



# OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

(Year C)

6<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**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 wonderful story for the Year of Mercy! The magnificence of Jesus’ teaching is so touchingly presented in Rembrandt’s famous painting of the scene, as the wasteful younger son is welcomed home by his loving father. 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 feedings 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 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 and discover mercy.

**Penance Service** – Lent is the ideal time to scrutinize our lives and assess what is good and what must change so that I can be faithful to what Christ asks of us. The Church encourages us all to receive the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation, during Lent. This is especially so during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Please make every effort to share in this Sacrament of God’s Mercy this Lent. On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March we shall celebrate our Lenten Penance Service at 7.30pm. We ask and encourage all Parishioners to make a special effort and come to share in God’s merciful forgiveness for Easter at this service. We hope to have extra visiting confessors available at the Service.

**RCIA** – The second Scrutiny of Adults (The Elect) preparing to be baptised and those to be received into the Catholic Church, during this Easter takes place this Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March at the 12.15 Mass. Please let us continue to pray for them.

**Happy Mothers’ Day** – Today we pray for all mothers, grandmothers and great Grandmothers. We thank them for their love and generous care. We wish them a Happy Mothers’ Day. May God Bless them all.

**St Patrick’s Celebration** – Will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the small Servite Hall. Everyone welcome! Tickets £5 and available in the Colonnade/Parish office. All proceeds will go to supporting the local charity S.M.A.R.T.

**Thank you all** – John Smeaton, the National Director writes: “The White Flower Appeal 2016 received with thanks from the Parishioners of Our Lady of Dolours the sum of £536.12”. “I am most grateful to you and to our parishioners for your very generous contribution to SPUC’s work”. Gordon Kane.

**Cardinal’s Mass of the Thanksgiving** – For the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm. The Archbishop invites to Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2016. If you are celebrating, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife’s names, wedding date, full postal address and email or telephone number by the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

**Pilgrimage to Walsingham** – Join Cardinal Vincent on the diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham, England’s Nazareth, on 9<sup>th</sup> July. With the theme of ‘Mary, the Mother of Mercy’, the day will include an outdoor Mass, procession with the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham and banners along the Holy Mile, prayers and Benediction in the Priory grounds. Free time to visit the Basilica, the Slipper Chapel and the Holy Door. Bring a picnic lunch. Please speak to the Parish Office to book a place on one of the coaches departing locally.

**HCPT** – The Confirmation young people will be raising funds to send a child to Lourdes starting with an Easter Egg Raffle. Tickets on sale after Mass today.

## 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](mailto: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 7 <sup>th</sup>	– Sts Perpetua + Felicity
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	– St John of God
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	– St Frances of Rome

Total Offertory collection last Sunday was £1452 and the Second collection for “Lenten Alms” was £481. Thank you for your support & generosity.

**Stations of the Cross:** Every Fri of Lent after the 6.30pm Mass.

**Confirmation Group:** Next Session will be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of March.