tells us to prepare our homes, the Church tells us to prepare our

hearts. The world tells us to buy out there; the Church tells us to seek within. The world tells us Christmas is the destination; the Church tells us Advent heralds the beginning of a sacred path with Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Hence St Paul urges us to wake up and put on Christ this Advent not through dramatic gestures but simple, sincere steps: setting aside time for prayer, reconciling with God through confession and asking the forgiveness of those we have offended, breaking a harmful habit, showing kindness where it is difficult. Advent conversion is a turning of the heart toward God's gentle but beautiful new day.

As Jesus reminds us in the Gospel, God comes to us in the unexpected so staying awake means living with spiritual sensitivity, not rushing past "grace-filled moments" in the words of the late Terrence Cardinal Cooke. It calls for us to notice God in the ordinary, and treat every encounter as a potential doorway to holiness.

Let us journey through Advent awake, expectant, and ready for Christ to come in whatever way He chooses so that He finds us not burned out and asleep by Christmas Day but alive with faith for the long run of true life, whatever we're wearing. That's all. *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 (SJW)

Martin Toyer  
martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk

## PARISH DIARY

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

**SJW** - 9:00am, term time  
**MB** - 10:45am, 30 November,  
7, 14 & 21 December,

### Tea and Coffee

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

### Parent/Toddler Group - SJW Upper hall

9:30am - 11:30am Tuesday,  
Wednesday & Thursday,

### Legion of Mary - MB

after 12:30pm Mass,  
Wednesdays

## PARISH NOTICES

**The Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection.** Thank you to everyone who donated to this collection. If you haven't had the chance to make your donation you will find envelopes at the back of the church or you can donate online through the Diocesan website – look out for the 'QR Code' on the envelopes and poster. Please do consider giving on a regular basis, assuring the care of our priests in their old age, or at a time of illness. This fund is a priority of the Church, and it provides us a chance to come together and say 'Thank you to the priests who have served us and may God bless you all.

**Mission Appeal.** This weekend we welcome at Our Lady of the Rosary, Marylebone, Fr Mario Cerda of the Comboni Missionaries (Verona Fathers) who will be speaking at all Masses about the work of the congregation and how we can support them.

**Preparation for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2026.** Application forms for both sacraments are available to collect from Sr Brigid or the visiting priest after Mass. Confirmation candidates must collect the forms themselves. Please post completed forms through the rectory door at either parish by 12 noon on Tuesday 9 December 2025.

**Rest in Peace, John O'Brien.** Requiem Mass at Our Lady's on Monday 1 December at 1:30pm with Cremation at West London Crematorium at 3:00pm.

**Carol Service at Marylebone** will take place on Friday 5 December at 7:00pm. This will be followed by refreshments in the parish hall. Please bring festive treats to share. All are welcome.

**Baptism Preparation Class** at Our Lady's, 11:30am on Saturday 6 December. Please contact Canon Kevin directly to register.

**Young Adults Advent Retreat Day** with the Assumption Sisters takes place on Saturday 6 December 10:00am–6:00pm, at Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, W8 5HH. Programme includes talks, prayer, adoration and confessions, faith sharing, mass and social time. £5 registration fee/ subsidised student places available. Register now by emailing: [rebecca@assumpta-eu.org](mailto:rebecca@assumpta-eu.org).

**UCM Afternoon Vintage Tea** takes place in the Upper Hall in St John's Wood on Saturday 6 December at 2:00pm. Tickets cost £10 per head and will be available after all Masses. Prize donations for the raffle would be greatly appreciated.

**The Children Liturgy team** at St John's Wood is happy to welcome all children and families for a community Christmas festivity in the parish hall on Sunday 14 December after the 9:00am Mass.

**For those in both parishes applying to Catholic nursery, infant and junior schools,** Canon Kevin will be available to sign the certificate of Catholic practice on Friday 12, Monday 15 December and Tuesday 6 January. Please contact the parish office to arrange an appointment.

**"Mary's Meals** would like to thank everyone in the parishes for their generosity in response to our foreign currency initiative. It raised a terrific £706.65 which means Mary's Meals will be able to feed 37 children one good meal every school day for a whole year because of your support. Please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. God bless you all." On the Church noticeboards is a full list of the currency received and its value.