

# PARISH OF ST JOHN'S WOOD

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The parish is part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity No. 233699

## THE WORD OF GOD

Tweet @FrAllenMorris for a daily 'Word'

### This Sunday - 18th March 4th Sunday in Lent

2 CHRONICLES 36:14-16, 19-23

The wrath and mercy of God are revealed in the exile and release of his people.

EPHESIANS 2:4-10

You who were dead through your sins have been saved by grace

JOHN 3:14-21

God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.

### Next Sunday - 25th March 5th Sunday in Lent

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

I will make a new covenant and never call their sin to mind.

HEBREWS 5:7-9

He learnt to obey and become for all the source of eternal salvation.

JOHN 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.



## Parish Church of Our Lady

54 Lodge Road, NW8 8LA

Office open: Mon-Fri 10.30-1.30pm

### Regular Mass Times

Sundays: (1800 Sat.);

0900; 1030; 12noon; 1800.

Weekdays: 10am; (Sat 11am)

### Exposition & Benediction

Sat: 1130 to 12noon

### Confessions

Sat: 1130 - noon; 1715 - 1745pm  
and by arrangement

### Chapel of Ease:

### Our Lady, Queen of the World

25 St Edmund's Terrace, NW8 7PY

Mass Times: Mon, Weds - Fri: 0800

Exposition 0830-Noon; 1500-1700

### Parish Team

Fr. Allen Morris (Rector)

Sr. Brigid Collins

Resident: Fr. Clement Mukuka

## Marriage - follow-up to last week's letter

Last week's letter from the Archbishops (on our website and still available at the back of the church) reminded of some very important distinctive features of marriage, as compared to other forms of relationship. They wanted to do this because of the expected proposal from the government to re-define marriage as being any form of vowed partnership accepted by the state. This has never been acceptable to the Catholic community, because we hold marriage validly entered into to be a relationship which is life-long, as well as being (the current issue) between a man and a woman.

It is important to note that in their letter the Archbishops did not comment on other forms of relationship. They simply wanted to remind of what is unique about marriage, and particular to the Catholic understanding of marriage.

There are many other forms of committed relationship which people choose - for example some 'live together'; some 'marry' but without the intention of remaining married if the relationship 'does not work out'; some enter into second marriages, some enter into civil partnerships. From the point of the view of the Church, these all lack something - especially in comparison with marriage. Yet each of these 'states of life' represents the reality of the life of some people, and is the context from which they hear the call to holiness - along with the rest of us, be we married, single, celibate, widowed, separated, divorced, gay or 'straight'.

In their letter the Archbishops noted that in the various circumstances of our lives many Christians provide a remarkable example of courage and fidelity. Many strive to make the best out of difficult and complex situations. They noted that they hope **everyone in our community is always welcomed and helped to feel valued**. Why? Because this is how Christ was - welcoming and encouraging and affirming the dignity and worth of each person. It is certainly my hope that this is true of our parish, which is here to help us all learn to live faithfully.

Fr Allen

**Catholic, practicing, & wanting to be confirmed?** A number of 'regular practicing Catholics' who for some reason have not been confirmed have been asking whether they might be helped to prepare for this sacrament. The answer is of course 'Yes'. If you are interested and missed last week's meeting, then please ring or email Fr Allen this week.

### Young? Catholic? Over 18 but under 40? Then this is for you!

You are invited to come to the Jubilee Room in the rectory on Sunday March 25th, straight after the 6pm Mass. There will be food and drink, a chance to see the recent film 'The Way' starring Martin Sheen - and to meet other young Catholics.

## Daily Missal

At last, the CTS *Daily Missal* has arrived. It includes the readings and prayers of each day of the year, not only weekdays, but Sundays too. It is not the most portable of books, but it will suit many people as the book they use at home to read the readings of the day and prepare themselves for Mass. Copies are in the repository and they cost £45.00

## our parish @ theatre

There are 9 tickets available for a performance of Alan Ayckbourn's Neighbourhood Watch at Kilburn's Tricycle Theatre.. Alan Ayckbourn's critically acclaimed 75th play is a hilarious cautionary tale of the dangers of taking the law into your own hands.

Tickets are £15.00, and they are being sold through the parish office: First come first served.

## PARISH

**READINGS AND PRAYERS** for the Mass of 3rd Sunday of Lent are on p 162 in the Parish Mass Book. The Order of Mass begins on page 6.

**APF BOXES** The Association for the Propagation of the Faith is the world's largest mission support group, with offices in 120 countries. In England it works with the Mill Hill Society. Play your part by having a RED BOX at home and adding money to it throughout the year. This Sunday existing members can exchange their boxes. New boxes are available for those who would like to join the scheme.

**TEAS AFTER 9AM MASS** thanks to Pamela & Trudie. Next week Karen & Cassie.

**MASS AT ADA COURT** Weds at 5pm.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** in the parish church on each Sunday of Lent at 5pm.

**ALTAR SERVERS** Rehearsals at 4 and 6.30pm as usual.

## ChurchALIVE!

In June and July we will celebrate the Church Alive in different parts of the world. On June 16/17 we celebrate the Church in Asia, on June 30/July 1 in Latin America; July 7/8 in Africa and July 14/15 in Iraq. The weekends will help us learn more about the Church in one another's country of origin, and broaden our awareness of the life of the Church throughout the world.

We already have a few volunteers for each weekend - but to make things go with a swing, we need lots more help too. **Right now** we are looking for **children** from Asia, Latin America and Africa to volunteer **to carry their national flag** at the Sunday Mass they normally come to. If you do not have a flag, then you might like to make one.



We plan to use the flags over the ChurchALIVE Sundays, and hold on to them to use again when the Olympic events are being held at Lord's Cricket ground as part of our parish welcome to the sports teams and their supporters. If you would like to see your flag represented, but don't have a child to carry it, please let Fr Allen know. I'm sure we can find a child to carry it!!

## READERS, SERVERS AND MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION NEEDED FOR PALM SUNDAY AND TRIDUUM.

Please sign up outside the Sacristy as soon as possible.

**NEW ALTAR SERVERS.** 2nd training session for new altar servers (who have made their first communion) or adults is at 4.45pm on Friday 23rd March.

**RECTOR'S 'OPEN SURGERY'** Monday 19th March, 6-7pm

**JOURNEY OF FAITH** Next meeting is Monday @ 7.30pm, in the Jubilee Room. Bring a copy of the Gospel of Mark

**PARENTS & TODDLERS** Tues, Weds & Thurs 9.30-11.30am.; **OVER 50s GROUP** Tues at 2pm.; **YOUTH MERCY ASSOCIATES** Gp 1 Tues at 4pm.

**ECUMENICAL IN LENT?** For 5 Wednesdays of Lent at 7pm at St Paul's Rossmore Road, there is a chance to reflect with other Christians on St John's Gospel.

**121's** A reminder to those at the recent meeting of the report back meeting on Sun, 25th March at 3pm in the parish hall.

## OTHER

**JOBS AVAILABLE** in the diocese are listed at [www.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.rcdow.org.uk). Vacancies include a Laundry Assistant at Allen Hall

## APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

### THE MARCH INTENTION

For recognition of the contribution of women to society and for those who suffer discrimination for the name of Christ, particularly in Asia.

### DAILY PRAYER

Begin each morning by praying 'Jesus I offer my day to you' - then live your prayer as best you can.

Use time at the end of the day to review the day and give thanks and say sorry.

## 2012 PARISH

### PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

**TUES 23<sup>RD</sup> - SAT 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

The cost for flights, full board and transfer Lourdes airport to hotel (but excluding travel insurance (if required)) is £519, with an early booking discount of £20, making the cost pp £499 if we get the deposits of £150 pp by 30 March. Single supplement = £20 per night.

Application forms, and more details, are available now from outside the sacristy, and from the parish website.

**We are planning a 2013 parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land: 18th-25th April 2013. More details soon.**

## GRAND PENTECOST PRIZE DRAW

FUNDRAISING TO REFURBISH THE HALL

Can you help us find prizes for the draw - we already have offers from the Landmark Hotel and from the Orient Express. A few more top-notch prizes would make all the difference.

Perhaps the company you work for supports local charities? If so, please ask them to consider us. Our hall is widely used by the local community for a whole range of activities. One particular feature of the proposed refurbishment, encouraged by the parish Steering Group, is to make the social club into a space which will be much more useable by young people from the area. The current levels of youth unemployment are high and are not likely to reduce dramatically for quite some time. Offering this resources will be one way our parish can offer help and support to the young, and affirm their value and dignity.

If you think you can help please contact Fr Allen as soon as possible.

**DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING** Join the Good Counsel Network in prayer and fasting on Sat 24th March to pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. See notice in the porch.

**YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE** - Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retrovi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This programme has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about, or to register for the next programme beginning with a weekend on the 20th -22nd April 2012, email [info@retrouvaille.org.uk](mailto:info@retrouvaille.org.uk) OR call 07973380443 OR visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT GROUP** for young adults (20's and 30's) meets on Friday March 23rd, 7-9pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, next to Westminster Cathedral. Sr Mary Tomer, a Cenacle Sister, will speak on "Vocational Accompaniment". Info from Sr Gabi at [info@free2become.org](mailto:info@free2become.org) or Fr Richard at [richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk)

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the souls of those who have died. Please pray also for those who are ill, including Maureen Cronin, Biddie Kennedy, Margaret Daly, Javier Cuevas, Eileen Farnham and John Balfe.