



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B) 2nd May 2021

Sunday Reflection: *"I am the vine, you are the branches!"* – In today's gospel we find the beautiful image Jesus used to describe the community he built around himself. When we recall the context in which these words were spoken, they assume a greater and more profound significance. These words were spoken by Jesus a short time before his death, maybe on the way to Gethsemane. He probably paused to look at a vine with its fruitful branches and then spoke those immortal words. It was a time when everything was falling apart and breaking up. His disciples were paralyzed by fear, they would deny, abandon, and betray him. Yet Jesus chose to speak about unity and togetherness. In Spring the vine is covered in leaves and blossoms and in Autumn it is loaded with grapes. All of this happens because the vine and branches are connected. The vine needs the branches to produce and display its fruitfulness, and the branches need the vine to supply sap, energy, and growth. This is a powerful image of unity, closeness, intimacy and interdependence. This is how Jesus sees his relationship with his Church. Jesus and the Church are united in an unbreakable bond of communion of life and love that guarantees fruitfulness. Christ needs disciples and we need Christ, and we need each other. The spirit that courses through the disciples come from the Risen Christ, giving life and inspiration to each and all. There is no such thing as a solitary Christian. United together drawing life from Jesus Christ, we can produce the fruits of love in the world. Our first reading today provides us with a wonderful illustration of this imagery. The conversion of Paul was a mind-blowing experience for Paul and the people of Jerusalem. Given Paul's track record of hunting down Christians, imprisoning them and sentencing some to death, it is little wonder that the disciples were suspicious and afraid of Paul. The most feared persecutor is now the most fearless preacher of the faith! This is explained only by Paul's personal encounter with the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" This encounter turned Paul's life upside down and inside out.

Early May Bank Holiday – Tomorrow 3rd May 2021

Feast of St. Peregrine – We transfer the Liturgy and Feast of St. Peregrine to Wednesday 5th May. Mass will be at 10am and 6.30pm on that day.

Confirmation 2019/2020 – Celebration will be held on Saturday 26th June at 10am. Those who were already on the course which got interrupted by Covid will be completed with a Celebration on Saturday 26th. Two Meetings will be held in preparation in the Church on Sunday 23rd May and Sunday 20th June at 4pm. Candidates please attend these sessions.

May Devotion at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden - Will take place on Sunday 9th May at 3.30pm at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden. Please visit parish.rcdow.org.uk/Willesden

Requiem Mass & Funeral – Of Lotti Henley is on Tuesday 4th May at 11.30am. Lotti was an active and faithful Parishioner for many years. May she now share in the New Life of the Risen Christ.

Vigil Mass: Sat 6.30pm
Sunday 9.30am
11.00am
Spanish Mass 12.30pm
Mon to Sat 10am
Wed 6.30pm
Sacrament of Confession

If you would like Confession, please see a Priest/Email/Call the Parish Office.

Parish Office Opening Hrs

Tue – Fri 9am to 5pm
(Lunch 1.30pm – 2.30pm)

Holy Hour

On the 1st Friday of every month after the 10am Mass.

Saints Days

Mon 3rd – SS Philip & James
Tue 4th – The English Martyrs
Wed 5th St. Peregrine of Flori
Sat 8th – The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Mediatrix of Grace

New Financial Year :

Parishioners who are members of our planned giving scheme, your new box of Envelopes are ready to be collected from the Parish Office.

Christian Aid Week :

10 - 16 May – "This climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day."
Envelopes will be available in Church for donations.