



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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4th Sunday of Lent Laetare (Year C) 31st March 2019

DIN

Mass Times

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

Parish Office Opening Hrs

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

Sacrament of Confession

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

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Mon-Fri 10.30am – 11.15am

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: ..
 on Thursdays at 11am in
 the Founders' Room.

Saints Days

Tues 2nd – St Francis of Paola
 Thurs 4th – St Isidore
 Fri 5th – St Vincent Ferrer

RCIA: There will be a
 celebration of the 2nd
 Scrutiny of the Elect and
 candidates at the 7pm
 mass. Please continue to
 pray for them.

Sunday Reflection – All three readings today emphasize 'God's infinite mercy towards sinners. The best known and loved parable of Jesus, the story of the Prodigal son, captures the essence of this message. What a joyful message on 'Laetare' Sunday! In our society we often hear it said, "Get lost", so many are written off as "lost causes". That is certainly how the Pharisees, "the separated ones", saw sinners. Why bother with the likes of these! In order to show how much, he differed from them Jesus tells a story about a father and his two sons. They wanted Jesus to say to sinners "Get lost and stay lost". There was no way Jesus was going to accept that attitude. The younger son demands his family inheritance, leaves home to satisfy his selfish appetites on extravagant living. Things didn't go according to plan. Money ran out, he was all alone and reduced to feeding pigs. In the depths of anguish, he decides to return home, and confess 'I am not worthy to be your son'. He is overwhelmed by the father's loving welcome and embrace. The return of the prodigal son calls for a family party! The elder brother is furious; he has 'slaved' for years in service to the family enterprise. Filial fidelity he sees as 'slavery' and refuses to recognize his brother. He has a long way to go in tempering justice with mercy and in appreciating the unconditional love in the father's heart. Lent invites all prodigals to admit our wastage of our God-given gifts and to return to the Father's house to be given a loving and forgiving embrace and a "welcome home". Now is the time to seek Reconciliation.

Mothering Sunday – Today we pray for all Mothers, Grandmothers and great Grandmothers. God bless them all.

Planned Giving Boxes – for the next financial year are available for collection after all Masses on this Sunday 31st March.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2019 – Our Lenten Alms this year will go to the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, which has a special focus on food poverty. If you have not done so already, please pick up a Cardinal's Lenten Appeal donation leaflet at the back of Church. Please read and pray for its aims, and if you choose to do so, please give generously. Thank you.

Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse – In response to Pope Francis' request in February 2016, the Bishops of England and Wales designated the Friday of the Fifth week of Lent to be observed as this Day of Prayer. This year, that day is Friday 12th April. We pray for those who are hurt and in pain because of Abuse. We pray for their strength and healing.

Knife Crime – At a recent meeting this matter was given attention and raised concern, as a dramatic rise in knife crime in London was noted. On Saturday 6th April 2019 a Rally will take place in Trafalgar Square from 2pm to 4pm under the heading "Standing Together". Our Archbishop intends to be there. All are invited to attend and pray for all who have lost a loved one and now carry deep pain. All gather to pray for "respect for Life" and an end to violence.