



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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Third Sunday of Lent

(Year A)

19th March 2017

Sunday Reflection: – How are you getting on with your Lenten promises? It is now about half-way on the journey! This is the springtime of the Church's year. It is a time for renewal and re-birth. If new life is to emerge we must prepare the ground by doing some spiritual weeding and removing the obstacles to growth. The seeds of new life will need refreshing water to nourish and sustain the emerging life. So the focus this Sunday is on "thirst" and "water". We hear about the Israelites going through the desert, desperate for water and complaining about their plight. God provided water for their needs through the agency of Moses. In the Gospel we see Jesus as the new Moses, giving the people something infinitely better – "living water". In his touching encounter with the Samaritan woman, Jesus recognizes the thirst for genuine love in every human heart. We all thirst for something that will satisfy our deepest longings, but being so desperate we sometimes search in the wrong places. In his dialogue with the Samaritan woman, Jesus says, "If you only knew the gift of God"! God alone can satisfy the thirst in the human heart. He offers us the gift of 'living water' in the person of Jesus Christ, and from Jesus we draw the water of the Spirit. As Jesus said to the woman- "but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again". The "Spring of Living Water" promised by Jesus is the Holy Spirit, the very life of God.

Lenten Alms: This is a traditional fund in our Churches every Lent. This Year our Cardinal Archbishop wants to combine it with the Cardinal's Appeal 2017: "As you know, Lent is one of the most important seasons of the Church year and a time characterized by the traditional practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Each of these is intended as a help in our desire to open our lives more radically to God and to seek the renewal of God's life within us, especially through repentance and renewal, experienced sacramentally in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each year I have followed the tradition of naming a number of causes to which Lenten Alms will be applied. Over the last few years this has been for the work of Caritas in the Diocese. This year I seek to give the Lenten Alms Appeal the same aims as the Cardinal's Appeal. This Appeal seeks to provide funding for programmes and projects, in the Diocese, in: Youth and Evangelisation, Marriage and Family Life, Service in Society, especially among those on the margins". Funds donated to the Cardinal's Appeal are consolidated and then made available in grants for innovative and effective programmes within the Diocese.

Easter Talk – To help us all prepare well for Holy week and Easter, our Christian Formation Committee has organized some sound teaching in the form of a talk on "The Spiritual Significance of Holy Week and Easter", on Monday 27th March in the Founders Room at 7.30pm. This will be given by Sister Gemma Simmons CJ, Senior Lecturer in Pastoral, Social Studies & Theology at Heythrop College, University of London. She is an international lecturer and speaker in Catholic education and Spirituality. It promises to be an excellent presentation and is open to all parishioners to attend. Do come along and be enlightened on the meaning of this most important week in the Liturgical Year. Do come and have a Happy Easter!

Caring for the Sick – Please remember to pray for our Brothers and Sisters who are sick. If you or a Family member is admitted to hospital then contact your Parish Priest to make arrangements to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, or on admittance, ask to see the Roman Catholic Chaplain at the hospital to arrange for the Sacrament to be administered to the sick person. This Sacrament offers Christ's healing to the sick in their time of need and support. On admittance please notify the Chaplain. There is a leaflet in the Colonnade which guides you on being a Catholic in hospital.

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

St Joseph, Patron of the Diocese – Transferred to Monday 20th March 2017

Parish Office Opening Hrs

Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm

(Lunch Hour 1.30pm – 2.30pm)

Mass Times

Vigil Mass: Sat 6.30 pm

Sunday 8.30 am

10 am

(Spanish) 11.15 am

12.15 pm

7 pm

Mon - Sat 10 am

6.30pm

Sacrament of Confession

Mon - Fri 6.15 – 6.30 pm

Saturday 10.45 – 11.15 am

6.00 – 6.30 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mon – Fri 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

Mon 20th – St Joseph

Thur 23rd – St Turibius of Mogrovejo

Sat 25th – The Annunciation of the Lord

Total Offertory collection last Sunday was £1,914 and the Second collection for "CAFOD" was £1,428. Thank you for your support & generosity.

Ministers of the Word: Microphone training, Please attend 11am/12noon on 25th Mar or 8th Apr.

Recently Baptised:

Leonardo Rivera-Miani

Lately Dead:

Anthony O'Neill Rip