



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+4th Sunday of Lent, Year A – 22 March 2020

Who is my Mother?

During the sixteenth century, people who lived in little villages made a point of going not to their local church today but to the nearest large church or Cathedral – to make a visit to what is often called the Mother Church. Such visitors were said to have gone, “a-mothering.” Often, this was the only time whole families could come together and all would pick flowers (don't try this in The Regent's Park) for their earthly mothers. In time this took over and the tradition of a pilgrimage was lost. I could say more but let's leave that for next year. New health restrictions mean we can't go “a-mothering” or visit some of our mums. Yes, we will use all types of social media to contact them but that's no substitute for real contact. And hence the title above.

Caritas Westminster (whose poster is in the porch) suggests all kinds of people who might be in need at this time - the self-isolating, the unemployed, those in the “gig” economy or hospitality or travel industries, health care professionals at work all day, those with children on free school meals, as well as those who are already sick, housebound or caring for others. If you follow this link <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/coronavirus.php> you'll see how to help *Caritas* help these people. But before you do...

At 0645 on Tuesday in *Sainsbury's* an old man with a basket holding a few essentials was confronted with an enormous queue of overloaded trollies. When I suggested he use the self-service tills he looked up at me and whispered, “But I don't know how to use them.” No-one would let him in. It was heart-breaking and I was ashamed. Before we build up a huge food bank here with no specific destination let's assess our *local* needs. Speak to your mother. Then do what she would want you to do - knock on the doors of people who might need some help in these days. It might be as little as that man needed - someone to take his basket and add it to their load - or it might be a lot more. If we can discretely help coordinate meeting those needs we will. We even have a group of people who have offered to shop and drive. Don't be afraid to offer true charity - even Christ was rejected. And if you dear reader need some help, don't be afraid to ask either. To every mum, thank you; to each one of you, may God bless you and keep you safe and well, and may you make your mum proud. *Fr Kevin*

Mass Times (Streamed):

Sunday

11:00am

Weekdays

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 10.00

Thurs: 7.00pm

Saturday: 10.00

Confessions

Saturday: 10.30-11.00,

5.15pm-5.45pm

A priest will be sitting in the Martyrs' Chapel keeping a discrete distance from you.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

This will take place periodically on the main altar but Our Lord is always present in the tabernacle.

Remember

We are all in this together
and are
at the other end of the phone
and on email
and available in person
as long as we all
follow the distancing rules.

Sunday Readings, Page 164

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

Psalm 22, R. v1

Eph 5:8-14

Jn 9:1-41

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Facebook: Our Lady's RC Church, St John's Wood <https://www.facebook.com/ourladysjw>

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

Stations of the Cross. Remember that the church is still open so you can come along by yourself and follow Our Lord as He takes up His cross, for us, on the *Via Crucis*.

Daily Mass. We hope to stream our Masses on our *Facebook* page Our Lady's RC Church, St John's Wood [fb.com/ourladysjw](https://www.facebook.com/ourladysjw). You will need to create a free Facebook account for this. Several other churches around the Diocese have live streaming (and better homilies too). See www.churchservices.tv or <https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/>. We will publish more prayers and devotional ideas on our website and *Facebook* page in the next week. Keep safe, well and unified.

Coronavirus For the latest advice from the Diocese of Westminster on Coronavirus, please follow this link <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/advice-regarding-coronavirus/>. The current instructions are as follows:

Baptism, First Communions and Confirmation: deferred until such time that the public health advice is that families, friends and congregations can gather safely and resume public worship.

Matrimony: deferred until such time that people can gather in numbers safely. Only in the most pressing of circumstances those present for the marriage should be the celebrant, bride and groom and immediate family.

Anointing of the Sick: as normal

Funerals: The funeral service should take place at the graveside or at a crematorium, subject to the conditions laid down by the cemetery or crematorium authorities. Arrangements should be made for a Mass to be celebrated *in memoriam*.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace
You as if You were already there and unite myself
wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated
from You.
Amen.

Parish Halls: Closed until further notice.

School of Ignatian Prayer This has been postponed until later in the year.

Rededication of England to Our Lady - Dowry Tour. The final visitation of the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham at Westminster Cathedral has been postponed. It is hoped the tour will be rescheduled for later in the year. www.Behold2020.com. However, we will be joining in the rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary at Mass next weekend.

The God Who Speaks programme may continue on Tuesday 21 April, 7.00pm—8.30pm, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN on how we know that Biblical events really happened by looking at archaeological remains from the British Museum. The lecturers are Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, Ph.D. and Sr Monica Cardona Ph.D. Suggested donation of £5 per talk. For further details please see <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/>.

Mass for Migrants On Saturday 2 May at 11:00am, Banner Procession and Mass at St Anthony of Padua RC Church, Forest Gate, E7 9QB. Everyone is warmly welcome to this wonderful Mass celebrating the tremendous contribution of migrants to the London and South-East Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster. The Mass will include the newly painted icon of Our Lady of Walsingham, recently blessed by Pope Francis, and will be celebrated by the Bishop of Brentwood, Bishop Alan Williams, in honour of St Joseph the Worker. Please email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org if you are a group bringing a banner.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony at Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 30 May 2019 at 3:00pm. The Cardinal invites all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2020 to this Mass. Please give the following details to the parish office: husband & wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number if no email) by Friday, 27th March.