

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

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

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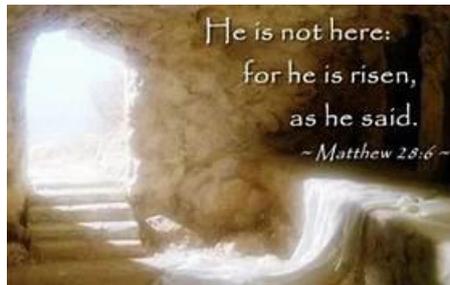
Priests in the Parish

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



Dear Friends,

In her book "Revelations of Divine Love", Julian of Norwich describes while contemplating the actual moment of the death of Our Lord on the cross a smile appeared on his face. She then states that **"between the one thing and the other no time elapsed."**

What she seems to say is that both dying and new life are intertwined. You cannot have one without the other. Our Lord put it very clearly: "Unless you take up your cross and follow me you cannot be my disciple." Or as St Paul states: - "This is a trustworthy saying: If we died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him;.... The Virtue of Hope is one of the great pillars of the Christian life. And supernatural hope teaches us to have eyes to see the world and our life with the eyes of the Gospel. There is always the temptation to be trapped in dark corners where fear, isolation and loneliness reign. Where we have locked the door and shuttered the windows so no light can enter. This is what the disciples did after witnessing Our Lord being crucified. They went into hiding. But on Easter morning the Risen Lord searched them out. In the coming weeks we will hear read at mass the stories of the appearances of Our Lord to his disciples. One of these stories states: "On the evening of the first day of the week, when the disciples were together, **with the doors locked**Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

Only the gift of faith can teach us to acknowledge the Lords presence in the locked rooms of our minds and hearts. With the eye of faith we can identify Resurrection all around us. Even today we see those who have no faith beginning to see differently. It has begun to dawn on us how we took for granted people we have depended on all the time. We see people who may have no faith offering themselves to man the frontline in the fight to save others' lives. The Pope identifies them and named them: *.....doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves.....How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer. How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all. Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons."*

These words of Pope Francis invite us to pray for Gospel eyes, to be converted and not be

crippled by fear. To live in the present moment and realise that is where we encounter the Risen Lord.

“for Christ plays in ten thousand places,
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his
To the Father through the features of men's faces.”

Yes, Jesus died once for all on the Cross on Good Friday. But he also died many times each day when he patiently and lovingly gave of his time to care for others. The unnoticed and may be unacknowledged acts of service and love done in the name of Our Lord, are moments not only of dying to ourselves but are also moments of Resurrection. **“Between the one thing and the other no time elapses.”** Between giving and receiving. Between Death and Life. Through loving acts of charity and patience we experience the new life of Easter. For living in the truth “that love is its own reward” keeps us moving forward with confidence and trust.

Let us continue to pray as individuals and families for all those who are sick and those who are working for all of us on the frontline, carrying us through these strange and difficult days.

The Lord is Risen. Alleluia!

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful Easter.
Fr Christopher and Community.

Prayer for the afflicted in a time of pandemic

Let us pray for all those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic, that God the Father may grant health to the sick,
strength to those who are for them
comfort to families and
salvation to all the victims who have died.
(Silent Prayer)

"Almighty ever-living God, only support of our human weakness, look with compassion upon the sorrowful condition of your children who suffer because of this pandemic;
relieve the pain of the sick
give strength to those who care for them
welcome into your peace those who have died and
throughout this time of tribulation
grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: ... Just as the Father raised Jesus from death, so he seeks to give us the fullness of life. Let us bring him all our needs and concerns.

Reader: ... We pray that the Church may be renewed in the risen Christ and bring his message of hope and love to the

world. . . . Lord, hear us.

Rd. ... We pray that this community, gathered here in faith: may we experience the joy of the resurrection in the happiness we share with others Lord, hear us.

Rd. ... We pray for the grace to be faithful in living the Christian faith, especially through fidelity to Sunday Mass and the sacraments. . . . Lord, hear us.

Rd. ... We pray for those who are sick especially those who have contacted the Corona Virus and those are distressed in any way; may they experience a renewal of life this Easter time. . . . Lord, hear us.

Rd. ... We pray for all our dead, especially those who died recently. Sr. Mary Joseph (Carmelite) Kathryn McCollin, Maria Basfold, Mary Norton Norman Taylor & Fr Ephraim Ojiekwe (Carmelite) and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Michael Brennan, Fr's Peter Cryan & Oliver McGettigan, (Carmelites), George Cesar & Sr. Mary Teresa McCarthy. Eufrocina Licayan, Mary Mc Cauliffe & Joseph Chui Wan Cheong may they be brought to eternal peace and rest in the glory of God. . . . Lord, hear us.

*Celebrant: ... God of power and might, as you raised Jesus from the dead, fill us with the same risen life, that we may give you glory and praise forever. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Prayer for the afflicted in a time of pandemic*