

Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church

Egerton Gardens, NW4 4BA



Rev Fr Tim Edgar (Rector)
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Registered Charity Number: 233699

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

S 17	6.00pm		Edward McMonagle (anniv)
Su 18	10.00am		private intention
	12noon		the people of the Parish & their needs
M 19	10.00am	feria	intentions of Mr & Mrs Schniniker
T 20	10.00am	feria	intentions of Mr & Mrs Richards
W 21	10.00am	feria	Tierney, Madden & Horan families
T 22	[8.00am TLM	NO MASS TODAY]	
F 23 NB	9.00am	feria	private intention
S 24	10.00am	feria	Ignatius O'Neil (rec dec)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

S 24	6.00pm		the people of the Parish & their needs
Su 25	10.00am		Tierney, Madden & Horan families
	12noon		Catherine Cullinane (anniv)

Mass times and intentions are subject to change if there is a funeral.

First Friday: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Litany & Benediction

Confessions: Saturday 9.00-9.45am; 5.00-5.45pm and at call

Holy Rosary each day after Mass – Legion of Mary Wednesday after Mass

Holy Matrimony: in accordance with the norms of Canon Law, **six months' notice must be given**, whether the marriage is here or abroad, to enable the required spiritual preparation to take place and for the paperwork to be gathered and, if necessary, submitted to the Chancellor of the Diocese. Please make an appointment to see the Parish Priest.

Our Parish takes the issue of **Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults** very seriously and stringently follows the measures instituted by the Diocese of Westminster. Full details of these measures and policies can be found here:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/safeguarding/>

The Parish Safeguarding Representative is Bertha Alvares – hendonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police, using 999 if a child or adult is believed to be in immediate danger.

VISITING PRIESTS

If you have a priest relative/friend visiting the Parish, then please note that all visiting and supply priests need to have a Celebret (if ministering in England and Wales) or a Testimonial of Suitability for Ministry if coming from elsewhere. This is a legal requirement if they wish to celebrate or concelebrate Mass or any other service. Priests coming from abroad have to apply in advance to the Vicar General in Westminster so that appropriate checks can be carried out.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Please think about making a donation to support the Parish. Just think what you spend in the various events of your lives and then consider what you give to the Church. Is it appropriate? Donations can be made at Mass, via our website, through the Contactless Machine at the back of Church or by **scanning the QR Code** below. If you are able to **Gift Aid** your donations, please do so. This allows us to claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate from the Government.



THE MISSAL TODAY

Entrance Antiphon

Unchanged since eighth-century sources, the antiphon that opens the first Sunday of the Lenten season prophesies where all this will end up: in deliverance, glory, and length of days.

Collect

We pray to grow in understanding this Lent, and to lead a worthy life. New to the post-Vatican II Missal, this prayer recovered one from the Gelasian Sacramentary. Composed for the First Sunday of Lent, it had fallen into disuse until the late twentieth century.

Prayer over the Offerings

We ask God to make us ready to make these offerings at the beginning of this sacred time. This prayer first appeared in the Gelasian Sacramentary on the

Wednesday before Ash Wednesday, but it was moved here for the post Vatican II Missal.

Communion Antiphon

Two antiphons are proposed. The second is the traditional one that can be traced to at least the eighth century. The first was added to the post-Vatican II Missal because of an occasional custom that the Communion antiphon echoes the Gospel. Matthew's version is chosen.

Prayer after Communion

We pray that in this time of fasting we may hunger for him who is the true and living Bread. This prayer was newly composed for the post-Vatican II Missal, and its dependence on the Gospel is clear.

"The ways of the Lord are not easy, but we were not created for an easy life, but for great things, for goodness." Pope Benedict XVI

During these months of Lenten grace, we are invited to reflect seriously on our journey with God, to examine the ways we are being invited to grow and change. The Christian calling is a life-long pilgrimage of faith. We can never say that we've arrived, but that we are constantly journeying in search of God's Light. At every moment we are invited to conversion, to follow the Lord's way, allowing ourselves to be shaped in and through His love. There is a rather beautiful passage in the Catechism describing the role of the priest: "when he celebrates the sacrament of Penance, the priest is fulfilling the ministry of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost sheep, of the Good Samaritan who binds up wounds, of the father who awaits the prodigal son and welcomes him home on his return, and of the impartial judge whose judgement is both just and merciful. The priest is the sign and the instrument of God's merciful love for the sinner" (1465). As Catholics we know (or should know!) that the minimum requirement of the Church is that we receive Holy Communion once in the year around Easter (the presumption being that we do also attend Mass each Sunday and Holy Day) and that if we have committed grave sins they should be confessed before we receive the Eucharist. No-one can ever pressurise us into the confessional: to seek sacramental reconciliation has to come from a sense of personal contrition and be accompanied by a firm purpose of amendment. But the regular use of this Sacrament is the source of tremendous grace as a means of healing and renewed commitment.

You may choose to receive more regularly during this season the Sacrament of Confession. In this Sacrament we encounter the loving and merciful heart of God the Father. During Confession we hand over to the Lord everything that burdens us and weighs us down. The Sacrament restores and heals us, giving us the strength to begin again.

A few hints for making a good Confession: be clear, be concise, be blunt. Confess sins in number and kind, (as far as you are able to recall) and include just the details that might aggravate or attenuate the sins. Under the normal circumstances of regular confession times, priests don't need the story of your life or account of your week. It isn't time for a chat. It isn't Spiritual Direction nor is it a psychotherapy session, nor is it an opportunity to impress Father with how holy you are. Just be clear, be concise, be blunt. Don't make excuses. To this end, examine your conscience beforehand. You should know what you are going to confess before entering the confessional and, please, pay attention to that request for "bluntness", above. Be blunt. Don't beat around the bush. Use the clearest words, even if

embarrassing and you find it difficult to say them. There is very little that a priest hasn't heard before. He usually has no idea who you are. He can't reveal anything to anyone. He usually – and this is something just about every priest you will ever meet can verify – he usually forgets what you told him as the next penitent arrives or he moves on to his next duty. It is strange, but true ... at least for me and priests I know.

Making a good confession regularly will help you with being clear, concise, blunt. In the meantime, if you are really nervous or haven't gone to confession often for a long, long, long time, the priest can help you out, but ask him to help you out so that he doesn't wonder about intervening. Be direct. Don't wait until the last moment - if Confessions are from 9.30am - 10am, try not to arrive at the very last moment when the priest may have to move to other duties.

If you are reasonably sure that a) there isn't anyone in line behind you and b) you can truly be concise with a question and c) Father isn't up against a schedule - ie. offering Mass next, and d) your question doesn't pertain to your own confession, then you might ask that question after making your confession and receiving absolution and after asking if you may ask a question.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr Tim the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

OUR LADY'S PANTRY

We need the following for Our Lady's Pantry: Hot dogs (tins); Deodorant; Sardines; Cereal; Shampoo; Soap; Vegetable oil; Tuna.

Friends of the Holy Land.

On 24/25 February, Peter Rand, a retired Trustee and volunteer with Friends of the Holy Land (FHL), will be sharing the impact of the horrific developments since 7 October, on the Christian community in Gaza and elsewhere. Peter has visited Gaza, the West Bank and Israel on many occasions, most recently in March last year, so brings a real insight to the situation. There will be a retiring collection and Peter will bring some leaflets about the work of FHL and some prayer resources. For more information, visit:- www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

COUNTERS

If you can help with counting the Sunday collection on Tuesdays from 9am, please speak to Fr Tim.