



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 23rd August 2020

DIN

Sunday Reflection: Much of our life today is ruled by opinion polls. The media certainly rely on them, as do the Political parties. In today's Gospel we have an early example of an opinion poll and it was Jesus himself who conducted it. "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" "What are the various opinions doing the rounds about me?" As in all polls a variety of views emerge, some say "this" and some say "that". Jesus then asks the telling question: "But you", he said "Who do you say I am?" This is the challenging personal question that requires a personal answer. Here, we can't rely on others' opinions; we have to make our own response. Disciples have to make a decision. Simon replies with a solemn confession of faith: "You are the Christ." He said, "the Son of the Living God". Jesus responds to Simon's inspired profession: "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church". St Matthew tells us that Peter is chosen by God to receive the inspired enlightenment about Jesus – not flesh and blood, but the Father in heaven is the source of this revelation. The Father has chosen Peter, so Jesus elects to build his Church on the bedrock for Peter's profession of faith. All true disciples of Christ will have to identify with Peter's Confession. This is the faith. All who identify belong together. Peter is endowed with the authority, symbolized by the "keys of the Kingdom" "to bind" and "to loose", "to open" and "to close". Peter is charged with the responsibility of keeping the disciples together, "united", at one. Given the divisions in Christianity today, and the many problems in the church, we still need the Petrine office and the Petrine figure to hold the Church as one. The memory of Peter in the early Church not only recalled his great Confession, but also his denial. Yet, forgiven, he recovered to become "The Rock". He was human and frail, yet divinely inspired. We too look to our Petrine figure, Pope Francis to be the great unifier, the one who holds us together so that we can be faithful to Jesus' mission to spread the Gospel in our world.

St Philip Benizi OSM – Was born in Florence in the early 13th century. He became a Servite Friar. In 1267 he was elected Prior General. A remarkable Friar, he attracted many to join the Order because of his holiness of life, his following of Gospel values and his service of Mary. He gave strong leadership to the Order and Church of his day. He was canonized in 1671. 23rd August is St Philip Benizi OSM's Feast Day.

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.

Masses – Precautions are in place and 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).

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 24th - St Bartholomew

Tue 25th - St Louis &
St Joseph Calasanz

Wed 26th - Blessed Dominic of
the Mother of God

Thu 27th - St Monica

Fri 28th - St Augustine

Sat 29th - The Passion of
St John the Baptist

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.