



# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, OF THE ROSARY

+ 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B - 21 January 2024

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



## A Harry Potter it is not

We often perceive the Bible as a book, a text sitting on our shelf. We may contemplate reading it, but opening the cover leads to instant confusion. Where to start? What does it mean? How does it apply to my life?

While the Bible is central to our relationship with Jesus, we shouldn't think of it as a mere book, something comparable to our holiday reading. A better perspective is captured in this Sunday's theme: the "Word" of God. The Bible serves as the account and medium of God's communication with us. Its pages narrate a rich history, showcasing God's presence in various ways throughout humanity.

The Old Testament, occurring before Jesus' birth, tells diverse stories of personal relationships with God and His message to the world. It explains the world's creation in Genesis and explores the question of why bad things happen to good people in Job. However, it's crucial to understand that these stories aren't just historical accounts or just applicable to the people involved; they guide us in our personal and intimate conversations with God. They show us that God is always there for us, no matter how we feel or who we are.

The Old Testament conveys that through the "Word," God bridges the gap between us and Him, revealing His love for humanity. Yet, the speaker of that "Word" remains hidden in the Old Testament, whether in the cloud before Moses or the silence before Elisha. The pivotal moment in the Bible and human history occurs with Jesus Christ's birth, where God speaks directly and definitively. Jesus is depicted as the Word made flesh, the visible manifestation of the eternal Word.

Jesus invites us not just to hear the word but to "Remain in my word" (Jn. 8:31). This invitation goes beyond a brief encounter, encouraging a deep unity, akin to branches on a vine. The Bible isn't a rushed paperback but a text allowing us to be with God, converse with Him, open up, trust, and know Him.

If we question whether this is what God wants, remember how He shared 33 years of human life with us, building friendships, enjoying time, and sharing in joys and sorrows. The Bible is proof of God's love for us, offering an encounter with that love.

It might not be the easiest or lightest book on your shelf, but opening it may invite you into a relationship of love, beauty, and wonder surpassing any bestseller.

*Fr Alex*

## 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

233 Guide Me, O thou Great Redeemer

859 As I Kneel Before You

730 This My Body

512 Now Thank We All Are God

## Sunday Readings

Jonah 3:1-5,10

Psalm 24:4-9 R v 4

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

**Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, 211 Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QT  
020 7723 5101 (Office) 0207 286 3214 (Clergy)**

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

Parish Clergy: Canon Kevin Jordan ([kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk))

Fr Alex Balzanella ([alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk))

Parish Administrator: Lorraine Etienne ([marylebone@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:marylebone@rcdow.org.uk))

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10.30am—3:30pm

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Valeria Naipan ([marylebone@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk](mailto:marylebone@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk))

**Welcomers** for today are Rubens and Helena

**Day of Recollection for Readers.** On February 3 2024 we are having an afternoon of prayer, reflection, development and support for those undertaking ministries in both St John's Wood and Marylebone Parishes. New Volunteers welcome. Refreshments provided.

**Next Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday.** The theme chosen for 2024 is: "Seeing one another in the life of the Church." It is important to recognise that we are all children of God, regardless of our race and background. This year's theme seeks to promote reflection, discussion and action on our theme and to encourage us to carry this through in the weeks and months after Racial Justice Sunday. For more information please visit: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday/>

**Volunteers** We are in need of volunteers for lots of different roles at Marylebone. Please look at the areas on the noticeboard next to the repository and think whether there is one or more tasks you could take on to help keep our parish a place of welcome and prayer. Please include your contact details and availability (daily, weekly, monthly etc.).

**If you are sick or in hospital,** please make it known to the ward staff that you are a Catholic and that you want to see a priest so that arrangements can be made for a Catholic Chaplain to visit you. Please let Fr Kevin or Fr Alex know if you are housebound, even temporarily, so we can arrange to visit you.

**Parish Office Closed** Lorraine the Parish Administrator will be on annual leave for two weeks until 29 January The offices will be closed during that time. If you have any urgent queries please email Fr Alex [alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk), or call him on his direct line. Thank you.

#### **Feasts**

Thursday 25 January: Conversion of St Paul  
Friday 26 January: SS Timothy & Titus

**A day with Mary** on Saturday 3 February at Holy Apostles, Pimlico. This is a day of instruction, devotion & intercession, based on the message, given at Fatima in 1917

**World Day of the Sick.** On Saturday 10 February 2024 Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate the Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes in Westminster Cathedral at 2:30pm. During this Mass anointing of the sick will be offered. For tickets please email Fr Alex at [alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk) by **Sunday, 28 January** advising if you are booking for:

1. A wheelchair user who requires anointing,
2. A walking sick user who requires anointing or
3. A person assisting the sick, who does not require anointing.

**Society for the Protection of Unborn Children** are advertising for a full-time administration assistant. For more information please contact Lucille at [lucillemcquade@spuc.org.uk](mailto:lucillemcquade@spuc.org.uk) or 020 7091 9071. Closing date is 9 February. Stickers and postcards from SPUC are at the back of the church. Please help yourselves.

**Chorister Opportunities at Westminster Cathedral.** Westminster Cathedral choir school is offering the chance for boys with musical potential and their families to a Zoom session on 31 January at 6.30pm to find out more about what being a chorister entails. Poster on the noticeboard.

#### **Vocations Weekend for Women (20s & 30s).**

**Theme:** 'Discerning God's Call in your life'

**Dates:** 16-18 February. **Location:** Liverpool.

Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. For more information please email Sr Lynne fcJ at: [fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com](mailto:fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com) or visit the website at: [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org).