

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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1ST SUNDAY OF LENT YR. A 22ND FEB. 2026

Sunday Reflection

The readings for the First Sunday of Lent, Year A, invite us to reflect on themes of temptation, sin, and redemption – an important journey we undertake every year in this sacred season.

The 1st reading from the Book of Genesis 2:7-9, we witness the creation of humanity, formed from the dust of the earth and given life through God's breath. However, we also witness the tragic moment of temptation when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, resulting in the fall. The story reminds us that temptation is as old as humanity itself. The serpent's cunning words persuaded them to doubt God's goodness, leading to choices that brought pain and separation from God.

In the 2nd reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 5:12-19, draws a stark contrast between Adam's disobedience and Christ's obedience. Whereas sin entered the world through one man, St. Paul assures us that it is through Christ, the new Adam, that grace abounds.

The Gospel is taken from Matthew 4:1-11, we see Jesus facing the temptation of the devil in the desert. He is confronted with hunger, the desire for power and the challenge to test God's faithfulness. Each time, Jesus responds with scripture and reliance on God's truth. He models for us the way to confront our own temptations not through our own strength, but through our trust in God's word and promises.

Let us remember that temptation is not just an external challenge, but an invitation to a deeper faith. Like Jesus, we are called to turn to God's Word and the Spirit for guidance.



First Holy Communion – The 9th session is on 26th February 2026 (Thursday) 3:45pm-4:45pm at the Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on 28th February 2026 (Saturday) at 11:00 am.

Confirmation – The 4th session will be on 7th March 2026 (Saturday) 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM - a Whole Day Retreat at Religious of the Assumption, 20 Kensington Square, London W8 5HH. ALL MUST ATTEND.

The Stations of the Cross – Every Friday of Lent after the 6:30 PM Mass starting on 20th February 2026.

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 (14th & 15th February 2026) – £1,205 was received in the main collection, and £358 in the second collection for 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

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

Saints Days

Mon 23rd – St. Polycarp
Tue 24th – Bl. Luke Belludi
Wed 25th – Bl. Sebastian of
Aparicio
Thu 26th – St. Maria Bertilla
Boscardin
Fri 27th – St. Gabriel of Our Lady
of Sorrows
Sat 28th – Bl. Daniel Brottier



St. Peregrine Mass of Healing

Our next St. Peregrine Mass of
Healing is on 25th February 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.

May bountiful blessing, O Lord, we pray, come down upon your people, that hope may grow in tribulation, virtue be strengthened in temptation, and eternal redemption be assured. Through Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

2:7-9; 3:1-7

The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.



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

RESPONSORIAL

Ps 51(50):3-4. 5-6b. 12-13. 14, 17. R cf. 3a

R. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your merciful love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash me completely from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. **R**
2. My transgressions, truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. **R**

1st Sunday of Lent (Year A) 22nd February 2026

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

4:1-11

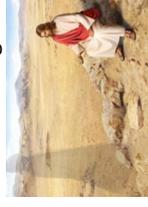
At that time: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."'

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."' Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to 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

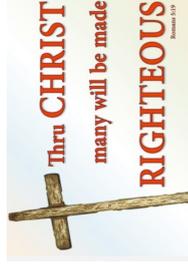
under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose

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.



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