

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

Weekday Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday & Saturday 10:00am

Confessions

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

Adoration

Saturday 10.30am - 11.00am.

Marylebone

Sunday Mass

10:45am (Sung)

Weekday Mass

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

Confessions & Adoration

Friday 5:30pm - 6:20pm

+ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
MARY AND JOSEPH
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Happy Families

I suspect we might all have rediscovered this Christmas that no family is perfect. Our gatherings were undoubtedly long-anticipated and joyful but they might also have reminded us of old tensions, unspoken hurts, and the simple reality that family life is rarely tidy or ideal. Yet it is precisely into this imperfect reality that God chose to be born. Even the members of the Holy Family, through which the Son of God entered the world, were not free from difficulty or uncertainty. They faced confusion, displacement, and fear. But their family was holy because it was centred on Christ and shaped by trust in God.

Thus, Jesus, Mary and Joseph teach us that holiness is not about perfection, but about faithfulness: lives rooted in Christ and shaped by confidence in God. Mary's openness to God's will and Joseph's quiet obedience allowed God to dwell in the ordinary moments of daily life despite the difficulties they faced. Hence their home lives became holy and a source of holiness. As St Irenaeus wrote: "The glory of God is the human person fully alive." In the child born at Bethlehem and welcomed into an ordinary family and placed at its heart, God revealed His ability to bring the fulness of life, dignity, and hope to all families.

Our parishes are like a family and as we gathered over Christmas the very best of you was evident in the way you made our churches so beautiful and welcoming, and contributed in various ways to making our liturgies most prayerful. On a personal note, thank you for your generosity to Sr Brigid and me. You have all been incredibly kind.

But like any family, our parishes are made up of imperfect people - not least your parish priest - who learn to live together in faith. We do not gather because we are flawless or always in agreement, but because Christ draws us together. Thus our parishes become places where our sense of belonging to God's family takes shape in the ordinariness of daily parish, of daily family life. And like any family, our parishes face challenges — moments of strain and change of which there may be more with our new archbishop.

Yet the Holy Family shows us the path forward: patience, forgiveness, and trust in God's presence. When Christ who comes to dwell among us remains at the centre of our lives and our parishes, we can be imperfect yet faithful, ordinary yet holy. So may the Christ child truly with us bring our family even more perfectly together. God bless you all and Happy Christmas. *Canon Kevin*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy

Canon Kevin Jordan
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Parish Sister

Sr Brigid Collins, RSM
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Parish Administrator

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Bookkeeper (both parishes)

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Parish Safeguarding Rep

Frances Uchea (both parishes)
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Musical Director (SJW)

Martin Toyer
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PARISH DIARY

Children's Liturgy of the Word

SJW - 9:00am, term time
MB - 10:45am,
TBC

Tea and Coffee

SJW- after 9:00am Mass,
term time
MB - 8 February

Parent/Toddler Group - SJW Upper hall

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

Legion of Mary - MB

after 12:30pm Mass,
Wednesdays

PARISH NOTICES

Crib Offerings will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society to support their work with local children and families, many of whom are facing severe hardship. Thank you so much for your support. Envelopes are available which allow your donations to be gift aided, or donate online at: www.cathchild.org.uk/donate The cribs will remain up in our churches until Candlemas (the Presentation of the Lord), 2 February 2026.

New Year's Day. There will be one Mass at 10:00am in St John's Wood, the perfect way to start 2026.

Solemnity of the Epiphany (Holy Day of Obligation), Tuesday 6 January. Masses in Marylebone at 6:30pm (Vigil on Monday) and 12:30pm, and in St John's Wood at 10:00am and 7:30pm.

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 Tuesday 6 January only. Please email the parish office to arrange an appointment.

Ignatian Spiritual Exercises: Men's retreat, 4-9 and 11-16 February 2026. For more information and to download the flier, please visit the website at: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-retreat-spiritual-exercises-of-st-ignatius>

Marriage Enrichment Course takes place on Saturday 21 February from 10:00am until 5:00pm in Finchley. This is a 'Growing Together' marriage enrichment event designed for married couples whose relationship is in a stable and good place. The cost is £75 per couple but if this is not affordable please mention it at the time of booking. For further details telephone Marriage Care on 0800 389 3801 or email: appointments@marriagecare.org.uk

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies course (CCRS). This course, run in partnership with Westminster Diocesan Education Service (WDES), is suitable for catechists and lay ministers wishing to deepen their knowledge of their Catholic faith. The course lasts 18 months to two years. For details, contact Margaret Hanley ccrs@rcdow.org.uk or Anna annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk

Cleaning our Church. Thank you so much to our wonderful team of existing cleaners and the Light of Jesus Community who, respectively, keep our churches in St John's Wood and Marylebone looking beautiful each week. We are truly grateful for all you do. However, we are in urgent need of additional volunteers to join our church cleaning rotas. Even a small amount of your time makes a big difference in keeping our church welcoming and ready for everyone who walks through our doors. As we begin the new year, could you consider giving some time every few weeks? No experience needed—just a willing heart and a desire to serve. If you can help, please contact Kathleen in the parish office. Thank you for considering this important ministry.

Planned Giving Envelopes for the new tax year will commence on 12 April 2026. If you have a set of envelopes and no longer use them or would like to have a set of planned giving envelopes for the new tax year, please let Asha in the parish office know. However, standing orders are the easiest way to contribute to the church. Both planned giving envelopes and standing orders will allow your contributions to be gift-aided. This means that the parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It will not cost you any extra. Please contact Asha, the bookkeeper, if you have any questions regarding planning your giving to our parishes.