



## OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent (Year B) 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**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)

### Saints Days

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> – St John of God

Tue 9<sup>th</sup> – St Frances of Rome

### Stations of the Cross: .....

Will be said every Friday (during Lent) after the 10am Mass.

### Novena of St. Joseph

From the 11<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March, we will have a special Novena of Prayer in honour of St. Joseph at 9.45am each morning before 10am Mass, except on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March when the Novena will be at 10.45am. We invite those who can, to share in this beautiful Novena of Prayer to honour St. Joseph and to invite Him to enrich our Journey of Faith.

**Sunday Reflection:** “Destroy this Sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up” – For the coming Sundays we move to St John’s Gospel, written some 30 years after St Mark’s Gospel and during a time of persecution of Jesus’ disciples. It intends to give them encouragement. The cleansing of the Temple episode presents an unfamiliar image of Jesus. We must remember that Jesus was not only gentle, but also strong and assertive. In this scene he displays a constructive aggression in confronting the abuses which had crept into the temple worship system and devalued it. With powerful prophetic action he calls the people back to an authentic sacrificial way of life based on justice, mercy & truth, all born of love. He was now on a collision course with the Temple authorities who were determined to eliminate him. Fired with passionate zeal for God’s house he overturned tables, made a whip, drove out animals and traders, saying, “...Stop turning my Father’s house into a market”. He certainly ‘disturbed the peace’. In his view the whole system needed reclaiming for God and would eventually be replaced by a new sanctuary, a new place of encounter between God and his people, which was to become “The Risen Christ”. His righteous indignation was put at the service of God’s kingdom. Jesus was not a revolutionary supporting annihilation for the sake of the cause. His controlled aggression displaced some traders and cattle but there were no dead bodies. Through the event, his disciples were being exhorted to stand firm and take courage from the example of Jesus. Sometimes, disturbing an insipid peace is the only option open to a loving and truth-seeking Christian. During Lent we can all cleanse the temples of our hearts.

**Receiving the Covid-19 Vaccine** – In a message of encouragement to all, Cardinal Vincent said: ‘First dose of the Covid-19 vaccine yesterday! Such a kind and cheerful experience. I strongly encourage everyone to take the vaccine. Let us play our part and support NHS staff as they fight to save so many lives. Please, please continue to pray too for an end to this pandemic, and pray for all who have lost their lives.’ Adding his voice to the call for greater take-up of the vaccine, Fr Albert Ofere, a Nigerian Priest, Parish Priest of English Martyrs, Wembley Park, shares his experience of his recovery from COVID-19 and his subsequent vaccination. In a video message, he urges everyone to listen to the facts and speak to their GP to make an informed decision about the Covid vaccine!

**Year of St Joseph 2021** – Pope Francis has declared a year dedicated to St. Joseph, from 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (“Patris Corde – with a Father’s Love – Pope Francis). This is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. On 10<sup>th</sup> December 1898, Cardinal Vaughan added St. Joseph as a Patron of our Diocese, noting “the Church itself is an expansion of the Holy Family”; In honour of St. Joseph we, together with many parishes, will celebrate a Special Novena of Prayer, “A Journey with St. Joseph”