



# OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (Year B)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017**

**Sunday Reflection – “Waiting for God”** On this First Sunday of the Advent season, we begin a new liturgical year. The English word “Advent” is from the Latin, “Adventus”, meaning “Coming or “Approaching”. Our focus during Advent is on the “Coming” or “Approaching” God. We confidently proclaim “The Lord is near”. The mood during these weeks is one of joyful anticipation. Hope is in the air. We wait expectantly for something new and wonderful to happen. Waiting is part of life, and there is no life without it. Our culture has invented the “Waiting Room”. We sit in waiting rooms anticipating news about ourselves or others. While waiting in Advent we are admonished “to stay awake” to “be alert”, to be ready for the glory of Christ to be revealed in all its fullness. We now live in the meantime “the in-between” time, i.e. the time between the First Coming of Christ and Second Coming in glory. We wait creatively by remembering. We recapture the longing and expectancy of God’s people as they hoped for an “Anointed leader” and “better times”. We prepare for the feast of Christmas by re-living the experience of God’s people “waiting in hope” for the birth of the Messiah. Bringing the past into the present creates a foundation from which emerges a hope-filled future. We invite the approach of God in the person of Christ to enter our lives and dispel the encircling gloom, coloured now by economic austerity and insecurity. Material prosperity does not offer fulfillment, so our prayer is all the more urgent. “Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down...” “Come Lord Jesus”.

**New Liturgical Year:** Begins this Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec with the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. This is a Penitential Season. The colour ‘Purple’ dominates the Liturgy. There are no floral decorations on the Altar. We are asked to play the organ and other musical instruments in “a moderate manner”. There is No ‘Gloria’ during Advent. The central altar symbol is the “Advent Wreath”, telling us the Christmas story of God’s eternal love. Advent is a period of devout expectation and hope.

**Talk on Christmas:** The Christian Formation Group is organizing a talk on the ‘Nature of Christmas Celebration from the Coptic Tradition’ on Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 7.30pm. This will be presented by Deacon Nabil who is a deacon at St. Marks Coptic Church, Scarsdale Villas. All welcome to attend.

**Filipino Novena** – All are invited to join the “Servite Misa De Gallo” at Our church for the Christmas Novena of Masses, 15<sup>th</sup> Dec – 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 8pm and on Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec at 3pm. After Mass on Sat will be a celebration with food in the School Hall.

**Mass Times** – Catholics are asked/obliged to attend Mass on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December. Masses on Sunday: 6.30pm Sat (Vigil Mass), 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am Spanish and 12.15pm (No 7pm Mass). Christmas Mass: Mass at Midnight; 8.30am, 10am, 11.15am (Spanish) and 12.15pm (No 7pm). A Christmas Card will be available shortly.

**Confirmation Programme:** For our young Parishioners aged over 14yrs will begin on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7pm. Please get a Confirmation Registration Form from the Parish Office. Complete and return the form before Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Parents do encourage your children to prepare well to receive this important Sacrament.

**Support Catholic Schools** – Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for ‘Catholic Education’ in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

## **Parish Office Opening Hrs**

Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm

(Lunch Hour 1.30pm – 2.30pm)

## **Mass Times**

**Vigil Mass:** Sat 6.30pm

Sunday 8.30am

10am

(Spanish) 11.15am

12.15pm

7pm

Mon - Sat 10am

6.30pm

## **Sacrament of Confession**

Mon - Fri 6.15 – 6.30pm

Saturday 10.45 – 11.15am

6.00 – 6.30pm

## **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Mon – Fri 10.30 am – 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:** Is on Thursdays at 11am in the Founders’ Room.

## **Saints Days**

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> – St Nicholas

Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> – St Ambrose

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> – Solemnity of the

Immaculate Conception of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> – St Juan Diego

**School Family Mass:** Is on this Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 10am Mass

**Sr. Clementina Nasimiyu:** Now temporarily lives in Isleworth, as her order continues to look for Accommodation close to the Servite Church. She is available in the Parish on Monday evenings, Thursdays, Saturdays & Sundays. She will be away from the Parish from 5<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> December to visit family and her Order.