

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 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

Feast of Corpus Christi / 21st June 2020



Opening Prayer

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your experience in ourselves the fruit of your redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

The Word of the Lord

Psalm 147

Response : O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

Zion, praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
he has blessed the children within you. R/

He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.

He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command. R/

He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.

He has not dealt this with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees. R/



Alleluia, Alleluia

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia.



Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord



Reflection

“We Cannot live without Sunday”

The “Martyrs of Abitene,” martyred in 303, were Christians who lived in Abitene, a city of the Roman province called “Africa Proconsularis,” today’s Tunis. They were victims of Emperor Diocletian’s persecution, initiated after years of relative calm.

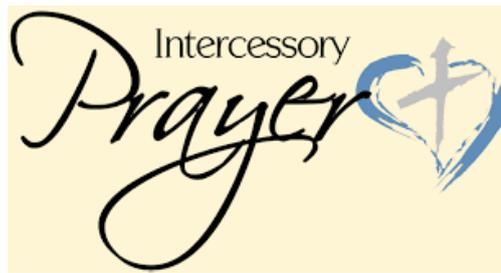
Disobeying the emperor’s orders, a group of 49 Christians of Abitene gathered weekly in one of their homes to celebrate Sunday Mass. Taken by surprise during one of the meetings in Octavius Felix’s home, they were arrested and taken to Carthage to Proconsul Anulinus to be interrogated.

When the Proconsul asked them if they kept the Scriptures in their homes, the martyrs answered courageously that “**they kept them in their hearts,**” revealing that they did not wish to separate faith from life.

Among the testimonies is that of Emeritus, who affirmed fearlessly that he received Christians for the celebration. The Proconsul asked him: “Why have you received Christians in your home, transgressing the imperial dispositions?” Emeritus answered: “**We cannot live without Sunday**”.

Given the situation we find ourselves in for the past number of months with the lockdown, the Churches closed and sacramental life not available we are having to live without the Eucharist. The Feast of Corpus Christi which we celebrate today heightens the sense of loss that we are unable to gather and celebrate Mass and do as Our Lord told us; “do this in memory of me.” For a Catholic people the Mass is the centre of our life as Christians. It is the most powerful prayer, not simply because it is our prayer, more importantly it is the prayer of Jesus who offers himself to the Father on our behalf and we in faith unite ourselves to him in that offering. However we can follow the example of the Martyr’s of Abitene who said of the scriptures that “they kept them in their hearts.” Being deprived of the Eucharist we should strive like the martyrs to live a Eucharistic life. Living out our faith. Not separating faith and life.

St. Augustine in a Homily for Easter told the newly baptised ‘to be what they received.’ When they receive the sacrament and the priest says ‘Body of Christ’ do not say ‘Amen’, say “I am”. Yes we cannot receive Our Lord this Feast Day but we can through faith be Eucharist. Be a person that is thankful, a person of gratitude, a person that rejoices in being able to serve others. Be bread that is blessed , broken and shared.



Celebrant: ... We place our confidence in the generosity of God the Father who gave us his Son in the Eucharist as food for our journey; we bring before him our needs.

Reader: ... We ask that a living and active faith in the mystery of the Eucharist may be renewed throughout the Church: may we learn, through sharing the Mass, our mission of being food and drink for others. . . Lord, hear us.

Rd. ... We remember all those who serve at the altar of the Eucharist: may they be blessed by their service, and may those whom God calls into sacramental ministry find the support and love they need. . . . Lord, hear us.

Rd..... We pray for all who are persecuted for their faith and who are unable to have the nourishment of the Eucharist,. may the Spirit of the Lord be their strength and support.....
We pray for

Rd. ... We ask God to enfold our faithful departed in eternal peace, especially those who died recently: Marie Louise Sharpin, Maureen Kerwi & John Bromley Tennant may all who have been fed at this altar and all we have known and loved be reunited at Christ's eternal banquet. .
. . Lord, hear us.

Celebrant: ... Heavenly Father, make us truly grateful for the gift of the Eucharist, which gives hope and meaning to our lives. As we offer these prayers along with our Eucharistic offering send your Spirit ever more deeply into the areas of our concern. We make our prayer 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.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

You will be aware that the Churches are to open their doors on Monday for Private Prayer. This is good news as it marks the beginning of the road back to normal community worship and practice. The words of Psalm 121 come to mind: **“I**

**rejoiced when I heard them say;
'let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.”**

As yet there is no date fixed for the celebrating of Sacramental Life. In the meantime we will continue to live stream the 12.15 p.m. & 6.00 p.m. Mass each day.

As we look back over these months there are many things we should be grateful for. The memory of which we should hold dear and not carelessly forget.

Firstly, for those who worked on the front line and served us so generously. May we continue to be thankful for them and pray that they will be blessed by God for their generosity.

Many of you have told me that you had the opportunity to pray more, both as individuals and as a family or with friends. Continue to do so as our world is in need of prayer.

Many of the house bound and those who were asked to stay indoors over this time have mentioned to me how good and caring their neighbours were to them. What a pity if we lost such a blessing!

Was not God good to us to have blessed us with such good weather over this time.?

I am sure all of you could add to this list of blessings

Yet we know that it was a very difficult and sad time for some. Especially those who lost a loved one to the virus. Not being able to sit by the bedside of a dying member of your family is a painful memory. We continue to pray for those who have need of healing. We also pray for those who are worried about their future. There will be difficult times ahead and we pray that our faith will help us and guide us through these days.

The Virus has not gone. We will need to follow carefully the instructions of the Civil Authorities. In this regard we have been asked to observe a strict protocol when we use the opportunity to come to Church for private prayer. I ask you to read carefully the following points and to observe them when you come to the Church.

- 1. The Entrance to the Church will be through the door on the Notting Hill Gate side of the Church. The Exit will be through the door on Kensington High Street side**
- 2. Social Distancing must be observed at all times.**
- 3. We need to sanitise our hands both on entering and leaving the Church. And after we light candles**
- 4. We must only sit where the notice indicates. A household may sit together.**
- 5. We must not touch statues**
- 6. There will be no Holy Water for blessing oneself.**
- 7. There will be no WC facilities available.**
- 8. There will be a limited number of people allowed in the Church at anyone time.**

Giving the above we will experiment with the following times when our Church will remain open.
8.00 a.m. - 11.45 a.m. & 3.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

We are grateful for your prayers and cooperation. Fr Christopher odc

Notices

The Opening of the Churches

We 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 pre-existing health conditions, self-isolating or shielding are exempt.

Live Stream Mass from the Parish

The following times are when you can view our Live Stream for the celebration of the Eucharist Monday - Saturday 12.15 & 6.00 p.m. You can login in at **www.carmelitechurch.org**. or **You Tube Carmelites Kensington**

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 assuring you of a place in our Prayers and Masses