

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Fourth Sunday of the Year
1st February 2009



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There are two types of authority. One type goes with the job. Most people do what they are asked when approached by a police officer because they recognise that this person carries a certain authority. This authority demands that people obey it. It's the same type of authority that a teacher might claim over the pupils or students in a school. Or maybe it's your boss at work who demands this authority, and it's better to knuckle under than to lose your job.

The second type of authority is one that is earned. We might agree that a particular politician carries a good deal of authority because of their track record. They've earned the respect. You might choose to send your child to a piano teacher because he or she has a reputation for bringing out the best in those they teach. Footballers may hold their manager in esteem not because he has the power to sack them but because he knows what he's talking about and has won shed-loads of cups and trophies.

From the outset of his gospel St Mark points out that Jesus spoke with authority. The authority he had was the type that he earned because of what he said. He knew what he was talking about, and in today's reading people comment on how what he says and does seems to make sense. Even spirits obey him.

Strangely, the word "authority" in Latin is connected with the word that means to "grow". If a person has true authority then what they teach makes people grow; it improves the situation; it makes things better.

When people heard Jesus preaching they saw that what he taught was not some code of rules and regulations but was a message that improved people's situation. He cured people, set their minds at rest, forgave them, lifted them up, gave them back their self-esteem and set them on the path that leads to happiness. He offered them something that made sense in the here and now and which beckoned them to a future of eternal happiness.

That was the basis of his authority and that's why people who heard his message followed him. And it's the only reason why today we still do.

CELEBRATING ST BAKHITA

The Canossian Lay Associates invite you to celebrate the Feast of St Bakhita at a Mass and social on Saturday 7th February at 3.00pm. The story of this amazing slave-turned-saint will be told and reflected upon before the Mass. Venue: The Convent, 3 Longlands Close EN8 8LW. For details contact The Sisters at 01992 626772.

IN YOUR 30s

There is a group for Catholics in their 30s. We organise a variety of social, spiritual and charitable events in London and the South East as well as weekends away, holidays, pilgrimages and retreats. If you'd like to find out more come along to Penderel's Oak, High Holborn, London (take the side exit from Holborn Tube Station, turn right and Penderel's Oak is about 300 yards along on the right-hand side) on Sunday 8th February from 1.00pm. If you can't find us ring 07977 904479. No need to book – just turn up. Or to receive 'The 30s' programme and get involved email hugh@project2030.fsnet.co.uk text Clare on 07530 926497 or see www.project2030.org.uk.

100+ CLUB PRIZE WINNERS

£35 - No. 137 Joseph Dain-Williams
£25 - No. 77 Una Griffin
£15 - No. 4 Patricia Lehane



There is still time to join before the next draw on Sunday 22nd February.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Confirmation will be celebrated here on Thursday 2nd July. There will be a Meeting for the Candidates who have signed up for the Preparation and for their Parents on Thursday 12th February at 8.00pm in the Church.

3RD WALTHAM CROSS CUBS NEEDS YOU!

Calling all 8-10 year olds, we need you! We do lots of cool stuff like fun and games, we work towards badges and also go camping. It's on a Friday night and runs from 6.15 pm – 7.45 pm, in St, Joseph's Hall. For more information, please call Ian on 07984 401159 or Sarah on 01992 627895.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting for the First Communion Catechists on Thursday 5th February at 7.30pm in the Presbytery. The First Communion Children will meet on Saturday 7th February at 10.00am in Eleanor Hall.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as the Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work'.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 94:1-2.6-9
1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Mark 1:21-28
NEXT WEEKS' READINGS: Job 7:1-4.6-7
Psalm 146:1-6
1 Corinthians 9:16-19.22-23
Mark 1:29-39

Mass Times

SUNDAY	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm
Monday	Presentation of the Lord	10.00am
Tuesday	Lawrence	10.00am
Wednesday		10.00am
Thursday	Agatha	10.00am
Friday	Paul	10.00am
Saturday		6.30pm
SUNDAY	FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation –
Saturday 10.30 - 11.00am & 5.45 – 6.15pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church each Friday morning from 9.15 to 9.45.

Offertory Last Week: £2048.06
plus the regular Standing Orders. Thank You!

SVP

The SVP Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Sacristy.

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary meets in the Sacristy at 10.45 on Tuesday mornings.

RCIA

The RCIA Group will meet on Tuesday evening at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

UKRAINIAN EVENING

The Ukrainian Community would like to invite you to an "Ukrainian Experience" on Saturday 28th February 2009 from 7.30 until late in Eleanor Hall. This is a fund raising event for the St Joseph's Parish Centre. There will be food, singing, a live band – treat yourselves to a different kind of evening! Tickets are £7 for adults and £3 for OAP/Students and are available by calling Anna Boatman on 01992 635105.

ARCHBISHOP'S MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

The Cardinal will be inviting all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 50th and 60th + wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2009, to a thanksgiving Mass. This will be held on Saturday 30th May 2009 at 3.00 pm at Westminster Cathedral. If you qualify, please don't delay in telling the parish clergy. He will need: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email if you have one (or if not, a phone no.). The address is Dept for Pastoral Affairs, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN, email cathmacgillivray@rcdow.org.uk, or phone 020 7931 6064.

FRENCH CLUB

The French Club has now restarted in Eleanor Hall on Wednesday for age 5-7 and Thursday Age 8-11 both from 3.45-4.45pm. Encourage your children's language skills in a fun way through songs, games and the interactive website. Please contact Pauline on 07983 045050.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

To become one of the Altar Servers in the Parish, you must have received your First Communion, and be attending Mass here. If you celebrated your First Communion last year or have recently moved into the Parish, and would like to join the Altar Servers, please see Fr John.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

A Baptism Preparation Course will begin today at 2.30pm at the Convent in Longlands Close. If you wish your child to be baptised in the near future, please contact Father John.

BAPTISM THIS WEEK

Sunday 1st February at 1.30 Jake and Lana Moran

WEDDING THIS WEEK

Saturday 7th February at 1.00pm Steven Bennett & Kathleen Corrigan

FUNDRAISING GROUP

There will be a meeting for the Fundraising Group on Tuesday 3rd February at 8.00pm.

FAIRTRADE FAIR

Fairtrade Fair at Holy Apostles Church, 47 Cumberland St. Pimlico, SW1. Admission is free. Saturday 28th February at 7.00pm, come and join in the diocesan celebration World music, international talent, stalls, wine, food tasting, and more.