



LENTTEN

PENANCE

Service

26TH | 7:30

MARCH | PM

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

264 FULHAM ROAD, LONDON SW10 9EL

Let us pray: Presiding Priest

Almighty God, creator and sustainer of all life, we gather this evening to prepare ourselves to celebrate the great Paschal Mystery. Help us to open our hearts and to be reconciled with you, with our families, our neighbors and with the whole of humanity. Help us to be at one with ourselves and with the whole of creation and to seek forgiveness where we have sinned, and to forgive those who have wronged us.

We bow our heads at the foot of the Cross as a humble sign of our repentance.

We lift our eyes to heavens in praise and thanksgiving for the gift of our Salvation.

This we pray through Christ our Saviour and Risen Lord. Amen.

1st Reading: Romans 5: 6 – 11

Response: “I will never forget you, my people” (796 Laudate)

Gospel: Luke 15: 1 – 10

Homily:

Examination of Conscience

We are gathered around the Cross of Jesus Christ with contrite hearts, trying to become more aware of what we have done and what we have failed to do. Our neglect at our deliberate actions, thoughts and words have contributed to the toll of sins for which Jesus died on the Cross. We gather round in a spirit of reconciliation to ask forgiveness for our neglect of Christ’s call to complete selflessness and for running away from our responsibilities as his followers by not embracing the cross of humanity around us.

1. Sin against God

Is my heart set on God, so that I really love him above all things or am I more concerned about the things of this world?

Are there false Gods that I worship by giving them greater attention – money & wealth, unworthy ambition, unseemly pleasure?

Do I keep Sundays holy by attending Mass and playing a full part in the liturgy? Do I pray regularly to God?

2. Sin against creation

God of all creation, you created all things good. Have I been a good steward of all that you have made? Do I play my part in caring for the environment and the world's resources?

3. Sin against human life

All life is sacred. Do I speak up to defend human life from the moment of conception to the moment of death?

Have I willfully harmed anyone?

Do I respect the dignity of every human being as made in the image and likeness of God – whatever their culture, creed or colour? Am I fair to everyone?

Do I honestly welcome the strangers in our midst – asylum-seekers, refugees, the immigrants?

Do I make much effort to know them, understand them, to love them?

4. Sin against my family and others

Jesus said: "Love one another as I have loved you".

In my family life and relationships have I loved as Jesus asked me to?

Have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of the rest of the family?

Am I a loving husband, wife, parent, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister? As well as being hurt - have I caused hurt to those I love? Do I seek my own way; am I self-centered?

Could I be more loving, more caring, more generous?

5. Sin in my work life, my profession

Am I honest in work; am I lazy; do I take what does not belong to me?

Am I a good citizen? Do I play my part in the life of the civil community?

6. Sin against myself

Do I respect myself as being made in God's image and likeness?

Do I love my person? Do I give into abuse or addictions?
Do I over indulge in anyway?

Lord forgives us and heal us of all our hurts caused by bad memories, disappointing relationships and even betrayal that have caused bitterness and resentment in us. Give us your grace, Lord, to renew us in your image and likeness by helping us to let go. Take away, O Lord, all our sins;

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault: therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Personal Confession and Absolution:

(Please go to one of the Priests to make your personal Confession and Receive Absolution).

Take time for Personal prayer and Penance.

Light a Candle on the Stand.

Together: Our Father

Final Hymn: “O Lord my God” (721 Laudate)