



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, OF THE ROSARY

+ 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - 19 November 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



I'm Not Your Slave

There was a 90's Harry Enfield sketch in the 90's called *Kevin and Perry*, that stereotyped adolescents of the era with their floppy hair, bright shellsuits and baseball caps. The duo were totally self-obsessed and the main character, Kevin, would endlessly complain when asked to do anything by his exasperated parents, saying either "that's so unfair" or "I'm not your slave".

Ignoring any real or imagined similarities to the parish priest [what a cheek—*Fr Kevin*], what Kevin here symbolises is the challenges faced by the third servant in today's Gospel. The parable speaks of the talents given to each servant on a long lease by the master, and how he expects them to bring a profit on his return.

The first two make good returns, doubling the money, and the master commends them by inviting them to join in his happiness. They have been busy at work, eager to please their returning master.

Which brings us to the third servant who does nothing. He is like a caricature of a teenager, in bed throughout the day. When he is given any responsibility his natural urge is to hide it away, to bury it, so that the responsibility is not haunting him with its presence.

When it's time to meet the master, the third servant can only offer excuses. He blames the master, he blames his fear, he takes no responsibility for his actions. The master's response is one of fury, he knows these are weak excuses as the servant could not even motivate himself to go to the bank which would have yielded some type of return and security.

What this Gospel shows is that our judgement will be based on our willingness to serve God with our lives. The more we strive and try to follow close to the Lord, to spread the news of the Gospel and to live a Christian life, we will be rewarded in heaven. For our time on earth is given to us by God, to maximise the good we can do.

If, however, we focus only on ourselves in this life, on our own pleasure, our own wants. If we hide away from responsibilities that being a Christian calls us to, if we remain spiritually adolescent, then the response of God will be firm. Unlike Kevin and Perry in our spiritual lives it's never too late to grow up, to use the gifts God gives us and be faithful servants of the master.

Fr Alex

Mass Times

Sunday

8:30am

11:00 am (Sung Family Mass)

6:00pm (Sung)

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

Music for Sunday

368 Lord of all Hopefulness

236 Hail Mary, Full of Grace

874 I Cannot Tell

576 On this house your blessing Lord

Sunday Readings,

Proverbs 31:10-13

Psalm 127

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Matthew 25: 14—30

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 Hours::

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10.30am –3:30pm

Parish Safeguarding Rep:

Valeria Naipan (marylebone@rcdow.org.uk)

Mass times are changing from 27 November 2023. Mass will be at **12:30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; Saturday 6:00pm** (Vigil Mass of Sunday) **and Sunday 11:00am.**

Coffee morning today is hosted by Rachel and David De Sousa

First Holy Communion class is today at 9.45am

If you are applying to Catholic nursery , infant and primary schools, follow this link to Admissions: <https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions> and read the Guidance for Clergy document. If you can meet these criteria then please contact Lorraine in the Parish Office to arrange an appointment.

A Day with Mary on Saturday 25 November at St John Fisher Church, Imperial Close, North Harrow HA2 7LW. This is a day of instruction, devotion & intercession, based on the message, given at Fatima 1917.

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 the piece of paper provided, 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.

Thank you for so generously supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection last weekend. If you did not get the chance to donate, it is not too late. Envelopes are still available at the back of the church or you can give online at: www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. You may also wish to consider becoming a Patron of our Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. If so, please take a leaflet home today. Please keep our sick and retired priests in your prayers.

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or telephone 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you.

World Day of the Poor. Today, Sunday 19 November, is the seventh World Day of the Poor with the theme of not turning away. Pope Francis takes his inspiration from the elderly Tobit who says to his son, "'Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor'" (Tobit 4:7). More Information and resources can be found at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/world-day-of-the-poor/>

Advent Retreat for Young Adults (18-30s) with the Assumption Sisters on Sunday 3rd December 2023 in Kensington. Young people are invited for a day retreat to prepare spiritually for Christmas, with reflections, prayer, adoration, and confessions. Venue: Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Simon Stock, London W8 4BB. Timings: Mass at 12.15pm, Lunch at 1pm, Retreat from 2pm-5.30pm. Donations only. Register: tramy@assumptionreligious.org

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.

Welcomers for today are Ruben and Helena

'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

Tuesday 21 November The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 22 November St Cecilia,

Friday 24 November St Andrew Dũng-Lac

Sunday 26 November **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**
King of the Universe

Collections for last weekend

Envelopes £161.95

Loose plate £519.74

£681.69

Many thanks

Have a blessed week