

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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4th Sunday of Advent (Year B)

24th December 2017

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Sunday Reflection – “Rejoice, highly favoured” By all accounts King David was a great king. At a certain stage in his life, having subdued his enemies and feeling a sense of achievement, he wants to do something for God. He desires to build a House for God. It is all too human to build a monument! His motives may be mixed – it is for God but also a mark of achievement for a job well done!! The Lord responds to David, “Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in?” ‘Remember all the Lord has done for you’. In contrast the attitude of Mary is so different. She comes to God in her emptiness; She offers God the gift of her freedom, the purity of her heart and the obedience of her will. Mary realizes that God’s choice of her made her “full of grace”. Mary is the Advent figure per excellence. She proclaims, “for the Almighty has done great things for me”. God has chosen her and graced her for the mission in life which is to give Jesus to every generation of the human family. Favours and gifts reflect the generosity of the giver, not the worthiness of the receiver. It is through Mary, and not David that God finally builds himself a Home, but not one made of bricks and mortar but a home of “flesh and blood” – human lives and hearts full of love. So on this fourth Sunday of Advent, the focus is immediate: we have come to the moment of announcing the incarnation and hearing Mary’s wholehearted acceptance. God’s choice of her does not free her from making her choice for God. “Let what you have said be done to me”. Mary encourages us all to be wholehearted rather than half-hearted when God asks each of us to put our freedom at his service. To all God says, “Rejoice highly favoured”. We respond “Come Lord Jesus”.

Christmas Offerings – The good news is that there will be only one collection at Christmas Masses! The Christmas offerings go to support the Servite Friars Community who Minister here in the Parish. Special Envelopes marked “Christmas offerings” will be made available today after Mass, so please take one home and return it at Midnight Mass or Christmas Day with your offering enclosed. If you are on Gift Aid or Planned Giving Scheme, you will also find these marked envelopes in your box. Thank you as usual for your generosity and support.

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

Parish Office Hours – During the holiday period, the office will not always have a Receptionist, so please keep calls to a minimum. We shall of course try to deal with urgent calls; Staff will be reduced, so try to be sensitive to the Circumstances. Have a good holiday.

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.

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*

*Happy and Holy Christmas to all and every Blessing for the
New Year 2018 from the
Servite Community OSM and the Parish Council*

Mass Times

Vigil Mass: Sat	6.30pm
Sunday	8.30am
	10am
(Spanish)	11.15am
	12.15pm
	7pm
Mon - Sat	10am

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 26th – St Stephen
Wed 27th – St John
Thur 28th – The Holy Innocents
Fri 29th – St Thomas Becket

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



Parish Christmas Cards: Are..... available. These contain all the times of our Christmas Masses and services on and around Christmas. It also contains our Community greetings to you all for Christmas and New Year.