



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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5th Sunday of Lent Laetare (Year C) 7th April 2019

Sunday Reflection – ‘Perverting the course of justice is a serious offence’, we were told earlier in the week. The penalty fits the crime. Our social judicial system doesn’t do mercy. In today’s gospel we have a beautiful story of the mercy of Jesus as he reaches out in forgiveness to the woman taken in adultery. For her accusers it was a clear cut case – ‘she deserved to be stoned to death,’ as the Law stated. The woman is brought by the Scribes and Pharisees, but as usual the man has made an abrupt escape. So keen to obey the Law, they want this woman executed. They also want to catch out Jesus in this open and closed case. But Jesus proves to be a step beyond them. He doesn’t say she is innocent, but simply invites the innocent among them to ‘cast the first stone’. Instead of pointing an accusing finger, Jesus goes back to writing on the ground and waiting for their reaction. As they reflect on their own lives, they realize that no one is innocent, so they depart quietly. Jesus responds, ‘has anyone condemned you?’ “Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more”. It is so much easier to judge and condemn others than to look at ourselves and our own track record. The gospel of Jesus challenges us all to be a people caught up in forgiveness. Are we able to forgive as readily as Jesus forgives? If so ‘we are truly disciples.

Palm Sunday – Is next Sunday 14th April. Blessing of Palms and Procession will begin in the School yard at 9.30am.

Eucharistic Ministers – If you will be present for our Easter Services, please remember to put your name on the list in the Colonnade to show which Mass/Service you will be able to Minister at.

Easter Services and Cards – The times of Holy Week Services are available in our Easter card to you. Please take the card with you as you leave the church today. Happy Easter to you all.

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. Please pick up a Cardinal’s Lenten Appeal donation leaflet at the back of Church.

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. This is also a special **Servite Feast of Mary at the Foot of the Cross** as we pause to anticipate the suffering of Mary at the Cross of Jesus on Good Friday. Such deep suffering will be remembered in the 10am + 6.30pm Masses on Friday next.

Cake Sale – We thank our Afro Caribbean Women for raising £282 from the cake sale on 24th March and all who supported it. This helps with our Easter Flowers.

Parish Council – Our Parish Council will meet this week on Tuesday 9th April at 7.30pm in the Founders Room. All Council members please attend.

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

Saints Days

Thurs 11th – St Stanislaus
Fri 12th – Servite Feast of Mary
at the Foot of the Cross
Sat 13th – St Martin

RCIA: The 3rd Scrutiny of the Elect and candidates at the 7pm mass. Please continue to pray for them.

“Movie” Mary Magdalene

Will be shown in the Founders Room on Sunday 14th April at 4pm. It is an intensely moving film, very much in the spirit of Easter.