

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, 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.

**Marylebone**

**Sunday Mass**

10:45am (Sung)

**Weekday Mass**

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

**Confessions & Adoration**

Friday 5:30pm - 6:20pm

+ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
PAGE 88- 14 DECEMBER 2025

**Waiting for a Train?**

Standing on the platform at Victoria station on Wednesday I was horrified to see that it would take nine minutes for the next Circle Line train to arrive. It seemed like a lifetime. These days we all expect everything immediately and patience wears thin at the slightest delay. Today's readings turn our minds to waiting and portray such anticipation as a grace from God. This is particularly appropriate because this holy season for us is marked by everyone out there being full of urgency, noise, and hurried preparation. Thus the Scriptures invite us to adopt a posture of patient expectation—one shaped not by passivity, but by active hope. First, Isaiah speaks to a weary people whose landscape—geographical and spiritual—has become barren. The prophet dares to proclaim joy before it arrives. He reminds Israel, and us, that God's promises germinate long before they bloom. Advent therefore trains the eyes of faith to notice the first green shoots breaking through the hard wintery earth of our hearts. Saint James is more direct when he tells us to be patient for the coming of the Lord. He teaches us that Advent is not a countdown to Christmas morning; it is a school of patience. Hence, James' farmer does not simply mark time: he tills, waters, watches the skies, and prepares the ground. Patience is active, not idle. It is faith expressed in perseverance, humility, and attentiveness to God's slow but steady work in the soil of our hearts. But don't despair if that sense of patience is lost because even John the Baptist sent his disciples to Jesus with a question born of longing and perhaps confusion: "Are you the one who is to come?" (Mt 11:3). Jesus responds that because the blind see, the lame walk, and the poor receive good news, God's Kingdom is already breaking in, though not always in the ways we expect. Advent calls us, like John, to trust that God's action often unfolds quietly. Only a few green shoots are at first seen, but they transform the world person by person, heart by heart. And every little helps. St. Augustine wrote: "The whole life of a good Christian is a holy longing. What you long for is not yet seen, but your longing itself prepares you to be filled." Our waiting in Advent is not a void; it is a God-given time to enlarge our capacity to receive Christ. Whatever it is we are waiting for, let us use every moment we are given this season to pray that He opens us up even more to receive the greatest gift of 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,  
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

## English Conversation Group- SJW

Upper hall 10:00am - 12noon  
Monday 15 December

# PARISH NOTICES

**SVP Foodbank Collection** takes place in both parishes this weekend. Please leave non-perishable items on the tables in the porches. Thank you for your continued support.

**An Advent and Christmastide Leaflet** with the times of all Masses, and confessions for those seasons is available to take home with you today. Please give them out to people who might be thinking of coming to our parishes.

**Christmas Offering envelopes** are available at the back of the church. This is your personal Christmas gift to your clergy and your parish and is not taxed by the Diocese. If you are going away, please do use it before you leave. Thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity throughout the year.

## Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Even though there is a rota for Christmas, we know that some of you will be away so we thought it might be easier if you volunteered on the list which is outside the sacristy in St John's Wood and inside the sacristy in Marylebone. Servers should check with their parents and then indicate their availability on the list also. God bless you for your generous service.

**Rest in Peace, Jhosiefin Dela Fuente Morris.** Requiem Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary, Marylebone on Monday 15 December at 12:30pm with Cremation at Golders Green Crematorium at 2:30pm.

**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 16 December and Tuesday 6 January. Please contact Kathleen in the parish office to arrange an appointment.

**CAFOD's Jubilee Icon** has arrived in the Diocese of Westminster. Over the weeks leading up to Christmas, the icon will be visiting "Places of Hope" in our diocese. In Advent, the icon's visit reminds us of God's presence in each other, enlivening our own calling to be tangible signs of hope to those who need it this Christmas. For more details visit: <https://rcdow.org.uk/jubilee-2025/jubilee-icon-tour/>.

## Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)

**Carol Concert** takes place on Wednesday 17 December at the Brompton Oratory. Tickets are free. There is an option to purchase a ticket for refreshments after. Please see the poster in the porches.

**The Christmas Big Clean** needs you to help give an added sparkle to our well-kept church and sanctuary in St John's Wood. Please come along to the church on Wednesday 17 December at 6:00pm followed by festive refreshments. Ana will be coordinating the clean so our church is pristine for Christmas. All are needed and welcome. Remember, 'many hands make light work.'

**SVP** are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Please consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account number 46088237. Thank you.

**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 due to the cost-of-living crisis. Thank you for your support.