

# OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

264 FULHAM ROAD, LONDON SW10 9EL

T: 020 7352 6965 Email: [fulhamroad@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:fulhamroad@rcdow.org.uk)

GIFT AID: [fulhamroadgac@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:fulhamroadgac@rcdow.org.uk) WEB: [serviteparish.co.uk](http://serviteparish.co.uk)

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**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT YR. A 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2026**

## Sunday Reflection

The readings for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year A, present us with powerful images of life emerging from death and the promise of resurrection, urging us to trust in God's transformative power.

The 1<sup>st</sup> reading from the Book of prophet Ezekiel 37:12-14, we hear the Lord proclaiming His promise to bring His people back to life, to breathe His spirit into their dry bones, and to restore them to their homeland. This vision of resurrection speaks not only to physical renewal but to spiritual revival, encouraging us to trust in God's ability to restore what seems lost or hopeless.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:8-11, assures us that the Spirit of God dwells within us, bringing life even to our mortal bodies. This divine presence is a powerful reminder that, through Christ, we are made new. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us, enabling us to overcome the trials and tribulations we face.

The Gospel is taken from John 9:1-41, we witness the profound miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Martha's declaration, "I believe that you are the Messiah," serves as a call to faith and trust in Jesus during our own moments of grief and doubt. Jesus not only brings Lazarus back to life but also reveals His identity as the Resurrection and the Life, inviting each of us to experience the hope of resurrection in our own lives.



**First Holy Communion** – A soft reminder for the Parent Meeting with Communion Team on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 6:00 pm for Communion Planning please.

**Confirmation** – The 6th session will be on 26th April 2026 (Sunday) 5:30 PM at Founders Room and 6:30 PM Mass at the church for Confession and Practice.

**The Stations of the Cross** – Every Friday of Lent after the 6:30 PM Mass.

**Lenten Penance Service** – will be on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (Thursday) at 7:30 PM.

**Appeal for the Lighting System** – Our parish church had made a major repair to the electrical lighting system that costs £40,000. We sincerely appeal for your generous support. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

**Mass Collections (14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026)** – £1,376 was received in the main collection, and £306 in the second collection for the Church Restoration. Thank you for your faithful kindness and wholehearted support.

### Mass Times

**Vigil Mass:** Sat 6.30 pm  
Sunday 9.30 am  
11.00 am  
Spanish Mass 12.30 pm  
6.30 pm  
Mon to Sat 10am & 6.30 pm

### Sacrament of Confession

Saturday 10.45 – 11.15 am  
6.00 – 6.30 pm  
Mon – Fri 6:15 – 6:30 pm

### Parish Office Opening Hrs

Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm  
(Lunch from 1.30pm to 2.30pm)

### Rosary

Every Wednesday after  
10am Mass followed by Tea  
in the Founders Room.

- Rosary also held on Sundays  
at 3pm in the Colonnade.

### Legion of Mary

Every Tuesday at 7pm in the  
Parlour.

### Holy Hour

1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month after  
10am Mass. The hour will include  
Rosary, Litany Divine Mercy &  
Benediction.

### Saints Days

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup>** – St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

**Tue 24<sup>th</sup>** – St. Oscar Arnulfo Romero

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup>** – The Annunciation of  
the Lord

**Thu 26<sup>th</sup>** – St. Catherine of Genoa

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup>** – St. Gregory of Narek

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup>** – St. Catherine of  
Bologna



### St. Peregrine Mass of Healing

Our next St. Peregrine Mass of  
Healing is on **25<sup>th</sup> March** at  
6.30pm.

### Relic of St. Carlo Acutis

Exposition of this Relic on every  
Monday after our 10am Mass.

**St. Carlo Acutis, Pray for us.**

## YOUR GIVING BUILDS THE PARISH

Through Gift Aid, every £1 you donate becomes £1.25 for the parish.  
Gift Aid increases your donation by 25% — and it costs you nothing.

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## FIRST READING

**A reading from the first book of Ezekiel**

37:12-14

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.



**The word of the Lord.**  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL

**Ps 130(129):1-2. 3-4. 5-6b. 6c-8. R7bc**

**R. With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive to the sound of my pleadings. **R**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?  
But with you is found forgiveness, that you may be revered. **R**
3. I long for you, O Lord, my soul longs for his word.  
My soul awaits the Lord more than watchmen for daybreak. **R**
4. More than watchmen for daybreak, let Israel hope for the Lord.  
For with the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.  
It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. **R**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

8:8-11

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

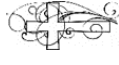
**The word of the Lord.**  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation:

**Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.**

*I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Everyone who believes in me shall never die.*

**Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.**



## Gospel

**A reading from the holy Gospel**

**according to John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45**

At that time: The sisters of Lazarus sent to Jesus, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.'

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Year A) 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.'

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.'

Jesus was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.



**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**All: Glory to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.**

## NICENE CREED — See Laudate 479 (205)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (All bow for following three lines) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.