



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, OF THE ROSARY



+ 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B - 28 January 2024

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

Teaching with Authority

In my last school, I went on a trip with the children to Harry Potter World up in Levesden. Being of the generation when the books came out I was excited to go. However, any thoughts I had of enjoying the attraction were dashed as my group of children scattered the moment we entered and I spent the next five hours attempting in vain to herd them into some semblance of order.

The teachers, however, seemed not to have any problem as they “spoke with authority”, as our Gospel says about Jesus today. Speaking with authority means we trust in what someone else says, even if we don’t necessarily comprehend why we should, or even what it means.

In our lives, we listen to others who “speak with authority” quite often. We listen to doctors on what medicine to take, even if we don’t know how it will restore our health. We do this because of the medical training doctors have, we believe that they are equipped and experienced to instruct us on how to be healthy.

When someone teaches with authority, it is because there is something about them that gives their words a value that we might not appreciate from someone else. We listen to someone who teaches with authority. They know what they are speaking about, their different approach or understanding is not viewed with contempt or suspicion, but as wisdom and enlightenment.

In our Gospel today, Jesus teaches the synagogue in Capernaum about the meaning of the Old Testament writings. He brings a fresh perspective that captivate the audience, that demands attention, unlike my vain efforts at authority in Harry Potter World. Even unclean spirits yield to his authority. The response is one of enthusiasm, they rush and tell others about this man who brings an understanding of God and scripture that commands attention.

Teaching with authority, however, needs a receptive audience. In Nazareth, remember, Jesus’ teaching leads to people chasing him out of town. The Pharisees and Scribes would not listen to his words, and would seek to silence them by putting him to death. But not even death has the power to silence the Word.

As Christians we are asked simply to have a listening ear to God, to be willing to hear his “teaching with authority”. At times it means we don’t do what we would like to do or how our instincts tell us. But we’re asked to listen to scripture, to trust in God, his desire for our good and our eternal happiness. If we let it touch our hearts, it won’t be a trial or burden, but a liberation and a joy.

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

568 O Lord, My God

72 Be Still, For The Presence Of
The Lord

272 I Am The Bread Of Life

268 Our God Reigns

Sunday Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 94(95):1-2,6-9

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28

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

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<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@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk)

Welcomers for today are Nuala and Marie.

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.

This 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 Thank you for those of you who have signed up as volunteers in the past two weeks. You will shortly be receiving an email or telephone call about the roles you have volunteered for. If you would still like to volunteer please email Marylebone@rcdow.org.uk. The details of the jobs that need doing are on the noticeboard next to the repository shop.

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.

Divine Mercy Apostolate is holding a Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection on Saturday 10 February, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm at St Georges R.C. Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road London SE1 7HY. The day will include catechesis, an Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome.

Feasts

Wednesday 31 January: St John Bosco

Friday 2 January: Presentation of the Lord

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

Evangelising post-Christian Britain. Mgr James Shea, President of the University of Mary will be giving a lecture and Q&A on Tuesday 20 February at St James Church, Spanish Place. He will draw bridges between the different visions that the Church and the world have for our society, and suggest effective strategies to engage our own time and culture with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The lecture will be followed by refreshments. Tickets £5 at: guild-ransom.co.uk/events. Details on the noticeboard.

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children are advertising for a full-time administration assistant. For ore information please contact Lucille at 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 or visit the website at: www.fcjsisters.org.

