



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Year B) 19th February 2012

“Sunday Reflection” - “Your sins are forgiven... Get up, pick up your stretcher and walk”. We find ourselves opening the second chapter of St Mark’s Gospel today with Jesus back in Capernaum. Word gets out and the people crowd around because he is such a popular preacher. The crowd is huge and pressing round Jesus when four men arrive carrying their friend, a paralytic, on a stretcher. Unable to get near Jesus, they climb on the roof, and having made an opening they let the paralytic down in front of Jesus. What a dramatic entrance? Jesus in his wisdom, seizes the opportunity, “Seeing the faith” they moved tiles to get him near to Jesus! Jesus discerns that the man’s physical paralysis is an outward expression of an inner malaise, so he says to him, “My child, your sins are forgiven.” An explosion follows! The scribes objected immediately “He is blaspheming... who can forgive sins but God?” Inwardly, Jesus must have been grateful to these guys for bringing in their friend. They provide him with a chance to heal and to teach. He wants to make the point that forgiveness, when freely and genuinely offered has healing potential for the whole person. He not only tells the man ‘his sins are forgiven’, but he also says to him “I order you: get up, pick up your stretcher, and go home”. The incident serves to remind them that he is Authorized by God, his Father, so “the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”. Jesus is stating ‘of course, God forgives sins, but now forgiveness is not just God’s exclusive right, but belongs also to Jesus and to all who follow him’. All of us can minister forgiveness to those who sin against us. Jesus teaches later “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who sin against us”. God’s forgiveness is not an issue, but ours can be. Jesus wants to involve us all in God’s good work of healing persons through forgiveness. Now in Christ, we are all forgivers and can enable others to walk away in freedom.

Lent Approaches - We begin the season of Lent on 22nd February, Ash Wednesday which is a “Day of Fast and Abstinence”. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at the 10 a.m. & 6.30 p.m. Masses. We are signed with ashes to remind us of the penitential character of the Lenten journey. We prepare for the celebration of Easter with forty days of *prayer, fasting and almsgiving*. We are often asked “what are you giving up for Lent?” We could also ask “what are you taking up for Lent?”. What is important is that we renew our Christian Life and try to be more faithful to our baptismal calling.

Lenten Programme - This year we are doing our Lenten programme in co-operation with CAFOD. We are going to focus on one of God’s most precious resources - clean water. So many people in our world do not have access to this resource. We ask, “why?” and “what can we do?”. The first presentation is on Wednesday 29th February and our response will be on Sunday 4th March after Family Fast Day on Friday 2nd March. We rely on your support.

Crèche - A few parents have proposed having a Crèche during the Sunday 10 a.m. Mass. Anyone keen or interested in co-operating, please speak to members of the group in the Colonnade on Sunday 26th Feb after the 10 a.m. Mass. Do make contact with them.

Guided Prayer in Lent - If you are aged between 18 and 35 why not take this opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ during Lent. You will meet once a week with an experienced prayer guide who will accompany you as you strive to listen more carefully to the voice of God in your life. (See the poster on the notice board.) Contact Sr Emma on emmanolan@rcdow.org.uk or 020 7798 9360 for more details or to book one of the limited places.

FHC Catechists’ Meeting - Tuesday 21st at 2.15 p.m. in the Founders’ Room.

FHC (Sunday Group) - will have their session on Sunday 26th after the 10 a.m. Mass in the Founders’ Room. Please bring your Silver Books.

Mass Times

Vigil Mass Sat 6.30 p.m.

Sunday 8.30 a.m.

10.00 a.m.

(Spanish) 11.15 a.m.

12.15 p.m.

7.00 p.m.

Mon - Sat 10.00 a.m.

6.30 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mon - Fri 10.30 a.m. - 11.15 a.m.

Rosary - Wednesdays 10.30 a.m.
followed by Tea in the Founders Room.

Sacrament of Confession

Mon - Fri 6.15 - 6.30 p.m.

Saturday 10.45 - 11.15 a.m.
6 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

Saint Days

Tues 21st - St Peter Damian

Weds 22nd - Ash Wednesday

Sat 25th - Rite of Election in the Cathedral

Total Offertory collection -
Last Sunday was £1,700 and the
2nd collection for the Restoration
Trust was £525.

Second collection today is for Restoration Trust.

Thank you for your generosity.

Next week’s second collection will
be for Lenten Alms.

Vocations Discernment

Group for young adults (18-30’s)
meeting on Friday 24th February with a
talk by Fiona Mansford, on “Called to
be Pure in Heart”, 7 - 9 pm in the
Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace.
Contact Sr Gabi at info@free2become.org
or Fr Richard, richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk