

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

Mass Times Vigil Sat 6.00 p.m. Sunn: 8.30 a.m. , 10.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. (Choir) 12.15 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.

Weekdays Masses: 8.00 a.m., 12.15 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.

Confessions: Sat 10.30 - 11.30 a.m. & 5.00 p.m. - 5.50 p.m. Weekdays 5.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Priests of the Parish

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

Fr John McGowan, Fr. Tijo Xavier ODC

Safeguarding Persons

Franca Bren & Teresa Lynch

Feast of Pentecost 31st May 2020



Opening Prayer

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify the Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gift of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and , with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever, Amen

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' **The Word of the Lord**

Psalm 103

Response; Send forth your Spirit, O Lord and renew the face of the earth

Bless the Lord my soul!
Lord God how great you are.
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. R/

You take back your spirit they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
you renew the face of the earth.R/

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
may the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. R/



Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says ‘Let Jesus be cursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews, as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of the faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia



Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."



The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection / Feast of Pentecost

"...suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting" (Acts 2)

The word "Ruah" in the Bible means both Wind and Spirit. The words of St. John's Gospel come to mind on this the Feast of Pentecost. "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going." (Jn 3: 8). For the ancients, the wind was a very mysterious element. It was hard for them to know its origin or where its destination lay. It was difficult to grasp and impossible to control. For them it could be a good sign or as in horror films, it could indicate that something evil was about to take place.

Jesus however promised the Holy Spirit. The adjective defined the noun. He tells his disciples that it is best that he leaves them so that he can ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit, 'who will remind them of all he taught and lead them into the fullness of truth.' The word Spirit like wind is an elusive word, a word with wings, we cannot cage it; it is always in flight. It is difficult to define. But when we encounter it we can recognise it. It has the ring of truth about it. People recognised it in Our Lord; "They were astonished by the gracious words that came from his mouth." They were words that gave life, words that inspired, words that encouraged, words that comforted, words that did not simply inform but transformed (conversion). Words that open doors, release us from our fears and self imposed isolation. We often meet people who have spent a lot of money going to counsellors but found no help. Then in casual conversation with a friend a word is spoken and a door is opened, fear is banished, a burden is lightened and in some way we are freed. We can take charge of our life again. We come home to ourselves. We may not know why or how. Everyone of us longs for such a word. Everyone should patiently pray to hear this word. St Augustine tells us of the reverence we must have for such words, for they are sheer gift, they are a grace. Augustine describes such a word as 'those precious cups of meaning.'

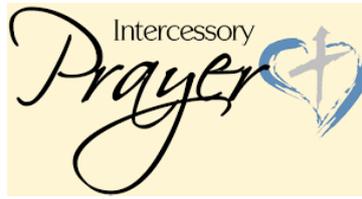
Unfortunately, Our Lord's words, "you have eyes and you cannot see, you have ears and you cannot hear" are as true for us as they were true for the disciples who first heard them. What must we do? Because the Spirit is like the wind which we cannot control and capture, we need the disposition of waiting, a waiting that is marked by hopefulness. For the Christian the hand of God is found in everything. As the proverb says; "God's providence rises before the sun each day." With that spirit of hopefulness we become searchers of truth. Waiting for the truth to surprise us. We must be lovers of truth, seek the truth, cherish it, for as Our Lord said "the truth will set you free,' However, St. Catherine of Siena said "freedom has to be liberated from the cloud of self-centredness.' This can only be brought about in us through the action of the Holy Spirit. It is not in our fallen nature to have that childlike trust to freely give of ourselves. Eucharistic Prayer 4 of the Roman Missal states this truth beautifully, 'And that we might live no longer for ourselves but for Him he sent the Holy Spirit from you Father, his first gift to those who believe.' Notice his first gift is not a thing, it is himself. Here we touch the essential of Gospel living. Here we see clearly why the presence of the Holy Spirit is essential if Christians are to reflect the life of Our Lord, who came to serve rather than be served.

There is nothing more powerful than this grace. No other work is more important in the life of the Church than the grace of the giving of oneself in a free, loving and in a spontaneous manner. It is the essence of holiness and in the life of the Church there is no substitute for HOLINESS.

This feast calls all the baptised to a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit the third person of the Most Holy Trinity.

"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and enkindle in them the fire of love."





Celebrant: ... The Spirit of God has been poured into our hearts and in that Spirit we can call on God our Father. Confident of God's good will to us, we pray for all our needs.

Reader: ... May the Holy Spirit inspire all Christians to work together harmoniously as members of Christ's Body for our mutual good and the good of all. . . . Lord, hear us.

Rd. ... May the Holy Spirit whisper words of peace into lives torn apart by violence, and we pray for the dead and the suffering families of the Corona Virus. . . . Lord, hear us.

Rd. ... We pray for those who have grown lukewarm in their faith: may the Holy Spirit drive out their apathy and coldness and rekindle the desire for heaven. . . Lord, hear us.

Rd. . . . We pray for all those who are suffering from anxiety and stress. May the Holy Spirit bring peace and calm to their lives. . . Lord, hear us.

Rd. ... We pray for all who are sick, remembering those who have asked for our prayers: may the Holy Spirit comfort them in their illness and restore them to health. . . Lord, hear us.

Rd. ... May the Holy Spirit bring all who have died, especially for those who died recently: Alice Louise Wilson & Jean DeChantilly and also for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: John McHugh, Fr. Finian Monaghan & Fr. Liam O'Breartuin to eternal rest in the vision and company of God. . . . Lord, hear us.

Celebrant: ... Loving God, giver of all that is good, fill our mouths with your praise, our hearts with your love and our lives with your service. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

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.

Final Prayer

O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may retain all its force and may gain her abundance of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notices

31st May 2020 - Feast of Pentecost

The Opening of the Churches

As you may be aware the Government has indicated they may allow the Churches to open in Phase 3 (not before July) The Cardinal has asked that we begin preparation so that we will meet the requirements set by the authorities so that the Church will be a safe place for people to gather. He has informed us that we will need to gather teams of stewards who will supervise the entrance and exits doors and indicate the seating arrangement which must comply with social distancing. If you would like to help in this please send me your name and email address or phone number. People who wish to offer their help should be deemed healthy. Those who are over 70 years and/or with certain preexisting health conditions, self-isolating or shielding are exempt.

Live Stream Mass from the Parish

Thankfully we have arranged to have the 12.15 p.m. Mass live streamed from the parish each day including Sundays. You can login at www.carmelitechurch.org. or You Tube Kensington Carmelite Parish

Share the Newsletter

If you know of Parishioners or those who attend Mass in our Church you might pass this news letter on to them. If they wish to send their email address to the Parish they can do so by emailing the following address: enquiries@carmelitechurch.org

Support Your Parish

Dear Friends,

We are grateful to those who since the lockdown have sent cheques, their weekly envelope and those who have used the standing order and bank transfer.

I remind those who use the weekly envelopes that the new boxes are available which we can post to you on request. If you wish to use a bank transfer our bank details are:

Bank Address: RBS, 78 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3HP

Account Name: The Community of the Order of Discalced Carmelite Priory Current Account

Bank Code 16 00 82 Account No: 11531232

BIC: RBOS BG 2L IBAN: GB91 RBOS1600 8211 5312 32

We remind those who pay tax that you can gift aid your donation.

Thanking you and ass