



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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4th Sunday of Easter

(Year C)

17th April 2016

Sunday Reflection: – Today is “Good Shepherd” Sunday also called “Vocations Sunday”

Jesus uses the image of the Good Shepherd to describe his life and his relationship with his disciples. This may surprise us. In the old Western films there were two categories of people, ‘the explorers’ and ‘the settlers’. The explorers were always on the move, breaking new ground and pushing back the boundaries. The settlers, on the other hand put down roots, built houses and protected what was established. The mayor, the judge and the sheriff all fitted into “the settlers”. The shepherds were more akin to the explorer, roaming the hillside with their flocks, living on the fringes of society. They were regarded with suspicion and seen at the time of Jesus as ‘outcasts’. Seen as the “smelly unwashed”, they were poor and unwanted, at the bottom of the social ladder! When Jesus speaks of himself as the ‘good shepherd’ he is making a strong point. The shepherd risks all for the sake of the sheep. He is the wandering prophet who relies on his voice to strike up a relationship of trust with his flock. He will do anything for the flock, search out safe pasture and water. The safety of the flock is his number one priority. The good shepherd is a powerful image and good description of the life of Jesus. He ‘laid down’ his life for the sheep – they “listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me”. This is the ‘powerful icon’ for all who put themselves forward for ministry service, and caring in the church. The presence and voice of Christ has to continue down through history in the life of the church, especially through the loving ministry of holy priests and consecrated people. Hence, our need today to pray for Vocations. “Lord, bless our Church and our Servite Order with good shepherds who will protect the flock, search for the lost and feed your flock with your ‘words of life’.” By the way, St Peter became a settler and St Paul became an explorer! There is room for everyone in the Church. All of us have a contribution to make.

Gratitude – Chris Funnell of CAFOD writes “to thank everyone at Our Lady of Dolours for the support you have given to communities in some of the World’s poorest places, through supporting Fast Day this Lent. We were delighted to receive the wonderful sum of £2,338.65 that you so kindly sent. Thank you so much, for your generosity, and for your solidarity this Fast Day with Proscovia and those like her, who are facing great poverty with courage and faith”. Well done to all who contributed. We continue to pray for them.

Congratulations to Fr. Vincent – We offer our prayerful Congratulations to Fr Vincent OSM who celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his Ordination to Priesthood on Monday last 11th April. We shall have a Special Celebration to mark the great event at the 12.15 Mass on Sunday 5th June 2016, here in the Parish. We offer our prayers and good wishes to our Fr Vincent on a great achievement.

CAFOD – We need volunteers who are confident and experienced at talking to and engaging with young people to take the CAFOD message into confirmation groups in parishes evenings/weekends. You will help to inspire young people to put their faith into action by your delivery of interactive workshops. Full training given. Call 0208 4496970 or email nnathan@cafod.org.uk You would be accepted on successful completion of interview and a DBS check.

Priest Training Fund – The special Diocesan Collection will be held this weekend. This helps to support sick and retired Clergy. Please pray for Vocations to the Priesthood.

Proclaim 15/16 – As a Parish we have decided to (i) develop our Catechetical programmes; (ii) Organize and supply information on Talks on our Faith, (iii) Make our entrance more welcoming. Please sign if you wish to get involved.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham – led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols takes place on Saturday 9th July. A 51 seater coach has been booked for our Deanery and Fr. Vincent will lead this group on behalf of the Deanery. If you are interested in coming please add your name to the list in the colonnade. Price £20. Coach will leave at 7.15am.

Pope Francis’ Appeal – After reciting the Regina Coeli on Sunday 3rd April 2016, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, launched an initiative in favor of the people of the Ukraine, in the form of a special collection to be taken in all Catholic Churches in Europe on Sunday 24th April 2016. The Holy Father wishes to demonstrate solidarity with the people of the Ukraine, and expresses his faith in the Churches of Europe to respond. We trust you will respond to his appeal.

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

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. Tel: 0207 352 6965
Contact cdewinton@gmail.com

Lectio Divina – Every Saturday at 11am in the Founders’ Room.

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

Saints Days

Mon 19th – St Alphege
Thurs 21st – St Anselm
Sat 23rd – St George

Total Offertory collection last Sunday was £1,265 and the Second collection for “The Restoration Trust” was £327. Thank you for your support & generosity.~~~~~

Gift Aid and Planned Giving

Boxes for New tax year are still to be collected from the Church Office!

Day with Mary – On Saturday 23rd April at Church of Mary, Mother of God, Nags Head Rd, Ponders End.