



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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4th Sunday of Easter (Year C) 12th May 2019

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Sunday Reflection - Today is "Good Shepherd" Sunday also called "Vocations Sunday". Jesus uses the image of the Good Shepherd to describe his life and his relationship with his disciples. This may surprise us. In the old Western films, there were two categories of people, 'the explorers' and 'the settlers'. The explorers were always on the move, breaking the new ground and pushing back the boundaries. The settlers, on the other hand put down roots, built houses and protected what was established. The mayor, the judge and the sheriff all fitted into "the settlers". The Shepherds were more akin to the explorer, roaming the hillside with their flocks, living on the fringes of society. They were regarded with suspicion and seen at the time of Jesus as 'outcasts'. Seen as the "smelly unwashed", they were poor and unwanted, at the bottom of the social ladder! When Jesus speaks of himself as the 'good shepherd' he is making a strongpoint. The shepherd risks all for the sake of the sheep. He is the wandering prophet who relies on his voice to strike up a relationship of trust with his flock. He will do anything for the flock, search out safe pasture and water. The safety of the flock is his number one priority. The good shepherd is a powerful image and good description of the life of Jesus. He 'laid down' his life for the sheep - they "listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me". This is the 'powerful icon' for all who put themselves forward for ministry, service, and caring in the church. The presence and voice of Christ has to continue down through history in the life of the church, especially through the loving ministry of holy priests and consecrated people. Hence, our need today to pray for Vocations. "Lord, bless our Church and our Servite Order with good shepherds who will protect the flock, search for the lost, and feed your flock with your 'words of life'. By the way, St Peter became a settler and St Paul became an explorer! There is room for everyone in the Church. All of us have a contribution to make.

Vocations Sunday - On this 'Good Shepherd' Sunday, we pray for Vocations to consecrated Life and Priesthood. Pray this week asking the Lord to send generous Shepherds to care for his flock.

Confirmation Programme: 4th Session will be on this Sunday 12th May from 5.30pm to 7pm. The 7pm Mass follows.

First Holy Communion - Practice for Group B will be on Wednesday 15th May from 3.45pm to 4.30pm. The Celebration of First Holy Communion for Group B will be held on next Saturday 18th May at 10.30am. Children requested to be here no later than 10.15am for the procession.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony - Westminster Cathedral, Sat 8th June 2019 at 3pm - The Cardinal is inviting all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th Wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2019. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy your details, names address, email or telephone number.

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

Saints Days

Mon 13th - Our Lady of Fatima
Tue 14th - St Matthias
Sat 18th - St John I, Pope &
Martyr
