

**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

Priests in the Parish

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

Fr John McGowan ODC, Fr Tijo Xavier ODC

14th Sunday of the Year - 5th July 2020

Jesus contrasts the helplessness of those to whom the mystery of God's saving plan was given with the self-importance and the arrogance of the so-called learned and clever. Jesus is not condemning the proper achievements of human reason and intelligence. But he is condemning the self-sufficiency that rejoices in itself; that has no sense of its dependence on God.

To live, and not just vegetate (merely exist), means getting involved, pitching in; being part of the act. To become involved, though, is to become vulnerable, and here enters the cross. And that's our story. The cross is in our hearts; it is written into our Christian contract.

We have in the gospel some of the best-loved, most-quoted, and hope-filled words of Jesus: "Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest". We all struggle in one way or another: and between one thing and another, don't we all feel overburdened? Maybe we try to bury the cross, hoping it will go away. The cross won't go away: it is part of life. Were we to bury the cross we would bury part of ourselves.

Jesus told the crowd that if they would shoulder his yoke they would find it 'easy': it would fit their shoulders. He did not mean that his followers would have a trouble-free life. But he did, however, promise that, with his support, nobody need find his or her burden too much to carry. That is why so many people find comfort in today's gospel reading.

We know we are not alone, and that makes such a difference. Through all our turmoil and confusion the voice of Jesus is still heard. He calls from his prison of love, - the tabernacle. The Blessed Sacrament is the eternal gift of Jesus to us, to our broken, suffering, tormented human family. Visiting his comforting presence, we come away feeling free; our burdens, not necessarily lifted, but certainly lightened; our faith strengthened; our hope renewed.

The same Jesus sends us out from this Eucharist, to go and bring this comforting presence,

through our kindness and compassion, through our prayer, to the many people who are hurting; people maybe in our homes, certainly in our society. The world is full of hurt today and hearts are filled with care: but many lives can still be touched because you said a prayer.

Churches Re-open for Public Worship

From this weekend, 4th July, the Church will open for Public Worship and the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Because of the need for Social Distancing there will be a limit to the number of people attending any one Mass. Operating on the 2meters principle we will be able to accommodate 85 worshipers at each Mass. For the present we will operate on a 'first come' principle.

In order to be compliant with Covid Guidelines everyone entering the Church will be asked to:

1. give their name and contact details to be compliant with the guidelines on Track and Trace. You will then be given a number which you can use when coming to Mass while the present restrictions are in place.
2. observe social distancing at all times both entering the Church, within the Church and as you leave.
3. sanitise hands both on entering and leaving the Church
4. observe the one way system: (a) entering by the North Door. (b) Taking your seat by the two side aisles. (c) Exiting through the main aisle and leaving by the South Door.

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5. There will be no Holy Water available
6. If you light a candle you must sanitise your hands afterwards.
7. The collection bags will not be passed around. You may deposit your offering in the box provided as you leave by the main aisle.
8. Please take the newsletter with you as you leave the Church. **Do not leave it for others to use.**

Public Mass will be at the following times:

Saturday 4th July: Vigil 6.00 pm

Sunday 5th July: 10.00 am and 6.00 pm

12.15pm will be Live-Streamed

If for any reason you are unable to attend Mass on Sundays
you are encouraged to attend Mass during the Week.

Times of Masses on weekdays:

8.00 am 12.15 pm and 6.00 pm

*In the future it is hoped to celebrate more Masses when we
have sufficient Volunteers to help with the stewarding and
cleaning of the Church.*
