

## Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St. Simon Stock

Carmelite Church 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB

Phone No: 0207 937 9866 [www.carmelitechurch.org](http://www.carmelitechurch.org)

Mass Times Sun: Vigil Sat 6.00 p.m. Sun 8.30 am 10.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m 12.15 & 6.00

Weekday Masses 8.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.

Confessions Sat 10.30 a.m-11.30 a.m & 5.00 p.m -5.55 Weekdays 5.30 p.m - 6.00

### Priests in the Parish

Fr Christopher Clarke ODC (Prior & Parish Priest), Fr. Alexander Ezechukwu ODC

Fr John McGowan ODC, Fr Tijo Xavier ODC

### Safeguarding Persons

Franca Bren & Teresa Lynch

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

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*Dear Friends,*

*We greet you all and pray that you are keeping well and that you continue to pray for all who are sick and for those who care for them. Please God we will see an end to the situation we find ourselves in and that as we go through it we will in faith search for and find anew the Lord's presence in our midst.*

*“All things work for good for those who love Our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*There is never a moment when God is not knocking at the door waiting for the invitation to come and sit with us.*

*To be attentive and waiting as St. John Henry Newman states:*

*“is to be touched by his coming.” (Rom: 8:28)*

*May God bless you and keep those you love safe.*

## **First Reading**

### Acts of the Apostles

**42** The whole Community devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43** And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. **44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common; **45** and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. **46** And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. **John 20:24-29**

### **A reading from the Gospel according to John**

**24** Now Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

**26** A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" **27** Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

**28** Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

**29** Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

## Reflection

*The so-called 'doubting' Thomas reflects a general present century hesitation when it comes to matters of faith. Not necessarily a flat denial of truth, but a mentality that is sceptical, suspicious, and demanding hard evidence. During life, faith is an ongoing struggle. There can be moments of crisis when our minds are darkened, and our vision of God is blurred by clouds of doubt. Dostoevsky wrote: "It is not like a child that I believe in Christ and confess his faith, but my Hosanna has passed through the great crucible of doubt".*

*St. Thomas was not really a man of little faith. He was struggling to come to terms with what had happened to Jesus, the Master he loved, who spoke with authority, who raised others from the dead, who was taken in a mockery of justice and put to death with criminals.*

*When Thomas is faced with the risen Lord, he recognises his friend and makes the leap which is the hallmark of Christian faith, as he says: 'My Lord and my God'. Thomas is a model for us Christians. His doubt is my doubt: his demand is my demand: his road to faith is my road also.*

*It is because he doubted, saw, and believed, that we can believe. And when we believe we have life in Christ. At the heart of our faith is an encounter with a living person, Jesus of Nazareth, who is the Son of God. It means putting our trust in him and in what God has done for us through him.*

*There is so much more to life than can be seen with the eye, or proven with mathematical equations. Without faith we are restricted in what we can see. Faith removes the veils that prevent us from seeing deeper truths that are unavailable to physical vision. Jesus praises those who see with that vision of faith and he calls them "blessed".*

*Faith follows the intuitions of the heart rather than legalities of the mind, or will-power and emotions. Faith makes it obvious that the world is a wonderful place, that people are basically decent, and that good is more powerful than evil. Faith opens the door to hope, it works miracles,*

**and allows dreams to come true. Yes, indeed, 'blessed are you, who have not seen, and yet believe'.**

### ***Prayer of the Faithful***

**Celebrant:** ... God's presence comforts us in times of fear and doubt. We ask God to strengthen and uphold all his people.

**Reader:** ... *We pray for the whole Church, that all the baptised, enthused by the Lord's rising, may be filled with a new commitment to focus on the things of God. . . Lord, hear us.*

**Rd.** ... *We pray for ourselves: may our troubled hearts know the peace and joy of encountering the risen Christ . . . Lord, hear us.*

**Rd.** ... *We pray for those who are troubled by doubts: may the Holy Spirit lead them to calmer waters and to the peace and joy of Christ's abiding presence. . . . Lord, hear us.*

**Rd.** ... *We pray for our sick: We remember especailly those sufering from the Corona Virus may they be comforted in their suffering and pain by the care of those who tend to their needs. . . Lord, hear us.*

**Rd.** ... *We pray for our deceased relatives and friends, and for all who have vied from Corona Virus, Micahel Yates, & Fr Ignatius McDonnell may they receive the fullness of eternal life promised by Jesus to all those who believe in his word. . . . Lord, hear us.*

**Celebrant:** ... *Heavenly Father, we have not seen but we believe. Keep us always in your love and bless us. Grant this through Christ our risen Lord.*