

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Year A)

22nd December 2019

Mass Times

Christmas Cards with all Service times over the Christmas season are in the Colonnade. Please take one.

Sacrament of Confession

Saturday 10.45 – 11.15am
6.00 – 6.30pm

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

After 10am Weekday Mass

Rosary: Wednesdays 10.30am, followed by Tea/Coffee in the Founders Room.

Legion of Mary – Every Tuesday at 7pm in the Library. New members are welcome!

Charismatic Prayer Group:

Will not meet over Christmas from 19th Dec. Will resume 9th Jan at 11am.

Saints Days

Mon 23rd – St John of Kanty
Tue 25th – The Nativity of the Lord
Thu 26th – St Stephen
Fri 27th – St John
Sat 28th – The Holy Innocents

St Peregrine Mass Dec: Will be on Tuesday 31st December at the 10am Mass.

Eucharistic Ministers - If you are here for Christmas, it is important you put your name on the sheet in the Colonnade so the Christmas Duties can be done. It seems we are very short so if anybody is attending more than one Mass please put your name down."

Sunday Reflection – 'Fear' features strongly in our Liturgy today. It is a very natural human experience, probably felt by all of us at some time. Isaiah takes us back to the late 8th century B.C. King Ahaz was afraid of an invasion from his Northern neighbours, so paralysed by fear, he hurries into a political alliance with Assyria, which proves to be disastrous for the nation. He was unable to listen to God speaking to him in the prophesy of Isaiah about the coming of a special child, who will be called Emmanuel, which means "God-is-with-us". We move to the Gospel and meet Mary, who at the Annunciation was also 'afraid' because she couldn't understand how virginity and motherhood were compatible. But Mary prayed and listened to the voice of God saying to her "Mary, do not be afraid". We also met Joseph, who was also afraid on hearing that Mary, his betroth, "was with child". He feared she may be stoned to death, so he decided to divorce her informally. But he also prays, and God speaks to this clean-hearted man, who said "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife..." because 'the child she carries is the fruit of the Holy Spirit'. Joseph didn't rush into a course of action. He prayed, listened to God and waited for guidance and enlightenment. Confidently, Joseph "took his wife to his home". Prayerfully listening to God, he changes his decisions and adjusts his life to the Will of God. Matthew sees Jesus as the ultimate fulfilment of the great prophesy. In taking responsibility for Mary and her child, Joseph in naming the child becomes the legal father, so through Joseph, Jesus can be called 'son of David'. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is the unique 'Son of God'. In God's world, virginity and motherhood can go together. We all can learn from this encounter when overcome by crises and fear, we can turn to God in quiet prayer, and listen calmly for the Holy Spirit to guide us into fruitful action. Mary and Joseph listened and were ready to do what God asked of them. Are you? "Come, Lord Jesus".

Christmas Services

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

Mass 10am

Carols 11.30pm followed by Midnight Mass of the Nativity

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

Masses: Midnight Mass of the Nativity

8.30am, 10am (Family mass), 11.15am (Spanish) & 12.15pm

There is No 7pm Mass on Christmas Day

Thursday 26th December (Boxing Day) St. Stephen's Day

Mass: 10am Only

Novena Mass for Christmas/Simbang Gabi – On Monday 23rd Dec at 6pm & food will be served in the School Hall.

Christmas Offerings – The offerings at Christmas go to supporting the Servite Friars' Community who minister here at Fulham Road. As always, we are grateful for your support. Envelopes are available in the Colonnade.

Confirmation 2019/2020 – Please collect a Confirmation Enrolment Form from the Colonnade. See requirements on the form.

Parish Office Hours – Over the Christmas period, the Parish Office will run at reduced hours, and will be closed in the afternoons.

Happy and Holy Christmas to you, all our Readers and every Blessing for the New Year 2020 from the Servite Community OSM and the Parish Team & Staff!