

ST DAVID'S RC CHURCH

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This parish is part of the Westminster Catholic
Diocese Trustee Charity No: 233699

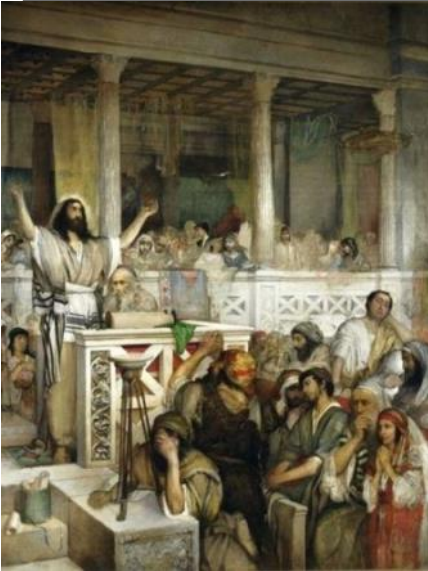
Parish Priest: Fr. Sidon Sagar



4th Sunday in the OT

28th January 2024

"He taught them with authority."



One of the surprising gaps in the Gospels is any description of what Jesus actually looked like. If you had known someone who had been in the synagogue in Capernaum and had heard that Jesus had healed the possessed man, you would have wanted to know what this Jesus was like. Would you have wanted to know how tall he was, the colour of his hair, what he was wearing? But your friend who was a witness tells you something else — he taught with authority. This impression seems to block out everything else.

The lack of description in the Gospels of what Jesus looked like is a gap that can inspire creativity. The absence of a description can lead to a generous range of images as different communities recognise

Jesus as one of their own. Today we mark Racial Justice Sunday, and the diversity of ways of seeing Jesus can not only give us insights into who Jesus was but also remind each one of us to see the presence of Jesus in both friend and stranger.

Jesus is seen as offering something new, something different to the scribes. Just as the Gospel writers do not tell us what Jesus looked like, neither does Mark actually tell us what Jesus taught at this time. In the opening chapters of Mark's Gospel, the only teaching is: "The time has come, and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News." In keeping with the style of these initial chapters, where Mark moves quickly from place to place, it is short and to the point. Jesus is like a commander issuing instructions; the commands must be clear and brief so that they are understood and received - and that is what gives him authority.

Jesus' authority seems therefore to be based on the brevity of what he says and on the meaning being clear. The people recognise him as a prophet who, as Moses says in the first reading, speaks the words of God.

That we are still listening to Paul's letters today tells us that the people of Corinth also recognised that Paul taught with authority and wished to pass on that teaching. Unlike the succinctness of Jesus in Mark's account, Paul has more to say — developing his argument over longer sections. The danger is that we can miss the essence of what Paul

is saying by being caught up in the way he is saying it. To contemporary ears, Paul may be presenting a series of stereotypes of men and women, but this may miss his main point. As it was true in 1st century Corinth, so it is today that people lead busy lives and yes, we need to make time to listen to the Lord, but not so that we neglect the needs of others. Be holy but also be real.

Returning to the Gospel, in Mark's account words are not enough. What gives Jesus' teaching true authority is not only what he says but also what he does. When Jesus speaks to the possessed man, he is direct and to the point: "Be quiet! Come out of him!"

The possessed man responds to his command and is healed. This action causes the people to repeat that Jesus' teaching has authority.

In today's Gospel Jesus perhaps provides a model for leadership and gaining the respect of those whom we serve. At its heart is integrity between the person, what they say and how they say it, and their actions. To have authority is to have a match between who we are, what we say and what we do. In the opening chapter of Mark, it is not as though Jesus is saying easy things to people: people — "Repent and believe" and "Be quiet" — but his authority means that they are able to listen and hear what they need to hear.

If we had been present in the synagogue in Capernaum, would we have been open to Jesus' new teaching and have recognised his authority? We would have needed to follow the advice of the psalm response: to be ready to open our hearts and listen to the voice of the Lord speaking to us today.

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Offertory Collection - Thank you for your offertories for the last 2 weeks

Epiphany Sunday was Envelopes **£10.00** and Loose plate **£261.79**

01st Sunday of OT was Envelopes **£34.00** and Loose plate **£179.37**

Contactless **£0** (the **Dona contactless** PayPoint is in the Church)

Monthly standing order **£210.00**. Thank you for your offertories to the Parish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fr Sidon Sagar. Please keep Fr Sidon in your prayers as he enjoys a break with his family.

Racial Justice Sunday, 28th January - "Seeing One Another in the Life of the Church" celebrates the diversity of those who have led holy and exemplary lives. 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 in weeks and months after Racial Justice Sunday. Further information can be found on the CBCEW website at: www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday
If you would like to support this cause, you will find a collection basket at the back of church this weekend.

Special collection for the Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem. Cardinal Vincent Nichols has asked parishes to hold a collection in response to the appeal from the Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem for support especially for those in Gaza.

"In the last few days I have heard directly, via Zoom, from the Parish Priest of the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza City and from the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate. The situation they face is grave and most demanding. We were told that there are still 600 people sheltering and being cared for in the parish compound, together with over 50 seriously disabled and vulnerable children. Water and food can be bought in the local markets at

much inflated prices. With the damage inflicted on this site some time ago now, cooking hot meals is only possible three times a week. The parish is also providing for 200 people in the Orthodox property as well as for local Muslim neighbours.

The situation in the West Bank is also grave with more than 100,000 families losing income because of various factors, as well as the absence of all visitors and pilgrims."

The Patriarchate is able to provide assistance. It can make funding directly available to the parish leadership and is providing food etc. to many in the West Bank.

Cardinal Nichols hopes we can respond to this direct appeal from the Latin Patriarch and the work which he is able to effect.

There will be a retiring collection here on **Ash Wednesday** to support this cause.

Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 10th February 2024, 2.30pm, during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered. **Cardinal Vincent Nichols** will celebrate the Mass. If you would like to go, then please contact Shenda Holmes in the parish in order to book a place (free) – 01784 252230 or ashford@rcdow.org.uk

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection on Saturday 10th February 2024 from 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm at St Georges Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HY.

The Reflection will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Way of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957 594646 for more information.

Mass Intentions. If you wish to book a Mass, please drop your intention envelope in the offertory collection bag or see the priest. *Please use the new blue donation envelopes if you are able to make your Mass offering under Gift Aid.*

Safeguarding If you've any concerns or require advice regarding the safety or well-being of a child or vulnerable adult, please contact our parish safeguarding rep, Fey Worley on stanwellsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk.

You can also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 020 7798 9356 or safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

During Adoration before Saturday Evening Holy Mass (and by appointment)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

To arrange a baptism please refer to the parish website

For the parish Mass timetable, please refer to the parish website:

<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stanwell>

PLEASE PRAY

for all the sick and housebound in our parish.

for the Religious men and women living and working in the Upper Thames Deanery.

for the Holy Father's Prayer Intention that the Holy Spirit helps us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Mass Intentions 28th Jan - 04th Feb 2024

Sun	28 th	4 th Sunday in the Ordinary Time (Sat Vigil)	06.00pm 10.30am	
Mon	29 th		06.00pm	
Tues	30 th		06.00pm	
Wed	31 st		09.30am	
Fri	02 nd		06.00pm	
Sat	03 rd		06.00pm	Cecilia Souza RIP
Sun	04 th	5 th Sunday in the Ordinary Time	10.30am	

This Sunday's readings, 28th January – Fourth Sunday in the OT

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

Next Sunday's readings, 04th February – Fifth Sunday in the OT

Job 7:1-4,6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-2; Mark 1:29-39

Summary of the Pope's weekly catechesis: "In our catechesis on the virtues and the vices, we now turn to greed, as an undue attachment to wealth, which hinders us from being generous with regard to others. Greed is not simply a selfish hoarding of money or material objects, but a distorted relationship with reality and even a form of enslavement. The Desert Fathers saw greed as an attempt to avoid facing the reality of death, which is opposed to Jesus' advice to accumulate treasures in heaven rather than earthly goods (cf. Mt 6:19-20). May our use of the world's goods always be marked by evangelical freedom, responsibility and a spirit of generous solidarity, in imitation of Christ himself, who, though he was rich, became poor for our sakes, so that by his poverty, we might become rich (cf. 2 Cor 8:9)."

24th January 2024

January is dedicated to HOLY NAME OF JESUS

"In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). **Christ's name is chosen in heaven**, and the Angel Gabriel announces it when he informs the Blessed Virgin of the incarnation: "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, **and thou shalt call his name Jesus**". The name of Jesus is the sweetest of all names, and He who bears it is most worthy of all love. **He who calls Jesus his friend can be assured that this friend is the most devoted and unselfish of all friends.** Jesus is our all. **In His name we may pray to the Father with assurance of being heard. In His name the Church administers all her sacraments.**

