

**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)

**New Mass Times:** Sun: Sat Vigil 6.00 p.m. Sun. 8.30 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.

**Weekday:** 8.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.

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

**Priests in the Parish**

Taddeus Ekuma odc (Prior) Fr Matt Blake odc, Fr John McGowan, Fr Tijo Xavier odc

**Safeguarding Persons**

Franca Bren & Teresa Lynch

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**19th Sunday of the Year- 9th August 2020**

At some time or another we all face difficult and trying situations. Faith does not shield us from the harsh knocks of life. Elijah was a man of great faith. He had become a hunted man, threatened with death. Beaten and broken, he sought refuge in a cave. He just wanted to die. At the mouth of the cave, however, he experienced an awesome silence that denoted the presence of God, and he was strengthened to soldier on.

Elijah's encounter with the Lord on Mount Horeb reveals a God who meets us, not in the extraordinary and dramatic, but in the ordinary events of daily living - the still, small voice heard in a gentle breeze. For this we need an active faith - we need to believe in the goodness of God and have an awareness of his presence. This demands patience, stillness, and quiet meditating, so that we recognise God's loving presence in the 'bits and pieces' of daily life.

The storms of life may mean that we are so busy struggling to simply survive that we don't lift our eyes to see Jesus already walking towards us, coming unexpectedly in the silence; coming in our battles, in our tiredness and brokenness, in our doubts and desperation.

Becoming a casualty sometime in the sea of life isn't necessarily the worst thing in the world, because Jesus is always waiting for us with outstretched arms.

Our awareness of God's presence and acceptance of his love, give us the personal security to let go of familiar supports, to come out of the darkness of the caves of our lives; to step out of the security of our little boat and so risk growth. It is so tempting to stay in the boat and just imagine walking on the water.

Scott Peck defines real love as 'the will to extend oneself for one's own or another's spiritual growth'. The experience of extending ourselves, of taking on new commitments, developing a skill, putting our trust in a relationship: this is the road to a deeper trust, trust in ourselves, in life, and above all, deeper trust in Jesus.

The quiet presence of Jesus is hidden at the heart of everything that could disturb us. Doubt and fear should not surprise or disappoint us. We just need to be in the habit of

paying attention to the Lord's presence. In our journey of faith we take God's hand, outstretched caressingly, and go forward in trust.

## Notices

Dear Parishioners & Friends,

As you may be aware, we have just finished our Chapter - a meeting we have every three years. I have received an appointment to our community in Loughrea in Ireland and will be leaving for there in the next weeks.

Firstly, I wish to express my gratitude to you for your kindness and understanding. I have enjoyed my time here and am grateful for your support and prayers. I am happy to inform you that your new Prior is Fr. Taddeus Ekuma who is currently a member of our community in Oxford. He was ordained here a number of years ago and has just completed his further studies in Oxford. I wish him well in his new appointment and I know you will extend to him a warm welcome. He will be joined by Fr. Matt Blake who needs no introduction to you, as he has in the past served for many years as Prior and Parish Priest in Kensington.

I take this opportunity to thank my brother priests Fr John Mc Gowan and Fr Tijo Xavier, who have worked alongside me these past years. I thank them both. As you know Fr. Tijo is here to complete his further studies and I appreciate the generous manner he gives of himself to the various groups in the Parish. In particular his involvement in the preparing of the young people for Confirmation. I thank also Benedict who helps in this work.

To our Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, the Choirs and our organist Simon, our Pilipino choir and its leaders, Servers (looked after by Ken), Catechists (lead by Annigrig), Collectors and Michael who organises them, to those who ensure that our Church is cleaned and looks cared for, to our volunteer sacristan (Jay), the volunteer receptionists, Lorina, Sianing & Letetia, Patricia who manages our Web site and Safeguarding Persons Franca & Teresa I thank you and appreciate the love and generosity with which you give of yourselves. Recently, because of the Corona Virus we have had to form a group of people who supervise and welcome people when the Church is open. We owe them our gratitude and thank them. To our staff Julie, Bernadette, Marlene and Karina a BIG thank you.

We are blest in our Parish and area to have four religious communities of sister. Their presence and witness to their various charism's enriches us and we thank God for their being in our midst.

Finally, I thank each and everyone of you for your kindness to me and for your prayers. I leave with happy memories and will hold you in prayer that you will be blessed in your Christian life.

Like death when it draws near we will always have things we should have done or would have liked to have done. But that is life - and gratitude helps us to move forward gracefully.

In these strange times I pray for you and ask that you pray for me. May we have the blessings and protection of Our Lord and his Mother.

Gratefully yours,

Fr Christopher