



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 18th October 2020

Sunday Reflection: “Duties to God and duties to the State” – The question. “Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not”, Is put to Jesus in order to trap him. It is a test question. The Pharisees oppose paying taxes to the Roman Authority and the Herodians favour collaboration with the Romans. However, they are united in their desire to eliminate Jesus from the scene. Jesus is in a “no win” situation. If he says “yes” he will be seen as a traitor to the Jewish cause. If he says “no” he would be seen as fomenting rebellion against Rome and siding with the Zealots. Jesus displays his wisdom in reply – “Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God”. He recognizes the State has a role and responsibility towards its citizens in enforcing law and order, and in providing public services. The state can demand the allegiance of its citizens for the sake of the common good. However, its power is limited and is subject to a higher power. It cannot supplant the authority of God. The conflict between duties to state and God is as old as religion. Perhaps a really good solution was found by our local Chelsea hero, St. Thomas More. As he was being put to death by Henry VIII, he spoke these memorable words; “I die the Kings Good Servant but God’s first”. Thomas More recognized that the state had no hold over the inner core where he makes his moral decisions i.e. conscience. This is what belongs to God as well as “my worship and total obedience”. First and total loyalty is always to God. A good citizen always recognises responsibility to the State, but also duty and loyalty to God. Caesar’s relative power is always subservient to the ultimate power of God – *Thanks be to God*.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) – registration is now open. A course for adults who have not been baptised and would like to be, as well as for Christians of other denominations who would like to be received into the Roman Catholic Church, and Roman Catholics who have not been confirmed. Please email the Parish Office for a registration form.

Blessed Carlo Acutis

Carlo was beatified by Pope Francis on Saturday 10th October in Assisi. “Born in London on 3rd May 1991 and baptised 18th May 1991 by Fr. Nicholas Martin OSM at Our Lady of Dolours Servite Church, Fulham Road. After making his First Holy Communion at 7yrs, he made the decision to attend Mass and pray the Rosary daily. By the age of 11 he became a catechist. Carlo learnt about the sites of Eucharistic miracles around the world and expressed a keen desire to go on pilgrimage to see them, but he developed leukaemia. To help others learn to grow in devotion to the Eucharist, he used his digital media skills to develop a website to catalogue each of these miracles. Carlo died in 2006 aged 15yrs. His cause was opened in 2013 and he was declared a Servant of God. On 5th July 2018, Pope Francis declared him to be venerable. In February this year, the Pope approved a miracle attributed to him.”

Vigil Mass: Sat 6.30pm
Sunday 9.30am
11.30am

Spanish Mass 12.30pm

Mon, Wed & Fri 10am

Please note our Church is only open at Mass Times.

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 19th – Ss John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues & St Paul of the Cross

Thurs 22nd – St John Paul II

Fri 23rd – St John of Capistrano

Sat 24th – St Anthony Mary Claret



First Holy Communion: The 2nd Groups of our First Holy Communion programme was celebrated this weekend on Saturday 17th October.

CAFOD Family Fast Day –

As this was not taken last week it is on this weekend. A retiring collection will be held at the end of each Mass. You can leave your donation in the box provided at the back of the Church. Thank you!