



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, OF THE ROSARY

+ 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 5 November 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



New Arrivals and Harsh Words

The presbytery has a new resident within its walls. Not a priest coming to London for study or distant, dreaded family members visiting, but Fr Kevin's new golden retriever puppy Cosmo. Many of you will meet Cosmo after Mass, if not today, then in the coming weeks.

Puppy training is always something of an adventure. Especially when the parish team come running in response to each pant or whimper like the London Fire Brigade. One of the greatest amusements has been hearing the warmth in people's voices when they speak to Cosmo, a tone that is always welcome when speaking to the parish clergy!

In our Gospel today Jesus' words come as quite a shock. It's certainly not the tone Sister Brigid uses towards Cosmo! "They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders" or "Everything they do is done to attract attention". Jesus is using harsh words about the leaders of the Jewish people. We might think that this is not the kind of language we expect from Jesus who tells us to love our enemies or those who persecute us.

Why this fierceness in tone towards the Pharisees? Because of the importance of their role. Jesus is painfully disappointed that those who are there to help the people live more faithfully to God's law and be a witness to the goodness of God in the world are focusing all their time on jockeying for position with each other, on appearing clever or being most ornately attired. These words are spoken out of an agony of love in order to bring healing to society.

Why are they such dangerous vices? Because they are corrupt and corrosive. It is corrupting when religious leaders do not practice what they preach. Matthew remembers these words and records them in his Gospel because that truth remains as true in the Church today as it was to the Jewish leaders 2000 years ago. Faith is not about how much we know, it's about putting what we know about Jesus into practice. A humble desire to love God, follow his teachings and serve our neighbour. Or, as Jesus says in today's Gospel, "The greatest among you must be your servant".

Jesus' words are not abusive or cruel, they are challenging. They show his disappointment that those who claim to teach Jews how to have a relationship with Jesus' heavenly Father evidently have no relationship with him themselves. But Jesus' words come with hope too, it is never too late for that relationship if we are willing to humble ourselves. If we do so, we are promised that when it really matters, we will be exalted. Not by others around us in this life, but by Christ amidst the saints and the angels.

Fr Alex

Mass Times

Monday to Friday

12:30pm

Saturday

12:30pm and 6:00pm (Vigil Mass of Sunday)

Confessions (Saturday)

11:45am—12:15pm

5:00pm—5:30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Saturday)

5:00pm-5:30pm

Benediction at 5:30pm

Sunday

8:30am

11:00 am (Sung Family Mass)

6:00pm (Sung)

Music for Sunday

- 143 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
- 187 The Servant King
- 238 Hail Queen of Heaven
- 512 Now thank we all our God

Sunday Readings,

Page 149

Malachi 1:14—2:2, 8-10

Psalm 130

Thessalonians 2:7—9,3

Matthew 23: 1—12

Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, 211 Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QT

020 7723 5101 (office) 0207 286 3214 (Priests')

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/marylebone>

Parish Clergy: Canon Kevin Jordan (kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk)
Fr Alex Balzanella (alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk)
Parish Administrator: Lorraine Etienne (marylebone@rcdow.org.uk)
Parish Office Open times: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10.30am –3:30pm

Welcomer for today's Mass is Joe Porter

First Holy Communion. The next First Holy Communion class will be on Sunday 19 November

For those who are applying to Catholic schools follow this link for Admissions –

<https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions> and read the Guidance for Clergy document. This explains what you need to provide in order for a priest to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice. Meetings have already been advertised with Fr Alex for secondary school forms, however if you have not yet got in contact please speak to Fr Alex or contact Lorraine in the parish office. Primary and nursery applications will be dealt with after half-term but the same criteria apply for the completion of the Certificate of Catholic Practice

A day with Mary on Saturday 18 November at Mount Carmel & St George, London Road, Enfield. This is a day

Holy Souls: November is the month of the Holy Souls. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Please write the names of your deceased loved ones on a piece of paper, place it in the envelope with any offering you would like to make, and return it to the presbytery. Each week in November three Masses will be offered for all those Holy Souls listed in our parish.

Legion of Mary Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Praesidium of the Legion of Mary warmly invites you to their weekly meetings, held on Thursdays at 6pm

Sick & Retired Priests' Fund Collection takes place next weekend. Last year, the Diocese of Westminster provided care to 82 retired priests. The number of our priests over the age of 65 is steadily increasing, and caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness is a fundamental part of the mission of our diocese. By giving to the fund you will ensure these priests are cared for. Please take a donation envelope as you leave the church today or scan the QR code on the poster in the porch to give online. Finally, if you feel you would like to give to the fund on a more regular basis, please do consider joining our Patron's Programme. Leaflets are available at the back of the church. Thank you so much and please continue to pray for all our clergy: active, retired or ill. Thank you.

The Bi-Annual Requiem Mass at St. Mary's Cemetery NW10 5NU, Kensal Green, will be on Monday 6 November at 11:30am.

Upper Room Leadership Programme for those aged 18-22 years old, run by *Westminster Youth Ministry*, is a training programme for young Catholic leaders, taking 20 young Catholics on an exciting leadership training course. It will begin at the start of Advent and culminate in a pilgrimage to Lourdes in July, during which the young leaders will support the Redcaps as they accompany sick or elderly pilgrims. Be quick as applications close on 11 November via: <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/programmes/upper-room-leadership-programme/> or email youth@rcdow.org.uk for more information.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024 will take place from 19–26 July 2024. The Sanctuary's theme for the year is *'Come here in procession'*. Please see the poster in the porch.

'Witness to Hope' Four online talks by Fr John Deehan focusing on the prayers and Gospels of the Christmas Masses.

23 November: The Vigil Mass

30 November: The Night Mass

7 December: The Dawn Mass

14 December: The Day Mass

The talks will be delivered via zoom, and are open to all. Further information or queries, contact Anna, annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk.

To register: please contact Warren Brown catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

Feasts

Thursday 9 November	THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA
Friday 10 November	St Leo the Great
Saturday 11 November	St Martin of Tours
Sunday 12 November	Remembrance Sunday

Collections for last weekend

Envelopes	£213.10
Loose plate	<u>£399.41</u>
	<u>£612.51</u>

Many thanks

Have a blessed week