

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, Vigil),
9:00am,
12:15pm,
6:00pm

Weekday Mass

Monday, Wednesday, & Saturday
10:00am
Tuesday 10:00am, 7:30pm (Sung)

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

Confessions & Adoration

Friday 5:30pm - 6:20pm

+ SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER THE NATIVITY
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Don't Mix Your Metaphors

One New Year's Day a housemate of mine dissolved a sachet of *Resolve*, the hangover cure, in a glass of red wine. What a mixture. But note, this was long before I became a priest!

Many of us will make new year's resolutions in various aspects of our lives. But what of our faith? Might we take a leaf out of today's reading from Wisdom and minister a bit more before Christ in the tabernacle by coming to a weekday Mass on Friday evening or Saturday morning in addition to Sunday?

With that sense of additional Masses in mind, this coming Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Epiphany, a holyday of obligation when we must attend Mass. The Epiphany celebrates the revelation of the true light that is the child Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, being shown to the gentiles, the non-Jews represented by the three magi or wise men or kings. Throughout the year, many who do not know Christ, like those three from the east, will visit our homes. On the Epiphany, I will bless chalk with which you can bless and mark your homes in a way which will allow you to speak of the coming of Christ to those visitors. So, with this newsletter in hand on Tuesday, we will pray:

:V. Our help is the name of the Lord
R. The maker of heaven and earth.

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in.

R. From this time forth for evermore.

and then I bless the chalk. You take a piece home and mark the top or side of your front door or the porch step as follows: 20 + C + M + B + 26 saying: "The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-six years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen."

CMB represents the names of the three Magi and is an acronym for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means, "May Christ bless the house." Finally, offer the following prayer: "Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen."

May this sign at the door to your homes be a clear metaphor for the Light of Christ shining in every aspect of the lives of each one of you. Happy new year. *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,
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

Thank you to everyone who made our churches so beautiful and our liturgies so prayerful this Christmas season. And may God bless you all for your most generous and thoughtful gifts to Sr Brigid and Canon Kevin.

Crib Offerings will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society to support their work with local children and families facing severe hardship. 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, 2 February 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.

Marylebone Opening & Closing. With Mauricio on leave and supply priests covering our parishes from 8 to 15 January inclusive, please sign up on the list in the porch to open and close Our Lady of the Rosary and set-up and clear-up for Mass. Thank you.

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.