



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD

+ 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

6:00pm (Saturday)
9:00am (Sung), 10:30am (Sung
Latin), 12:00 noon (Sung),
6:00pm

Weekdays

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday:
10:00am
Thursday: 7:00pm
Friday, Saturday: 10:00am

Exposition & Confessions

Saturday 10:30am—11:00am

Confessions

Saturday 5:15pm—5:45pm

Music for Sunday

183 Faith of Our Fathers
226 Jerusalem the Golden
228 Jesu, the Very Thought
of Thee

Utendal *Missa Repleti sunt
omnes*
Maillard *De fructu vitae*
Raselius *Si iniquitates
observaveris*

Sunday Readings,

page 155
Proverbs 31:10—13, 19—20,
30—31
Psalm 127:1—5 R v 1
1 Thessalonians 5:1—6
Matthew 25:14—30

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020 7286 3214 <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/>

Facebook: Our Lady's RC Church, St John's Wood <https://www.facebook.com/ourladysjw>

Parish Clergy:	Canon Kevin Jordan (kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk) Fr Alex Balzanella (alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk)
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Director of Music:	Martin Toyer (martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk)

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/>

Please join us for tea & coffee today after the 9:00am Mass in the parish hall, a nice way of catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Preparation for Sacraments of First Holy Communion & Confirmation in 2024. Application forms for both Sacraments are available to collect from one of the clergy after Mass. Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation must collect the forms themselves. Only if you can attend all the sessions should you post completed forms through the rectory door by 12 noon on Tuesday 5 December 2023.

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 Kathleen in the Parish Office to arrange an appointment.

‘Witness to Hope’ is 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:

annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk. To register contact:

Warren Brown catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

UCM Afternoon Vintage Tea takes place on Saturday 2 December at 2:00pm. Tickets cost £10 per head and will be available after all Masses next weekend. There will be a raffle at this event. If anyone can donate a bottle, toiletries etc. for the raffle this will be greatly appreciated. Any donations can be left at the parish office.

Advent Summit. This Advent all young people in the diocese are invited to join Westminster Youth Ministry on Saturday 2 December from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. This afternoon of prayer and adoration will be themed around ‘the dwelling place’ with speakers including Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Emmanuelle McFarlane-Barrow. Confessions will be available throughout. The event will take place at Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Queensway. For more information please see the poster in the porch or email: youth@rcdow.org.uk.

The Christmas Big Clean needs you to help give an added sparkle to our well-kept church and sanctuary. Please come along to the church on Monday 18 December at 6:30pm followed by festive refreshments. All are needed and welcome.

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.

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.

Social Media. Do visit <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/>, and Our Lady's RC Church, St John's Wood *Facebook* page which are regularly updated.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>
Sunday	Upper Hall	After 9:00am Mass	Tea & Coffee
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Upper Hall	9:00am-11:30am	Parents & Toddlers
Tuesday	Upper Hall	1:00pm-4:30pm	Over 50's
Wednesday	Upper Hall	1:00pm-2:00pm	Art Class
Thursday	Lower Hall	10:30am-12 noon	Creative Writing