



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C – 3 November 2019

Retirement—One of the Church's Little Jokes

When I entered the seminary a retired priest living in parishes was not uncommon. We had one in Kenton and he might concelebrate at a Mass on a Sunday if he wasn't away justly enjoying his retirement. Now those "retired" priests have to be rung weeks—even months—in advance so they can consult their diaries and see if they can cover Masses because they are flying all over the diocese ministering in what is rapidly becoming the norm—one-man parishes. And believe me, I am speaking from experience having served in one-man parishes until the rare and blessed state we're in now with two resident priests. Put simply, without these good priests, when I had my day-off or was on annual leave there would have been no weekday Masses, the church would have been locked up Monday to Friday, and even the Sunday schedule would have been cut back—and that is the usual position for many parishes even in our diocese. I say all this because next week we will have the annual collection for the sick and retired clergy. There are currently 80 retired (including Fr Paul and Fr Frank) and ill priests being supported by the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund. That number will double by 2025. The fund pays for their housing and other unforeseen or extra expenses as well as supporting their health and convalescence needs. We owe these priests a great deal—they Baptised us (indeed, the priest who Baptised me was well enough to lay hands on me at my priestly Ordination), counselled us in times of sorrow and worry, and celebrated with us in times of joy. We have received so much from their generosity and now it is our turn to assist them in their older age when they *still* minister to us and ensure we don't have to go to any great lengths to fulfil our Sunday Mass duty. So take home an envelope today, dig deep (and *Giftaid* your donation) and thus give to these fine priests with the same generosity and love that they still show for God, His Church and you after so many years. Above all pray for each and every one of them. Finally, as you will have noticed, the church is cold as the boilers are beyond even the care of the Sick and Retired Clergy Fund. Until the new ones are in, I am sure that the warmth you have shown to these younger priests will sustain us all in the next two weeks. *Fr Kevin*

Mass Times:

Sunday

6.00pm (Saturday)
9.00 (Sung), 10.30 (Choir), 12.00
Noon (Choir), 6.00pm

Weekdays

Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri: 10.00am
Thurs: 7.00pm
Sat: 10.00am

Rosary

After weekday Mass

Exposition

Daily 6.00am—Midnight
(not August)

Confessions

Sat 10.30am—11.00am,
5.15pm—5.45pm

Music

Palestrina *Missa Aspice
Domine*

Lassus *Domine non est
exaltatum*

188 Thy hand, O God

247 O for a closer walk

208 Blest are the pure in heart

Sunday Readings

Saturday Vigil—page 197

Other Masses—page 157

Wisdom 11:22—12:2

Psalms 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14

2 Thessalonians 1:11—2:2

Luke 19: 1-10

Catholic Church of Our Lady, St John's Wood, 54 Lodge Road London, NW8 8LA

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Parish Clergy:	Fr Kevin Jordan (kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk) Fr Ben Woodley (benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk)
Parish Sister:	Sr Brigid Collins, RSM
Parish Administrator:	Hanta Lessore (stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk)
Catechetical Coordinator:	Margaret Wickware (margaretwickware@rcdow.org.uk)
Director of Music:	Martin Toyer (martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk)

Important: Collection of Certificates of Attendance and Attendance Cards. We have certificates and cards dating back to July 2016. From 31 December any uncollected documents will be disposed of. To collect certificates and cards come to the Parish Office on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday, 9.30am-1.30pm. Fr Kevin or Fr Ben may need to see you, for example, because of difficulty in reading some names on the cards.

SVP is organising a collection of Christmas presents for prisoners to give to their children. If you are able to give a modest new toy or book, please see the SVP members after Mass .

Charity Opera Concert. *The Passage*, a Christian Charity working with homeless people, is holding a fundraising concert at the Royal Festival Hall on Tuesday 5 November, 7.30pm, on the theme “Magic of Italian Opera” with Petroc Trelawny as presenter. The music includes Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves and *Nessum Dorma* with soloists Joyce El-Khoury, Michael Fabiano, Clare Presland and Simon Thorpe. For more details call 020 7592 1856 or email tickets@passage.org.uk

Westminster Senior Citizens Forum, 6 November, Lord Mayor's Reception Room, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street SW1 from 2:00—4:30pm. Please RSVP if you wish to attend to westminsterscf@aol.com

The Truro Review of Christian Persecution: Problems and Progress, 7 November, 7.00pm, St Mary Moorfields, EC2M 7LS. Full details at the back of the church.

Refugee Crisis Then and Now, Wednesday 7 November, 7.00pm, hosted by the Central London branch of the Council of Christians and Jews at the West London Synagogue, W1H 5AU. The guest speaker is Barbara Winton, daughter of Sir Nicholas Winton, and the evening features an exhibition on the Revd James Parkes, celebrated campaigner against antisemitism. See the poster in the porch for more details.

Remembrance Sunday, 10 November, 10.30am Mass will be a Requiem for the Fallen.

Group for Fathers and Adult Men will meet for the first time on Tuesday 12 November at the presbytery at 8.00pm. Please email Gladtobedad.sjw@gmail.com to confirm and bring something to drink or eat. It will be a good opportunity to spend time together.

Formation for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on Thursday 14 November, 7.00—8.30pm, at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN. Suggested donation £5. For additional stimulating and excellent opportunities do explore <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/aff-events/>

Diocese of Westminster Education Service is hosting an evening to engage with Catholic teachers and leaders working outside of Catholic education on Tuesday 18 November at 6.30pm in Vaughan House. There is a possibility to register for a mentoring programme, for those who wish to be accompanied and supported on their journey into Catholic school leadership positions. See the poster at the back of the church for more details.

St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School Open Evening for parents who are thinking about applying is on Wednesday 20 November. If you have a child who will turn 5 years old between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 you are very welcome to attend. Although this meeting is aimed mainly at parents applying to the Reception class, all prospective parents are welcome to attend.

Readers’ Morning of Recollection is on Saturday 30 November, 10am-1pm, to prepare for Advent.

Day	Location	Time	Group
Monday	Upper Hall	9.00am-12.00pm	English Class
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Upper Hall	9.00am-11.30am	Mothers and Toddlers
Tuesday	Upper Hall	2.00pm-3.00pm	Over 50’s Club