

Vigil Mass: Sat 6.30pm Sunday 9.30am

11.00am

Spanish Mass 12.30pm Mon to Fri 10am (Daily)

#### 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 (Lunch 1.30pm - 2.30pm)

### **Holy Hour**

Will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month after the 10am Mass. The hour will include Rosary, Litany of Our Lady, Divine Mercy and Benediction

### Saints Days

Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> - The Presentation
Of the Lord
Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ss Laurence,
Dunstan, Theodore
& Bl. Joachim of Siena
Fri 5<sup>th</sup> - St Agatha
Sat 6<sup>th</sup> - St Paul Miki



In Memoriam of Donal M. Cahill OSM who died and was buried recently. May he rest in Peace.

# OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Sunday Reflection: - "... he taught them with authority" In the past few years we have seen a number of regimes fall. Some, like Syria, continue to be in crisis. These regimes had lots of 'power' but lacked 'authority'. The power was used to coerce, to control and frighten people into submission. They did not act out of the 'authority' conferred on them by their people. All despots and dictators have lots of 'power' but seldom have 'authority'. History testifies to the fact that reckless power can be so destructive, creating endless suffering for so many people. This is a power that bullies and manipulates. What a contrast genuine 'authority' provides? We think of people like Ghandi, Martin Luther King, and Archbishop Romero. They all opposed very powerful systems with non-violent means. They confronted wrongdoing with the words of truth. All were assassinated, but their authority was not diminished. "We shall overcome some day", note, not with force, but with moral authority. In today's Gospel we meet Jesus at the beginning of his public ministry. We are told: "And his teaching made a deep impression on them because unlike the Scribes, he taught them with authority". Jesus was invested with the power of the Holy Spirit at his baptism and a voice from heaven proclaimed, "This is my Beloved Son, listen to him". In other words, Jesus was authorized and empowered by God the Father. His authority emerges from this deep loving relationship with His Father. In the incident before us today we have the authority and power of God in Jesus confronting the power of darkness in the man possessed, someone not in control of his own life. Jesus' life-giving words command the evil spirit to leave this man, and the man is liberated and set free. The people who witnessed this deed are astonished. They applaud Jesus because there is no discrepancy between words and actions. His words have the power to change peoples' lives for the better. This will change later as they question his authority, withdrew their support and applause. Jesus finds himself having to face the rejection endured by so many prophets before him. But Jesus continues to act out of his God-given 'power' and 'authority' to unbind, liberate and heal people. He relies only on the Father's approval. Good words are credible when preceded by or accompanied by good deeds.

**Stations of the Cross** - Can be privately prayed and celebrated in the Church during Lent when it is open.

**Public Masses** – The public celebration of Holy Mass continues in our Church through the current Tier 5 restrictions. Owing to the continued possibility of infection during the Coronavirus epidemic, various precautions are still in place. These are aimed at ensuring maximum safety and peace of mind among those who worship and pray at our Servite Church. You must wear a face covering and we ask that you sanitise your hands on entering and leaving the Church and that you complete a slip; this is for tracing purposes which is required. If needed, our Stewards will guide you.