



Our Lady
of Victories
*
Kensington

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES Summer News 2025

235a Kensington High Street, London W8 6SA - Tel: 020 7937 4778 - Email: kensington1@rcdow.org.uk

If you are a visitor, welcome to Our Lady of Victories.

If you are returning from your holiday, we hope you had an enjoyable and restful time.

Summer Mass Schedule

There will be no e-parish newsletter during August. The website will be updated regularly.

Summer Mass schedule:

Weekday Mass Monday – Friday 10am.

6pm Saturday Vigil/anticipated.

Sunday: 9, 10.30 am & 12 pm. **No 6pm** In August.

Mass will be available at

6pm on Sundays at the Carmelite Church, 41 Kensington Church Street W8 4BB.

6.30pm on Sundays at Holy Trinity 41 Brook Green W6 7BL

7pm St Mary's Priory, 264 Fulham Road, SW10 9EL

Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary

Friday 15th August: Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (holyday of obligation):

10am: Solemn sung Mass

Rest In Peace

Friday 29th August

Funeral of Dr Gwynneth Flower:

Requiem Mass at 10 am; Funeral Service at 2 pm

Lost Property

If you believe you have left something in the Church, please check with the parish office.

Notices (See notice board for full details)

Film Night: 23 August The Cure of Ars at St Dominic's Priory, Southampton Road NW5 4LB

A Day With Mary: Our Lady 54 Lodge Road NW8 8LA

Saturday 6 September 2025

Pauline Books and Media

The Sisters of the Pauline run their shop in the repository at Our Lady of Victories Church on Friday and Sunday from 9am to 1pm. The contact number is 07561456074.

Sacraments

Baptism: Please enquire with the Parish Office.

Marriage: Six months' notice is required for paperwork.

Confirmation: Registration for those in year 9 begins in September/October

Fr Francis Thomas: Farewell Mass

All are welcome to the **12pm Mass on Sunday 31st August**, followed by refreshments in the parish centre. This will be an opportunity to thank Fr Francis for all he has done for the parish in the last 2 years.

You can contribute to a farewell gift for Fr Francis: donate by contactless or online via HSBC: Sort code 40 05 20 - Account 61263714 - Account name WRCDT Our Lady of Victories - reference: Fr Francis. Thank you!

Assumption of Mary Mini Retreat for young

adults (aged 18-35): with the Assumption Sisters, **Saturday 9th August**, 2.30 – 5.30pm.

Venue: Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH (closest tube: High Street Kensington). **Programme** includes: prayer • reflection • adoration • social. Donations only. Register by email: rebecca@assumpta-eu.org

Parish Office

Please be patient when you contact the parish office. The parish team will be taking their holidays. We appreciate your patience.

Useful Websites

Parish: <http://www.ourladyofvictories.net/>

Diocese: <http://rcdow.org.uk>

A brief history of our parish

Fr James Foley, who became parish priest in 1860, bought this plot in 1866 for £5,125. The architect, George Goldie, was well known for his love of the Gothic style. The foundation stone was laid on 14 May 1867. The site was large but awkward, extending 300 feet back from the high street with a very narrow frontage of only 33 feet, compared to the far end of 65 feet.

The church was opened on the Feast of the Visitation--2 July 1869. Bishop Tray celebrated pontifical High Mass, and Archbishop Manning (later Cardinal) preached the sermon. On the night of 13 September 1940, during a large-scale air raid, the church was destroyed, as was the Carmelite church in Kensington Church Street. Worship continued in a local cinema, the Cavendish Furnishing Co store, the Assumption Chapel in Kensington Square, and the Congregational Chapel in Allen Street.

On 31 October 1958, the doors of the current building were opened, with the official opening led by Cardinal Godfrey on 6 April 1959. Fr Charles Cox, one of the curates at the time, composed the music of the favourite Catholic hymn "*Sweet Sacrament Divine.*"

In 1921, GK Chesterton was received into the Catholic Church and made his first communion at OLV. In 1869, Cardinal Manning named OLV as his pro Cathedral. It remained so till the opening of Westminster Cathedral in 1903.

We celebrate the faith of our predecessors, brothers and sisters, the people, religious and clergy who have worshipped, served, and cherished this place as their spiritual home. In 2019 we welcomed our present Archbishop, His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who presided and celebrated this Solemn Mass to mark the 150th anniversary of the first Church on this site. Our preacher was the Revd Canon Michael Brockie, Provost of the Cathedral Chapter of Westminster.

We welcomed, too, Fr Patrick Ryall OSM, Dean of the Kensington and Chelsea Deanery. We have so much for which to thank God. We have a lively, multicultural parish with so many faithful people who are the living stones of the Church of Jesus Christ.

1794: The mission is re-established

1813: Holland Street Chapel opens

1869: The Church opens

1940: The Church is destroyed

1994: The parish celebrates 200 years

2019: 150th anniversary of the first Church on this site