



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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Palm/Passion Sunday (Year A) 9th April 2017

Sunday Reflection: – Today we begin the most solemn week in the Church's Year. On Palm Sunday we open the Liturgy of Holy Week with the Procession of Palms. We recall and relive the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The day and the week begin in adulation and joy, the waving of palms and a jubilant crowd singing Hosannas to the "Son of David". The crowds assemble for the feast of the Passover – that great feast of liberation and freedom. The atmosphere is electric. Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph. Here we have the Northern prophet coming to challenge the Southern authorities. The excitement doesn't last long. The mood changes as our Procession enters the Church. We get to the Gospel of the Mass and we read the Passion story. The previously acclaimed Jesus is now judged, condemned, betrayed, denied and eventually crucified on a Cross. The response of the human crowd will always be fickle and unreliable. This week is "Holy" because we relive the drama of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. This is the drama of the mystery of our Salvation. Divine Love confronts human sinfulness in the events of the death and resurrection of Jesus and triumphs over it. We allow these events to unfold before us and through our liturgies we enter into them and experience their saving power. That is why we as Christians are a people who Remember. We keep the memory of the Passion sacred"! "Whenever you do this, do it in memory of me". When a community of faith gathers to remember suffering and death the memory becomes a protest against violence, hatred and murder. The Cross was invented by a world opposed to Jesus and the values of his kingdom of love and forgiveness. It also reminds us of the Crosses all around us. We say there must be no more innocent victims. The Cross too is the guarantee that we are loved by a passionate God. It is the sign of the lengths love goes to because of its passion for others. The Cross is the sign of our true worth. The death of Jesus is the supreme act of self-giving love. In spite of our sins we are worth saving, and God loves us. This Passion story is our story, so don't miss it. Be there from start to finish'. *See you next Sunday.*

Chrism Mass (Tues 11th April): The Mass will be celebrated at Westminster Cathedral at 12 Noon. All Welcome!

Holy Thursday – The Sacred triduum begins. We remember Christ's self-giving in the Eucharist and the handing on of His priesthood to his disciples. His new commandment of loving service to one another symbolized in "the Washing of the Feet". What a rich Liturgy we will have beginning at 8pm! Adoration until Midnight.

Good Friday: A day of the Way of the Cross. Stations at 12 o'clock. The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion will take us to the Cross of Christ. The love revealed is stronger than human sin and death. **This is at 3pm.** At 8pm we pause with Mary in her "Desolata at the Foot of the Cross".

Holy Saturday – The story of Holy Week reaches its climax in the Resurrection of Jesus. The joy of New Life is celebrated with the Easter Vigil at 9pm and continued on Easter Day. You just can't miss any part of this story! Easter Sunday Masses: 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am, 12.15pm. Please note No 7pm Mass.

Easter Duties – Do you remember these words? It simply means that Catholics who are full members of the Church are asked and indeed encouraged to receive the Eucharist during the Easter Season, and where it is necessary to prepare ourselves for Holy Communion with the Lord with the help of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance), (Canon 989).

Easter Card – A Special Easter Card is available today with all the times of Our Holy Week & Easter Services on it. Please ensure you take one for each household.

Easter Offerings – Please take an envelope today and return it next Sunday 16th April with your offering. This supports the Servite Friars who minister in the Parish!

Gift Aid & Planned Giving – Weekly Offertory Envelopes available for collection. New Year begins 9th April 2017. Gift Aid Envelopes are only for use of Parishioners who are Income Tax Payers.

Parish Office Opening Hrs

Mon – Thur 9am to 5pm

(Lunch Hour 1.30pm – 2.30pm)

Mass Times

Vigil Mass: Sat 6.30 pm

Sunday 8.30 am

9.30 am (Procession)

(Spanish) 11.15 am

12.15 pm

7 pm

Mon – Thur + Sat 10 am

6.30pm

Sacrament of Confession

Mon - Thurs 6.15 – 6.30 pm

Saturday 10.45 – 11.15 am

6.00 – 6.30 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mon – Thur 10.30 am – 11.15 am

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!

Lectio Divina – Every Saturday at 11am in the Founders' Room. Tea served!

Charismatic Prayer Group – Every Thursday 11am in the Founders' Room.

Saints Days

Tues 11th – Chrism Mass in the Cathedral

Thur 13th – Maundy Thursday

Fri 14th – Good Friday

Sat 15th – Holy Saturday

Altar Servers: There will be a form on a table in the Colonnade; Please put your name on it if you are free to serve over the Easter Services!

Eucharistic Ministers: Could all Ministers available for the Easter Services, Please add their names on the list which be displayed on a table in the Colonnade showing which Mass/Services they can cover!

Toddler Group: Will be back on Tuesday 25th April @ 9.30am.