



# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A – 23 February 2020

## Willing and Doing What is Holy

“Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy”, and “be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect”. These two commands from God, no doubt, stir within us a certain trepidation coupled with the desire to be, indeed, holy and perfect; but, and it is a significant but, how are we to do this? Are there specific things that we must put into practice for this reality to take shape?

Central to the teaching found in Leviticus are the laws which pertain to holiness. Our particular section from Leviticus this Sunday focusses upon how the Israelites were to live their lives in the pursuit of holiness. This holiness was to be wholly ordered to the good of the other, to just relations and respect for their dignity, whether labourer, stranger, or neighbour. The Lord commands us to love these as we love ourselves. This surely raises the ever important question which asks us whether we do, in fact, love ourselves. Do we? There is, there must be a connection between our own treatment of ourselves and the way we treat others. I am certain that loving our neighbour as ourself is totally rooted in that command that we be holy as God is holy.

So how is God holy? The holiness of God, and we are aided here supremely by Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel, loves all indiscriminately. Indiscriminately. And we are called to do the same; that is what being holy is, that is what being perfect is. God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - is love. And love is willing and doing the good for the other, no matter what. Jesus went to the Cross willing and doing the ultimate good for us, no matter what. He offered and offers salvation indiscriminately. Indiscriminately. His Sacred Heart was lanced, was pierced and His Precious Blood poured out for all. Devotion to the Sacred Heart includes the following Promise, “Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy”.

The reading from St Paul this Sunday sheds light on how we can become holy: the Spirit of God will live amongst us. We grow in holiness according to our thirst for the Holy Spirit and how we then act according to the promptings of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit pours divine love into our hearts, transforming them, to love indiscriminately; to never exact vengeance; nor bear a grudge. Now we can love ourselves, now we can love our neighbour as ourselves. Fr Ben

## Mass Times:

### Sunday

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

### Weekdays

Mon, Tues, Fri: 10.00  
Ash Wednesday: 10.00,  
7.30pm (choir)  
Thurs: 7.00pm  
Saturday: 10.00

### Rosary

After weekday Mass

### Exposition

Weekdays 6.00—12.00 noon,  
6.00pm—12 midnight  
(not school holidays)

### Confessions

Saturday: 10.30—11.00,  
5.15pm—5.45pm

## Music

Morales - *Missa Super Fa re ut  
fa sol la*

Victoria - *Ave Regina caelorum*

96 Holy, holy, holy!

92 Come Down O Love  
Divine

73 At the Lamb's high feast

## Sunday Readings, Page 139

Lev 19:1-2, 17-18

Psalms 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13, R. 8

1 Cor 3:16-23

Mt 5:38-48

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Parish Clergy:	Fr Kevin Jordan ( <a href="mailto:kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk">kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk</a> ) Fr Ben Woodley ( <a href="mailto:benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk">benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk</a> )
Parish Sister:	Sr Brigid Collins, RSM
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Catechetical Coordinator:	Margaret Wickware ( <a href="mailto:margaretwickware@rcdow.org.uk">margaretwickware@rcdow.org.uk</a> )
Director of Music:	Martin Toyer ( <a href="mailto:martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk">martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk</a> )

**Ash Wednesday and Stations of the Cross** This Wednesday we commence our Lenten pilgrimage. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence, when we reflect on our total dependence on God and need for His forgiveness and purification. To assist us during Lent, every Thursday evening at 6.15pm, before Mass, and Friday morning after Mass, from this Thursday, we will pray the Stations of the Cross. Do come and follow Our Lord as He takes up His cross, for us, on the *Via Crucis*.

**School of Ignatian Prayer** Over five sessions, led by experienced Ignatian prayer guides, we will learn about St Ignatius of Loyola and his ways of praying. There will also be time for silent prayer and opportunities to share together. What a wonderful gift for Lent. Thursdays 5, 12, 19, 26 March and 2 April, 7.30pm-9.00pm in the Parish Hall, suggested donation £20. Please email Audrey Hamilton at [ahamilton@jesuit.org.uk](mailto:ahamilton@jesuit.org.uk) or call 202 7529 4844. You can also sign up at the back of the church.

**The God Who Speaks** programme continues on Tuesday 25 February, 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/>.

**Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony at Westminster Cathedral** Saturday 30 May 2019 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2020. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give to the parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Thank you.

**A Journey into the Land of Coptic Martyrs** Thursday 27 February, Martin Mosebach will read from his recent book that tells the story of the 21 Christians martyred by ISIS militants on a Libyan beach in 2015. This event will take place at St Winifred's Hall, The Oratory, SW7 2RP and is run by the Oratory's Young Adults' group. Refreshments from 7.30pm. Talk at 8.00pm. Social after until 10.00pm. All are welcome.

**Settlement Scheme for European Citizens** All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is Tuesday 30 June 2021. Details and links to the application process can be found at: [gov.uk/eusettdstatus](http://gov.uk/eusettdstatus). Please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Information on assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: [gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme](http://gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme). The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all European citizens who have made their homes here. They are a valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.

**Faith in Politics** is a Catholic Parliamentary and Public Affairs internship scheme, which offers a foundation of Catholic faith and spiritual formation for those discerning this vocation. Apply up to Thursday 28 February at Catholic Trust for England and Wales, 39 Ecclestone Square, London, SW1V 1BX.

**Biblical Walk Through of the Mass.** Ever wanted to explore the scriptural roots of the Holy Mass? On Sundays 1, 8, 15, 22 March at 4.00pm in the Parish Hall, our Catechetical Coordinator, Margaret Wickware, will guide and help us to understand this beautiful mystery and how God uses this to transform us.

**Fathers' Meeting Group** will convene next on Tuesday 3 March in the presbytery at 8:00pm. It is also open to non-dads. Please bring some food or drink to share. For further details contact: [gladtobedad.sjw@gmail.com](mailto:gladtobedad.sjw@gmail.com). See you there.

Day	Location	Time	Group
Monday	Upper Hall	10:00am	English Class
Tuesday	Upper Hall	2:00pm-3:00pm	Over 50's Club
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Upper Hall	9.30am-11.30am	Parents and toddlers