



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



+ 5th Sunday of Lent, Year C - 3 April 2022

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

## Hide and Seek

In the past the Gospel on the Fifth Sunday of Lent was John 8:46-49 which ends with the Jews attempting to stone Jesus who "hid Himself". (Jn 8:50). After this day the Gospel readings all evoked the increasing tension between Jesus and the authorities: Christ's Passion had begun and so the period from today on was called Passiontide. A tradition of that time, based on Jesus hiding Himself, was the veiling of crucifixes and statues which remains an option today.

We think veiling is important for two reasons. Firstly, the reality is that the death Christ endured was appalling and we should be shocked by it, speechless at the thought of the Word-made-flesh and Splendour of the Father ending His life in agony on a Roman cross: Christ on the cross on rosary beads strung around the neck is not a fashion accessory. Hopefully then the veiling of these images will give us time to get un-used to the crucifixion. Then, when our crosses are unveiled on Good Friday we will see the image of our Saviour in His agony anew and so understand afresh God's love for us shining through the pained face of Jesus. Veiling therefore helps us to concentrate on the rather gruesome essentials of Christ's redemptive work.

Secondly, veiling images of the saints and uncovering them at the same time as crucifixes are exposed again reminds us that in many different ways the saints suffered with Christ and united their sufferings to His. And saints-in-the-making still suffer today for the Faith in many parts of the world like Iraq, Pakistan and China. Thus for the next two weeks, we are forced to look at ourselves. The wrong acts we commit are easy to recognise. What is more challenging is to acknowledge our avoidance of suffering and our indifference to the suffering of our fellow Christians and even of Christ. The martyrs and other saints of the past and the present did what we do today, said what we are saying today. Often they do not even get acknowledged because their awesome sacrifices for love of Christ and His Church shames us. It shames us when we compare the minor difficulties we refuse to overcome in order to practice our Faith in freedom and peace with what they risked for Christ and what He went through for us. So play this strange game: hide them that we might seek and find ourselves hidden in the shame of apathy. *Fr Kevin*

## Mass Times

### Sunday

6:00pm (Saturday)  
9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00 noon,  
6:00pm

### Weekdays

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday:  
10:00am  
Thursday: 7:00pm  
Friday & Saturday: 10:00am

## Stations of the Cross

Thursday 6:00pm

## Rosary

After weekday Mass

## Exposition & Confessions

Saturday 10:30am—11:00am

## Confessions

Saturday 5:15pm—5:45pm

## Music for Sunday

*Missa Pange Lingua* (Josquin)  
*Confitemini Domino* (Lassus)  
*Videns Dominus* (Willaert)  
207 At the Name of Jesus  
139 Glory be to Jesus  
214 Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer

## Sunday Readings, page 176

Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 125, R. v 3  
Philippians 3:8-14  
John 8:1-11

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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](mailto:kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk))

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Martin Toyer ([martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk))

**A Leaflet** with the times of all Masses and Confessions for the remainder of Lent and Easter week is available to take home with you today. Please give them out to people who might be thinking of coming to our parish over Easter.

**The Good Shepherd Company from the Holy Land (Bethlehem)**, based in Nottingham, will be here after all Masses this weekend selling olivewood crosses, rosaries, religious statues and cribs on behalf of Christian families in the Holy Land to support and help them to stay in work. As olive wood carving is one of the most important sources of income for them, 90% of the Christians rely on this sale. By selling their produce here it will prevent Christians from leaving the country in search of better work opportunities. There are only 41,000 Christians left in the area.

**Message from the Cardinal Hume Centre Charity:** thank you to all who listened to our talk last weekend at Mass. You very generously donated £1800 which is incredible. This will make an enormous difference to our work with young people and families who are facing homelessness in Westminster, and those fleeing persecution in war zones. A number of parishioners asked for a link to make an online donation this Lent: <https://donate.cardinalHumeCentre.org.uk>. For more information, please visit [www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk](http://www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk).

**Tea and coffee** in the parish hall after 9:00am Mass today so please join us. This will not take place on Palm Sunday nor Easter Sunday.

**English Classes.** The last session is on 4 April 2022. Classes resume on Monday 25 April 2022.

**Stations of the Cross** on Thursdays at 6:00pm

**Ecumenical Prayer Service for Ukraine and the Oppressed** at 12:00 noon on 11 April at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, Duke St, London W1K 5BQ.

**The Passion of Jesus—Live in Trafalgar Square** is on Good Friday 15 April at 12:00 noon and 3:15pm. It will also be livestreamed. For more information please visit [www.wintershall.org.uk](http://www.wintershall.org.uk).

**Offerings.** Planned Giving Envelopes are available for collection at the back of the Church after all Masses this weekend. Standing orders are the easiest way to give regularly and can be set up via [www.olsjw.org.uk](http://www.olsjw.org.uk). To *GiftAid* using the *CollectTins* register your usual card on the machine or scan the QR code and register your card at home.

**New Cleaning and Eucharistic Ministers rotas** are available at [www.olsjw.org.uk](http://www.olsjw.org.uk).

**The SVP Foodbank Collection** takes place next weekend. Please place your donations on the table in the church porch after all Masses.

**First Holy Communion Programme.** The last session is on Saturday 23 April from 12:00 noon—1:00pm in the parish hall. There is a meeting with Fr Kevin for least one parent per child in the church at the same time.

**Parents and Toddlers Group** will resume on Tuesday 26 April 2022.

**Mass for Migrants at Westminster Cathedral** is on Monday 2 May 2022 with Mass at 2:30pm and a banner procession from 2:00pm.

**Ukrainian Appeal/Caritas.** Donations can be made by cheque (payable to AUGB LTD - Central Appeal Fund and sent to Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London, Chancery Office, 21-22 Binney Street, London W1K 5BQ), directly to the central appeal fund (AUGB Ltd, Account Number: 80038237, Sort code: 20-65-89, ref: HelpUkraine) or online: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/helpukraine>.

**Covid Regulations.** Please continue to wear a mask in church to protect yourselves and others and to sanitize your hands on entry and exit. And also follow our parish website [www.olsjw.org.uk](http://www.olsjw.org.uk) and Our Lady's RC Church, St John's Wood *Facebook* page which are updated regularly.

Day	Location	Time	Group
Monday	Upper & Lower Hall	10:00am-12:00 noon	English Class
Tuesday	Upper Hall	1:00pm-4:30pm	Over 50's