



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 19th November 2017

Sunday Reflection – “Talents are for use not for burial” – Given the present global financial situation, we need to be careful on how we interpret the parable of the talents. In the past some used the parable to promote an aggressive form of capitalism. Jesus telling of the parable predates our now familiar “Credit crunches” and the “Banking Crises”. It was never intended to promote a kind of reckless investment of other people’s money in the hope that it would yield a 100% profit. It is imperative that we understand and use the parable wisely, and avoid any suggestion of sanctioning dubious monetary morality. Essentially the story is about a God who freely bestows talents on all of us, notice, “each in proportion to his ability”. So all of us are gifted or talented. The parable envisages a God who risks bestowing his gifts upon us. He dares to trust to do his work in our own way. There is no guarantee that God will get a good return for his generosity. In this lies the risk. The first two servants in the parable have such a different attitude to God than the third one. They know that their God gives talents to be used responsibly and creatively in the service of His kingdom. There is a touch of “launch out into the deep”, and don’t just sit about waiting for the “Parousia;” You can be both creative and watchful. Let us take our example from the woman in the 1st Reading who uses her talents to live a very productive and virtuous life. The third servant sees his God as a fierce exacting character, so paralyzed by fear, he buries his single talent – nothing is lost but nothing is gained. All God-given talents are to be received with gratitude and to be used responsibly in the service of God’s kingdom. Life is God’s gift to us. What we do with our gifted life is our way of giving Glory to God and giving thanks for His gift.

World Day of the Poor: Today, Sunday 19th November 2017. On this first World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis asks all of us, whatever our means or background, to unite in Love, in acts of service to one another and in genuine encounter. Caritas Social Action Network, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the National Justice and Peace Network, and CAFOD have all ideas and prayer cards to assist us in praying together and celebrating the World Day of the Poor within our Sunday Liturgy. Cf www.caritaswestminster.org.uk or 02079316077.

CAFOD Family Fast Collection: This was taken up last Sunday and the total collected amounted to £1,237. We thank you so much for your very generous response to this worthy cause. We are supporting the good work of CAFOD in El Salvador this year. This is building on the great work and example of the late Archbishop Oscar Romero: “We are prophets of a future not our own”. Thank you for your support.

Sick & Retired Clergy Collection: Is today’s 2nd collection in support of the Sick and Retired Priests’ Fund of the Diocese of Westminster & Servite Order. This Fund ensures our elderly and sick priests are financially supported in their senior years after a lifetime of service. Our priests baptised us, counselled us in times of sorrow, worry and celebrated with us in times of joy. Since we have received so much from their generosity, it is now our turn to assist them in their old age.

Christian Formation: A very good film, entitled “God is not dead” will be shown in the Founders Room on Sunday, 26th November at 4pm. This is informative and helpful to our Christian formation. All Welcome!

Prepare for Advent: A lecture will be given in the Founders Room on Tuesday 21st November 2017 at 7.15pm by Dr. Michael O’Boy, Vice-Rector and Dean of Studies at Allen Hall Seminary, on “The Liturgy of Advent”. All readers and special ministers and musicians should attend. Open to all who are interested.

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

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

Tues 21st – Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wed 22nd – St Cecilia
Thur 23rd – St Clement I
St Columban, Abbot
Fri 24th – St Andrew Dung-Lac
Sat 25th – St Catherine of Alexandria

Red Wednesday – 22nd November:

Stand & Pray in solidarity with Christians suffering persecution in today’s world. Wear something Red. Cathedral Piazza 6pm.