

# OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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**Second Sunday of Advent**

**(Year A)**

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2016**



## 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

Tues 6<sup>th</sup> – St Nicholas

Wed 7<sup>th</sup> – St Ambrose

Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> – Immaculate

Conception of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

Fri 9<sup>th</sup> – St Juan Diego

Cuahtlatotzin

Total Offertory collection last  
Sunday was £1,824 and the  
Second collection for "Church  
Restoration Trust" was £594.

Eucharistic Ministers: There  
will be a meeting on Thursday  
8<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm in the  
Founders Room.

**Sunday Reflection** – Today, we hear the lonely, yet powerful voice of the great John the Baptist, proclaiming: "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand". He was the one described by the great Isaiah as "a voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord". John the Baptist is the tough man of Scripture. He lived in the wilderness, an eccentric figure whose wardrobe was a camel-hair garment, and his diet consisted of locusts and wild honey. The wilderness was a special place of encounter between God and his people. In accordance with the prophetic tradition John calls for deep and profound change from the people. They flock to the desert to hear him. John doesn't mince his words – if you want a better future, then repent. He tells them, you must change your ways' and sort out the moral mess you are living in. That is how you will prepare a way for the Lord'. John, like all the prophets before him, is aware that the human world is far from perfect. There are so many wars, so much violence, death and destruction. Yet he claims there is hope for the future, but it requires profound change. In our first Reading we hear the hope-filled message of Isaiah, telling all that even though people are at an all-time low, yet a new anointed leader, filled with the spirit of God will emerge to inaugurate this new world by governing with integrity and faithfulness. The prophet envisions this new world: "The wolf lives with the lamb,... Calf and lion cub feed together... The infant plays over the cobra's hole... They do no hurt..." What a wonderful image of a world ruled by God's word? All destructive forces are tamed because "the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord". John introduces the people to Jesus. As John promises, Jesus "will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire". This new world is called "The Kingdom of God". A kingdom ruled and maintained by love. We all can contribute to building this new world. Our Advent prayer is "Come Lord Jesus".

## **The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary –**

We celebrate the great Marian Feast on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. This is a Patronal Feast of our Diocese. The dogma was proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1854, but the doctrine has always been believed by the faithful, with evidence for the feast going back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The doctrine means that by a special privilege of God and the Redemptive merits of Christ, Mary was preserved from original sin from the first moment of her life. This doctrine should not be confused with the Virgin Birth. Masses at 10am & 6.30pm.

**Filipino Simbang Gabi Novena Mass** – at 8pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> December and on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. Fr Allan OSM will preside. There will be no 6.30pm mass on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. The 10am Mass will continue on those days as usual; Please note: Only one evening Mass at 8pm in Tegalog.

**School References** – All appointments must be made by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. Please ring the Parish office between Parish Office opening hours.

**Parish Celebration of Reconciliation/Confession** – is at 7pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016. All parishioners are welcome.

**First Holy Communion Programme** – There is a meeting for Parents on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 7.30pm in the Small Hall.

**Bazaar Thanks** – Yesterday, we celebrated our Parish Bazaar in the School Hall. It was a great and successful event. We want to thank you all for your generous support and presence at the Bazaar. A special word of thanks to all who worked so hard in selling Raffle tickets, all who donated gifts, money and prizes for the Grand Draw and different stalls, all who worked so hard on the day. A special word of thanks to Susana Sousa e Silva again for her calm and expert co-ordination and guidance of the whole event. It would not have happened without Susana's vision and enthusiasm, and her team of helpers. We are grateful to Susana and others for all their hard work and energy. As soon as the final results are available we will let you know, but sincere thanks to you all for a great day.

**The Passage – Carol Service** On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, the parish church of the House of Commons. Readers: Nick Hancock, Lynda Baron, Kathryn Pogson and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Admission by advanced ticket only from The Passage tel. 0207 592 1856 email [tickets@passage.org.uk](mailto:tickets@passage.org.uk)

**Advent** – Please Note, No flowers in the Church until the great Feast of Christmas!