



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 9th August 2020

DIN

Sunday Reflection – “The faith that keeps us afloat during the storm” – We all have had a sense of being overwhelmed by events. We feel out of control and tossed about as if caught in a storm at sea. We can sympathise with Peter and the disciples in the incident related to today’s Gospel. It probably relates to an actual experience the disciples had on the Sea of Galilee, where the winds can blow up suddenly and the water becomes very choppy. Grippled by fear they turn to Jesus and ask him to rescue them from that “sinking feeling”. As so often in the past they hear again those beautiful words of Jesus, “Courage, it is I. Do not be afraid”. He calms their fears and he calms the storm. Matthew relates this episode in his Gospel and sees a symbolic value in it for the early Church. The Church of Matthew’s time was experiencing persecution and opposition. Jesus seems distant from them. Now, however, during the storm the presence and power of Jesus is manifested to them. In their moment of weakness, they experience the strength of God in Jesus. They acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God. The story of Elijah in the first reading throws light on this and even emphasises the change that happens when God is encountered. Elijah the great prophet is fleeing for his life because he is threatened by the forces of Queen Jezebel.

Poor Elijah takes refuge in a cave; he wants to die; he is depressed and alone. Then he has this extraordinary encounter with God, whom he encounters not in the Wind, the Earthquake, or the Fire, but in the “gentle breeze”. He feels renewed, revived, and assured of God’s presence in his life. Both Elijah and Peter, overcome their own doubts and fears, encounter God supporting them in moments of danger. They discover that faith in God can uphold them and keep them afloat even when battling against a severe storm. It is not so much that “we keep the faith”, but that “the faith keeps us”!

Holy Day of Obligation – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on Sunday 16th August and is a Holy Day. All Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass on this important Feast of Our Lady.

Masses – Welcome back to our Holy Mass. Due to the continued possibility of infection various precautions are in place. These are aimed at ensuring maximum safety and peace of mind among those who worship and pray at our Servite Church. We ask that you sanitise your hands on entering and leaving the Church and that you complete a slip for tracing purposes. Please leave this slip on your seat when leaving and if you change seats you will need to fill out 2 slips. Where you sit needs to be sanitised. Also, please do not move kneelers, leave them up (it will be less to clean).

St Peregrine Mass – Will be on Wednesday 26th August at 6.30pm. If you could give some time to volunteer at this Mass and others, we would be grateful. We now need volunteers to hold Mass due to the extra precautions needed to keep everyone safe.

Servite Parish Manila – Every day of the week our Servite Parish in Manila, Philippines are distributing food to those in great need. There is an offertory box in the Colonnade if you would like to donate. Their need is Great!

Vigil Mass: Sat 6.30pm
Sunday 9.30am
11.30am
Mon, Wed & Fri 10am

Sacrament of Confession

By Appointment

If you would like Confession, please email, or call the Parish Office.

Parish Office Opening Hrs

Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm

Saints Days

Mon 10th - St Lawrence

Tue 11th - St Clare

Wed 12th - St Jane Frances de
Chantal

Thu 13th - Ss Pontian &
Hippolytus

Fri 14th - St Maximillian Mary
Kolbe

First Holy Communion & Confirmation Programme 2019/2020 – Re the completion of these programmes, once it has been decided how/when to complete them, Candidates and Families will be contacted.

Safeguarding

Representatives – We Welcome Dorota Trawinska & Alexia Carter who are our Safeguarding Representatives. For Safeguarding concerns, please contact them in confidence on their contact details which is on our website and in the Colonnade.