

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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3rd Sunday of Advent (Year B)

17th December 2017

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Sunday Reflection – “Rejoice, the Lord is near” This Sunday of Advent is referred to as “Gaudete” Sunday. The somber penitential Mood lightens. We can wear ‘Rose’ coloured vestments at Mass and the Advent candle on the wreath is ‘Rose’ or ‘Pink’. The instruction for today’s liturgy states, “The Advent moderation in the use of the organ, other musical instruments and flowers, does not apply to “Gaudete Sunday”. With the increase of light on our Advent wreath (now 3 candles) we are beginning to sense the nearness of the Lord and feel the warmth and light of his presence. We are anticipating the approach of the great feast of Christmas. Appropriately, John the Baptist is yet again a central figure in our Liturgy. One of the great things about John the Baptist is that he knows who he is and he know his place. In the midst of much religious confusion and uncertainty, he can declare unambiguously that he is not the light in person but that he is a witness to speak for the light John keeps declaring “I am not” so that he can focus the spotlight on the one who is coming after him and who can say “I am”. John’s role is to point people in the direction of Jesus, and once introduced to Jesus they will see “the true light”. That is why St John in the fourth gospel is so emphatic in stressing that John “is a witness to the light”. Advent calls us all to push back the darkness in our lives and in our world. We are invited to engage in dispelling the selfishness, the hard-heartedness, the unforgiveness and the injustice and hatred that disfigures the world, and make way for the light of the Christ to shine on human hearts and human affairs. Together in love and faith we can more powerfully reflect the light of the word-made-flesh. Holiness is the constant and committed struggle of letting Christ be the light that shines through everything we do. When that begins to happen, “Rejoice the Lord is near”, and pray “Come, Lord Jesus, come”.

New Liturgical Year: 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.

Dear Parishioners: I have been instructed by my Advisers in the light of present circumstances to take a break for a few months from Pastoral duties in the Parish from Christmas to Easter 2018. I just need to rest for some time and recover lost energies. In my absence, Fr. Allan Satur OSM will be released from his Chaplaincy work in the local Hospital to take over Pastoral duties in the Parish and Fr. Chris will be Vicar-Prior. When ready I will resume my duties. I am sorry for any inconvenience caused. It is hoped the Diocese will appoint a Chaplain to replace Fr. Allan in the Hospital for these few months. Let us keep each other in prayer. Sincere thanks and God Bless you all. *Fr. Pat OSM*

Filipino Novena – All are invited to join the “Servite Misa De Gallo” at Our church for the Christmas Novena of Masses, 15th Dec – 22nd Dec at 8pm and on Sat 23rd Dec at 3pm. After Mass on Sat will be a celebration with food in the School Hall. During the Novena, as from 18th Dec – 22nd Dec. there will only be one evening Mass and that is at 8pm. There is No 6.30pm Mass from 18th – 22nd Dec. 8pm only.

Mass Times – Catholics are obliged to attend Mass on Sunday 24th and Monday 25th December. Your Christmas card is now available with a listing of all Mass times over the Christmas Season.

Confirmation Programme: Will begin on Thursday 18th Jan 18. Please get a Confirmation Registration from the Parish Office, complete and return the form before Thursday 11th Jan 18. Parents do encourage your children to prepare well to receive this important Sacrament.

Support Catholic Schools – 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. Please Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/>

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 – Fri 10am
8.00pm (Simbang Gabi)

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

Thurs 21st – St Peter Canisius
Sat 23rd – St John of Kanty

St Peregrine December Mass: Will
be on Wednesday 27th December
2017 at the 10am Mass. There will
be no 6.30pm Mass on this day.



Christmas Card: Is available with all
the Mass times over the Christmas
Season. Please take one for each
household!