

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 27th December 2020

Sunday Reflection: “Consider for a moment all the time and energy that was given to wrapping gifts this Christmas... The shiny boxes, the bags communicating Christmas cheer, the imprinted brand names... A question for you? Where are they now? Please don’t misinterpret my enquiry. I am not belittling the loving care and attention that goes into preparing a gift or marketing any product. Such enterprises draw on many admirable abilities and qualities. In fact, part of me feels that God occasionally engages in a similar enterprise through the Sunday readings. Take for example, our readings for today, the Feast of the Holy Family. The primary purpose of today’s feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for all Christian families. This has been a key consideration in the choosing of today’s Gospel – the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple. So here we are, just two days on from Christmas Day, being invited to ponder Mary and Joseph’s experience of honouring the Jewish religious purification custom of their time. Having pondered the story, I must confess to being filled with optimism and hope by one aspect of this great story. Have you noticed who God invites to speak with Mary and Joseph? The president of the temple, the High Priest, some other ‘important’ dignitary? Not on this occasion. He invites his elderly friends Simeon and Anna to bless them and to utter his prophetic word. Now don’t forget this is a gospel being fulfilled in our hearing! By virtue of our baptism, we too have our place in God’s family and are counted among his friends. Among us this evening/morning are the Simeons and Annas of our Parish, friends of God called to the ministry of blessing, prophecy, and encouragement. A special thank you to all of you, on this, your feast day too! And simultaneously we have in our communities those who have been entrusted with the care of new babies, which on the day of their baptisms are identified as ‘other Christs’. A related question: Are we open to receiving God’s word from one another? This life of ours is a pilgrim life, meant to be taken together. This evening/morning let us ask God to help us to bless one another along the way, for that too is an important expression of family life”. (Justin Harkin, Pastoral Development Office, Diocese of Elphin).

New Year Day – the 1st of January 2021 is a Friday. It is The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. On the first day of the New Year, the Church presents us with the Image of Mary as “the model of faith” for us all. “As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart”. In this New Year, let us resolve to follow the example of Mary. Mass will be at 10am.

Happy New Year – We wish all parishioners and all who attend Mass in our Church a very Happy and Blessed New Year. 1st January is the World Day of Peace so, we pray for peace for those parts of our World ravaged by war and violence, we pray for peace in our homes and in our hearts. We wish you all a peaceful New Year. Traditionally we attempt New Year resolutions today. Traditionally we attempt New Year resolutions today. Let us try to do and change what is possible and what is for the better, so let us resolve to be faithful and having some prayer-time each day.

Vigil Mass: Sat 6.30pm
Sunday 9.30am
11.00am
Spanish Mass 12.30pm
Mon to Fri 10am

Sacrament of Confession

By Appointment

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

Parish Office Hrs

During the holiday period, please keep calls to a minimum. Staff will be reduced, so try to be sensitive to the Circumstances

Saints Days

Mon 28th – The Holy Innocents

Tue 29th – St Thomas Becket

Fri 1st – Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Sat 2nd – Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

St Peregrine Mass: Will be held on Wednesday 30th December at 10am.

Confirmation – Details of the Celebration of Programme 2019/2020 will be announced in the New Year!

First Holy Communion: Dates of registration for our next programme will be announced in the New Year!