



## OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

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**Sunday Reflection** - Today's Gospel continues Jesus' teaching on developing the Moral Law. In this piece he goes further than anyone expected when he teaches "Love your enemies". This is the most revolutionary teaching ever proclaimed. Most find it hard enough to love those who annoy them, but to ask them "to love their enemies" seems to be pushing the human spirit to its very limits. The ancient law of retaliation fixed the boundaries of vengeance, the "lex talionis" - "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" As the injury inflicted, so the injury suffered (Lev 24: 19ff) This attempts to limit blood feuds between tribes and communities, setting a limit to retaliation, an attempt "to make punishment fit the crime". In asking "to love your enemies" Jesus is challenging us to go beyond the merely human. He knows we cannot do this all on our own, so he appeals to our higher nature and dignity and reminds us that we are "children of God". Because you are God's children, love as God loves. Our God loves all his people, good and bad alike, deserving and underserving alike. He lets the sunshine on the good and bad, and his rain fall on the honest and dishonest alike. So, Jesus exhorts his disciples to love with the 'graciousness' of God, their Father. Disciples should not take their cue for behavior from the anger and hostility of others, but their cue for action is to be taken from the nature of discipleship. Love is the way into the kingdom. Love is the way of Jesus. No one is excluded from Christian love, not even those who persecute the disciple. Love is always offered because that is what a disciple of Jesus should do: "*Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect*".

**St. Peregrine Mass** - In February will be on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm. The change is due to the last Wednesday of the Month is Ash Wednesday.

**Lent is with us Again** - Traditionally in the Church it is a time of prayer, fasting, penance and almsgiving. Immediately we see it is a time for thinking about God, oneself, and other people. The Lenten period opens with the Ash Wednesday Liturgy. At Mass on that day, people's foreheads are marked with ashes in the outline of the cross, a symbol with a profound truth. It heralds six weeks of honesty with ourselves. "Remember, man/woman". It is not just a time of self-conquest, but a time of conversion, when we try to better our lives. Doing some form of penance enables us to defend our inner freedom against all that curtails the Christ-life within us. We die to self so that Christ may really live in us. Each one has to discover the best way for this to happen in his or her life.

**Way of the Cross** - Will be held in the Church every Friday during Lent at 7pm.

**Coronavirus** - We have been advised not to minister the chalice in the present climate and to encourage the receiving of Holy Communion in the 'Hand' rather than 'on the Tongue'. Please consume the Host before leaving the Minister. Retaining our reverence for the Sacrament let us help and support one another in Receiving the Holy Sacrament.

**St. Patrick's Parish Celebrations** - Is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Small Hall. It promises as ever to be an enjoyable Parish night, so come along for the company, food, dance, raffle & Fun. Tickets are £5.

**Vigil Mass:** Sat 6.30pm  
Sunday 8.30am  
10am  
(Spanish) 11.15am  
12.15pm  
7pm  
Mon - Sat 10am + 6.30pm

#### Sacrament of Confession

Mon - Fri 6.15 - 6.30pm  
Saturday 10.45 - 11.15am  
6.00 - 6.30pm

#### Parish Office Opening Hrs

Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm  
(Lunch 1.30pm - 2.30pm)

#### Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

After 10am Weekday Masses

**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!

#### Contemplative Prayer Group:

Will meet on Monday  
evenings from 2<sup>nd</sup> March at  
7.15pm in the Servite Chapel.  
This will be instead of the  
Thursday morning .....  
Charismatic Group.

#### Saints Days

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday:  
A day of Fast & Abstinence