



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 22nd October 2017

Sunday Reflection – “Duties to God and duties to the State” – The question. “Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Is put to Jesus in order to trap him. It is a test question. The Pharisees oppose paying taxes to the Roman Authority and the Herodians favour collaboration with the Romans. However, they are united in their desire to eliminate Jesus. Jesus is in a “no win” situation. If he says “yes” he will be seen as a traitor to the Jewish cause. If he says “no” he would be seen as fomenting rebellion against Rome and siding with the Zealots. Jesus displays his wisdom in giving his reply – “Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God”. He recognizes the State has a role and responsibility towards its citizens in enforcing law and order, and in providing public services. The state can demand the allegiance of its citizens for the sake of the common good. However, its power is limited and is subject to a higher power. It cannot supplant the authority of God. The conflict between duties to State and God is as old as religion. Perhaps a really good solution was found by our local Chelsea hero, St Thomas More. As he was being put to death by Henry VIII, he spoke these memorable words; “I die the Kings Good Servant but God’s first”. Thomas More recognized that the state had no hold over the inner core where he makes his moral decisions i.e. conscience. This is what belongs to God as well as “my worship and total obedience”. First and total loyalty is always to God. A good citizen always recognizes responsibility to the State, but also duty and loyalty to God. Caesar’s relative power is always subservient to the ultimate power of God – *Thanks be to God.*

Annual Gibraltar Day 2017 – This Sunday 22nd October 2017, we welcome again our friends from Gibraltar to celebrate the 12.15pm Mass with us on the eve of their Annual Gibraltar Day in London. Rt. Rev. Mgr. Carmel Zammit, Bishop of Gibraltar will preside at this Mass, which will be a Concelebrated Mass. We welcome The Worshipful Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Marie-Therese Rossi and other Guests and Dignitaries from Gibraltar. After Mass there will be a Reception in the Hall of the Servite Primary School. All are welcome.

First Holy Communion – Our programme for this year began for all the children on Sunday 15th October 2017 at 9am in the Servite School Hall. The programme, together with the book in use this year, was presented to the children. We ask the Parents to give their full co-operation and support to our Catechists so that together we can help our children grow in their awareness and understanding of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. May the Lord bless us and guide us on this journey.

World Mission Sunday – Today Sunday 22nd October is World Mission Day. As the Pope’s Official Charity for overseas mission, this year Missio is focusing on the Peace-making efforts of the Church in South Sudan. The 2nd Collection will be for this good cause – give generously as always.

St Peregrine Mass – The healing Mass of St Peregrine is on next wed 25th at 6.30pm. Come along to pray for all who are ill, especially those suffering from Cancer.

Our Call to Stewardship – We want to thank you all for your attention, co-operation and participation in our recent Financial Appeal. We reflected on our Stewardship of God’s gifts to us of “Time, Treasure & Talents”. We were invited to make a decision on how best we could respond in a practical self-giving way in making our contribution to the on-going development of our Parish. We understand that 90 Parishioners completed the Promise Cards. About 20 people made new standing orders, others agreed to increasing their weekly contributions through the weekly envelopes and others agreed to Gift Aid their offerings. We want to thank you all for your great response and generosity. Many volunteered to get involved in Parish ministries and activities. Thank you to each and all and God bless you all. Your Parish needs you! Your generosity is much appreciated.

Parish Office Opening Hrs

Mon – Thur 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 - Thurs 6.15 – 6.30pm
Saturday 10.45 – 11.15am
6.00 – 6.30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mon – Thur 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

Mon 23rd – St John of Capestrano
Tues 24th – St Anthony Mary Claret
Thur 26th – Sts Chad and Cedd
Sat 28th – Sts Simon and Jude

Interested in becoming a Catholic/Returning?

Applications for this programme are now available from the Parish Office. Contact Sr. Clementina or one of the Priests for more information about our RCIA Programme.

Toddler Group: Is on half term next week. The next group meet will be on Tuesday 31st October at 9.30am in the Founders Room.