



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD

+ 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 Leavesden. 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 that we trust in what someone else says, even if we don’t necessarily comprehend why, or 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.

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.

In our Gospel today, Jesus teaches the synagogue in Capernaum. 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, the people 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 ear. In Nazareth, remember, Jesus’ teaching leads to people chasing him out of town. Likewise, 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. If we let it touch our hearts, we don’t see God’s instructions of how to live as a trial or burden, but as a liberation and a joy.

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

Rosary

After weekday Mass

Exposition & Confessions

Saturday 10:30am—11:00am

Confessions

Saturday 5:15pm—5:45pm

Music for Sunday

- 209 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
233 King of Glory, King of Peace
208 Blest are the Pure in Heart
Morales *Missa Beata Virgine a 5 (51-193)*
Vaet *Reges terrae*

Sunday Readings

Page 132
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9 R v 9
1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Mark 1:21-28

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Parish Clergy:	Canon Kevin Jordan (kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk) Fr Alex Balzanella (alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk)
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Today 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/>

Crib Offerings will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society (CCS) to support their work with local children and families in need. Please donate at the crib or CCS website: www.cathchild.org.uk/crib. The crib will remain in church until Candlemas (The Presentation of the Lord): 2 February 2024.

Rest in Peace

Barry James Buckley. Requiem Mass at Our Lady's on Friday 2 February at 11:30am, committal at Kensal Green Cemetery.

The Blessing of the Throats, on the feast of St Blaise, will be offered after the 10:00am Mass on Saturday 3 February 2024.

First Holy Communion Programme continues on Saturday 3 February from 12:00pm—1:00pm in the parish hall.

Confirmation Programme continues on Sunday 4 February from 4:00pm—5:30pm in the parish hall.

Day of Recollection for Readers. On 3 February, 2:00pm - 5:30pm in the Lower Hall at Marylebone there will be an afternoon of prayer, reflection, development and support for those undertaking ministries in both St John's Wood and Marylebone parishes. New volunteers are most welcome and refreshments will be provided.

Junior Choir Open Rehearsal on Sunday 4 February at 10:45am for children (aged 5+) who would like to try out singing in the choir. If you are interested in attending, please email our Director, Martina, at martinasmyth@rcdow.org.uk.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London, is holding a Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection on Saturday 10 February from 1:30pm—4:30pm at St George's R.C. Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HY. All welcome. Please call Millie on 07957 594 646 for more information.

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 the parish office at: stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk by **next Sunday, 4 February 2024** advising if you are booking for wheelchair users who require anointing, walking sick who require anointing, or assisting the sick who do not require anointing.

Evangelising post-Christian Britain. Monsignor James Shea, President of the University of Mary (Bismark, North Dakota) co-authored the extraordinary book *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*. In a lively lecture and Q&A on Tuesday 20 February at St James Church, Spanish Place, Marylebone, 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 a Q&A and then refreshments will be available. Tickets £5 at: guild-ransom.co.uk/events

PARISH HALL DIARY

<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	9:30am-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

