

## 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** 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

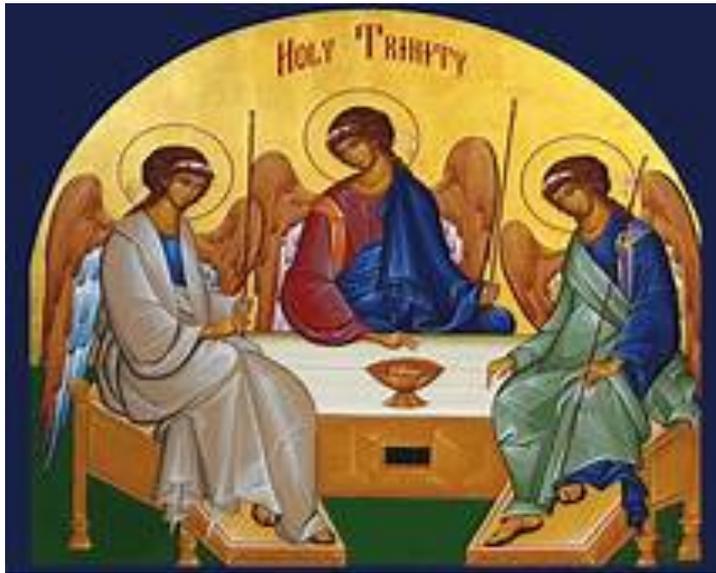
Fr Christopher Clarke ODC (Prior & Parish Priest) Fr Alexander Ezechukwu ODC

Fr John McGowan, Fr. Tijo Xavier ODC

### Safeguarding Persons

Franca Bren & Teresa Lynch

## Feast of The Most Holy Trinity



**7th June 2020**

### **Opening Prayer**

God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

### **First reading**

#### **A Reading from the Book of Exodus**

Moses then cut two stone tablets like the former, and early the next morning he went up Mount Sinai as the Lord had commanded him, taking in his hand the two stone tablets. The Lord came down in a cloud and stood with him there and proclaimed the name, "Lord." So the Lord passed before him and proclaimed: The Lord, the Lord, a God gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love and fidelity, Moses at once knelt and bowed down to the ground. Then he said, "If I find favour with you, Lord, please, Lord, come along in our company. This is indeed a stiff-necked people; yet pardon our wickedness and sins, and claim us as your own."

**This is the Word of the Lord**

## **Psalm: Daniel 3: 52 - 56**

Your are blessed, Lord God of our fathers,

**Response : To you glory and praise for evermore.**

Bless your glorious holy name R/

You are blest in the temple of your glory R/

You are blest on the throne of your kingdomR/

You are blest who gaze into the depths R/

You are blest in the firmament of heaven. R/



## **Second Reading**

### **A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians**

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**The Word of the Lord**

### **Alleluia Alleluia**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
the God who is, who was, and who is to come.

**Alleluia**



## **Gospel**

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

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

## Reflection / Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

**No one has ever seen God; it is God's only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known, and he has given us the power to know the true God. (1Jn 5:20; Jn1-18)**

The great Doctor of the Church St. Augustine of Hippo spent over 30 years working on his treatise *De Trinitate* [about the Holy Trinity], endeavouring to conceive an intelligible explanation for the mystery of the Trinity.

He was walking by the seashore one day contemplating and trying to understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity when he saw a small boy running back and forth from the water to a spot on the seashore. The boy was using a sea shell to carry the water from the ocean and place it into a small hole in the sand.

(This painting of St. Augustine is part of the outside murals in the Augustinian monastery of Quito, Ecuador. It was done by Miguel de Santiago in 1656.)

The Bishop of Hippo approached him and asked, "My boy, what are you doing?"

"I am trying to bring all the sea into this hole," the boy replied with a sweet smile.

"But that is impossible, my dear child, the hole cannot contain all that water" said Augustine.

The boy paused in his work, stood up, looked into the eyes of the Saint, and replied, "It is no more impossible than what you are trying to do – comprehend the immensity of the mystery of the Holy Trinity with your small intelligence."

The Saint was absorbed by such a keen response from that child, and turned his eyes from him for a short while. When he glanced down to ask him something else, the boy had vanished.

Some say that it was an Angel sent by God to teach Augustine a lesson on pride in learning. Others affirm it was the Christ Child Himself who appeared to the Saint to remind him of the limits of human understanding before the great mysteries of our Faith.

Through this story, the sea shell has become a symbol of St. Augustine and the study of theology. It reminds one of St. Thomas Aquinas who after he had written his library of books in theology had an experience of God in prayer and realised that all he had written was 'mere straw.'

Today's feast calls us to a reverent holding ourselves before the mystery of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit. To accept that what we know of God is only what Jesus revealed to us and that is sufficient for our salvation. That compared to the mystery of God what has been revealed is only a fraction of the mystery itself. As the final words of St. John's Gospel states; 'there are many other things Jesus did; were every one of them written, I suppose that the world could not contain the books that would be written.' (Jn 21:25)

A fundamental truth about the persons of the Holy Trinity is that they are equal in their majesty and power, that they are one in their divine nature and that they are equal in the giving of themselves to each other. They are 'being for another.' Through our baptism in the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit, God invites to share in his life and gives us the power to become people who are 'for



another.' "That we might live no longer for our selves but for him, he sent the Holy Spirit from you Father as his first gift to those who believe." (Eucharistic Prayer 1V) This is the power of God in our lives. Not the power of information which one keeps in one's head; but a power in the way we live and relate with others, reflecting the mystery of God as he is in himself - 'being for the other.'

Unlike some other religions we Christians believe we keep our individuality in the next life. We are not swallowed up into God. God relates to us individually. He calls each of us by name. He calls us to a personal relationship/ friendship with him. God respects our dignity. And prayer is the place where we hold ourselves waiting to hear Him speak our name.

### **How we might celebrate this Feast?**

Can I suggest we use the prayer of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity a French Carmelite Nun who joined the Order in Dijon ages 20, died at 24. She saw her vocation summed up in the words "Praise of Glory.' She lived her life reverently holding herself before the mystery of God. She had deep devotion to the Trinity, to whom she referred familiarly as "the Three" or sometimes even "my Three". She wrote this prayer prior to her death in 1906. It is a prayer that has to be prayed rather the read.



### **The prayer to the Trinity**

O my God, Trinity whom I adore, help me to become utterly forgetful of myself so that I may establish myself in you, as changeless and calm as though my soul were already in eternity. Let nothing disturb my peace nor draw me forth from you, O my unchanging God, but at every moment may I penetrate more deeply into the depths of your mystery. Give peace to my soul; make it your heaven, your cherished dwelling-place and the place of your repose. Let me never leave you there alone, but keep me there, wholly attentive, wholly alert in my faith, wholly adoring and fully given up to your creative action.

O my beloved Christ, crucified for love, I long to be the bride of your heart. I long to cover you with glory, to love you even unto death! Yet I sense my powerlessness and beg you to clothe me with yourself. Identify my soul with all the movements of your soul, submerge me, overwhelm me, substitute yourself for me, so that my life may become a reflection of your life. Come into me as Adorer, as Redeemer and as Saviour.

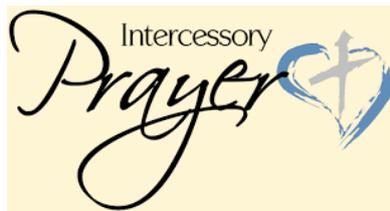
O Eternal Word, utterance of my God, I want to spend my life listening to you, to become totally teachable so that I might learn all from you. Through all darkness, all emptiness, all powerlessness, I want to keep my eyes fixed on you and to remain under your great light. O my Beloved Star, so fascinate me that I may never be able to leave your radiance.

O Consuming Fire, Spirit of Love, overshadow me so that the Word may be, as it were incarnate again in my soul. May I be for him a new humanity in which he can renew all his mystery.

And you, O Father, bend down towards your poor little creature. Cover her with your shadow, see in her only your beloved son in who you are well pleased

O my 'Three', my All, my Beatitude, infinite Solitude, Immensity in which I lose myself, I surrender myself to you as your prey. Immerse yourself in me so that I may be immersed in you until I go to contemplate in your light the abyss of your splendour!





***Celebrant:*** ... *Secure in the knowledge that God loves us, we bring our needs before him with confidence.*

***Reader:*** ... *We pray for the whole Church: may the unifying love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit draw us together in mutual harmony and care. . . . Lord, in your mercy.*

***Rd.*** ... *We pray for ourselves and our families: may we recognise the works and wonders of God in our lives and in our world, and may we know God's closeness in moments of difficulty . . . . Lord in your mercy.*

***Rd.*** ... *We pray for healing, peace and consolation for all who are sick, in sorrow or depressed. . . . Lord, in your mercy.*

***Rd.*** ... *We pray for all people throughout the world that their dignity may be respected. We pray for an end of racism and the equality of all before the law. Lord hear us*

***Rd.*** ... *We pray for our relatives and friends who have died, and for those who died recently: George Floyd, Alice Louise Wilson & Jean DeChandilly,, and those whose anniversaries occur: may they share in the resurrection, and experience the glory of God. Lord in your mercy*

***Celebrant:*** ... *Heavenly Father, we profess you as one God in three persons. We gratefully acknowledge your presence in our lives and we pray that the life of the Trinity may be reflected in us. 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.

## Notices

### 7th June 2020 - Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

#### 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 preparations for the opening of the Churches. We will have to 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 movement and number of people entering the Church and 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](http://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](mailto: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 assuring you of a place in our Prayers and Masses

Fr Christopher odc