



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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5th Sunday of Easter (Year B)

29th April 2018

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Sunday Reflection: “*I am the vine, you are the branches*” – In today’s gospel we find the beautiful image Jesus used to describe the community he built around himself. When we recall the context in which these words were spoken, they assume a greater and more profound significance. These words were spoken by Jesus a short time before his death, maybe on the way to Gethsemane. He probably paused to look at a vine with its fruitful branches and then spoke those immortal words. It was at a time when everything was falling apart and breaking up. His disciples were paralyzed by fear, they would deny, abandon and betray him. Yet Jesus choose to speak about unity and togetherness. In Spring the vine is covered in leaves and blossoms and in Autumn it is loaded with grapes. All of this happens because the vine and branches are connected. The vine needs the branches to produce and display its fruitfulness, and the branches need the vine to supply sap, energy and growth. This is a powerful image of unity, closeness, intimacy and interdependence. This is how Jesus sees his relationship with his Church. Jesus and the Church are united in an unbreakable bond of communion of life and love that guarantees fruitfulness. Christ needs disciples and we need Christ and we need each other. The spirit that courses through the disciples comes from the Risen Christ, giving life and inspiration to each and all. There is no such thing as a solitary Christian. United together drawing life from Jesus Christ, we can produce the fruits of love in the world. Our first reading today provides us with a wonderful illustration of this imagery. The conversion of Paul was a mind-blowing experience for Paul and the people of Jerusalem. Given Paul’s track record of hunting down Christians, imprisoning them and sentencing some to death, it is little wonder that the disciples were suspicious and afraid of Paul. The most feared persecutor is now the most fearless preacher of the faith! This is explained only by Paul’s personal encounter with the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” This encounter turned Paul’s life upside down and inside out. Barnabas introduces Paul to the disciples and assures them that Paul is now one with them.’ Paul became a very fruitful branch.

First Holy Communion – Parent Meeting with Communion Team on Sunday 29th April at 11am, after the 10am Mass.

Confirmation – Next Session will be on Thursday 3rd May 2018.

Colonnade Art Exhibition – A talk will be held by Mike and Tom (exhibitors) on Thursday 3rd of May after 6.30pm Mass. Everyone Welcome!

Mass for Migrants – Will be held on Monday 7th May 2018 at 11am. It will be preceded by a banner procession at 10.30am at Westminster Cathedral.

Mass for New Catholics – Will be held on Saturday 12th May 2018 at 6pm, Westminster Cathedral.

Organ Recitals – Our 2nd Organ Recital will be held on Thursday 17th May. Hosted by Cathy Ennis, St Lawrence Jewry: in Memory of Sheila Lawrence, Director of Music in our Parish for many years.

Day with Mary – On Saturday 5th May 2018 in Westminster Cathedral.

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

Mon 30th – St Pius V

Tues 1st – St Joseph the Worker

St Peregrine

Wed 2nd – St Athanasius

Thu 3rd – Ss Philip and James

Fri 4th – The English Martyrs

Toddler Group – Every Tuesday Morning in the Founders Room at 9.30am. All are Welcome!