



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, OF THE ROSARY

+ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe - 26 November 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



Surprise! Surprise!

For those of you as old as me, yes, there will be a nod to Cilla Black's famous catchphrase in a moment. But first, some Scriptural exegesis... As many of you know, there is a three-year cycle of Sunday readings—year A, B and C. In years B and C, the Gospel for today's solemnity speak of Christ's Kingship even though they are mocking references to it by Pontius Pilate at Jesus' trial and the Jews standing at the foot of the cross respectively. But this year the Gospel is all about us sharing in that Kingship as a reward for living a virtuous life. For once, it is all about me, Fr Alex!

This call expands on last week's Gospel. Then we were told it is not enough to do nothing with the gifts and talents we have been given. Today, precisely what we are supposed to do is spelt out for us in no uncertain terms—feed and water the hungry and thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, visit the sick and those imprisoned. In other words, carry out six of what the Church calls the seven Corporal Works of Mercy.

But there is an added dimension to this. Notice that the virtuous don't get a fabulously unexpected reward drawn from the bottom of God's tombola—they get the place prepared for them since the foundation of the world. It is something God had already set aside for them. It was His expectation that they would live such a virtuous life. This reminds me of the old Penny Catechism which asks the question, "Why did God make me?" The answer? - "God made me to love Him and serve Him in this life and to be happy with Him in the next". In other words, a virtuous life simply merits what God had mind for us in the first place. Such a noble life and our seat at the banqueting table in the Kingdom of Heaven are presumed of us by God.

But at the other end of the scale, those who do not act in a positively virtuous way forfeit their reward and get the place of the devil and his angels—they are, in a sense, cut off from humanity for eternity because they isolated themselves from the needy in this world. Thus, not doing good is to miss an open goal, to throw away what is our inheritance from the moment we were created. And since our Baptismal pledge is to "love God and our neighbour" and our lives are nourished by the Word of God at Mass every Sunday, we cannot say that we do not know precisely what Christ is asking us to do so as to share in His Kingship.

St John Chrysostom harmonises the spiritual and apostolic (active) life with our reward in God's Kingdom: "We paint this house of our souls, adorn it, with the beaten gold of good works; and for walls and stones embellish it with faith and generosity; and for its roof, we put prayer on the top."

Our King offers a reward that is part of our loving creation. But if our love isn't active, it should be no surprise, surprise that we forfeit this. *Fr Kevin*

Mass Times

Sunday

11:00 am (Sung Family Mass)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

12:30pm

Saturday

6:00pm (Vigil Mass of Sunday)

Confessions (Saturday)

5:00pm—5:30pm

Church opening times

Monday—Friday

9:30am—1:00pm

Music for Sunday

- 239 Hail Redeemer King
Divine
- 343 King of Glory, King of
Peace
- 699 King of Love My
Shepherd is
- 891 Longing for Light

Sunday Readings,

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Psalms 22:1-3, 5-6 r V 1

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Matthew 25: 31—46

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.**
The Church will now open Monday to Friday **9:30am – 1:00pm**

World Youth Sunday is observed today in England and Wales on the Solemnity of Christ the King, Sunday 26 November. The theme for World Youth Day 2023 is "Come and See." Resources can be found at: <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/resources/world-youth-sunday-resources/>

Welcomer for today is Nuala O'Duffy

First Holy Communion class is today at 9.45am

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.

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.

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

Childrens liturgy will be next Sunday 3 December led by Marguerite-Marie Mitterlehner

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.

Carol Service will be on Sunday 10th December at 3pm. All are welcome to attend. There will be refreshments in the parish hall afterwards. Parishioners are invited to bring mince pies and other festive treats that we can all share together.'

CAFOD are having a Carol Concert on Wednesday 13 December from 7:00pm until 8:00pm at St James church, Spanish Place, 22 George Street London W1U 3QY. All are welcome. Please see the poster in the porch.

Radio Maria England. Usher in the festive season with a charity Christmas concert to support Radio Maria England. Join them for 'Wanderings' on 5 December at 7:30pm in St. Wilfrid's Hall at the Brompton Oratory for a magical evening of solo piano and song from Schubert lieder to Beethoven sonatas. Refreshments provided. Book your ticket at: <https://radiomariaengland.uk/events/>

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

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

Sunday 26 November

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

King of the Universe

Thursday 30 November

ST ANDREW, Apostle,
Patron of Scotland

Sunday 3 December

1st Sunday of Advent

Collections for last weekend

Envelopes £225.00

Loose plate £371.37

£596.37

Many thanks

Have a blessed week