

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL AND ST SIMON STOCK
CARMELITE CHURCH, 41 KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET, LONDON W8 4BB

Phone No. 0207 937 9866 www.carmelitechurch.org

New Mass Times: Sat Vigil 6.00 pm
Sun: 8.30 am, 10.00 am, 12.15 pm and 6.00 pm
Weekday: 8.00 am, 12.15 pm and 6.00 pm

Livestreamed Masses: Everyday at 12.15pm and 6.00pm

Livestream: www.carmelitechurch.org, also YouTube: “Kensington Carmelite Church”

Confessions: Sat: 10.30 am and 5.00 - 5.50 pm Weekdays: 5.30 pm - 5.50 pm

Priests in the Parish: Thaddeus Ekuma ocd, Fr Matt Blake ocd,
Fr John McGowan ocd, Fr Tijo Xavier ocd, Fr Theophilus Nyamali, ocd

Safeguarding Reps: Franca Bren & Teresa Lynch

27th Sunday of the Year- 4th October 2020

REFLECTION

In the Gospel today, we read the second of the three parables about the judgment of Israel in Mathew’s Gospel. As with the previous *Parable of the Two Sons*, the *Parable of the Wicked Tenants* (which is also found in the Gospel of Mark 12:1-12 and Luke 20:9-19), is an allegory in which Jesus presents a situation to the chief priests and elders and asks them to give a verdict. In giving their verdict, they condemned themselves out of their own mouths. The landowner in the story is God; the vineyard is Israel and the tenants are the religious leaders of Israel.

The story is obviously rooted in the history of Israel. Many times in Israel’s history God sent them prophets to speak to his people (Heb.1:1). But like the tenants in the parable, they did not listen, instead they persecuted and killed the prophets. God decided to send His own Son, but they treated him in the same manner. The text of Isaiah 5:1-7 which we have in our first reading illustrates the frustration of God with Israel – despite everything God did for His vineyard, it yielded nothing that He expected. Jesus already dramatized this frustration in the cursing of the fig tree (Mt 21:18-19). The verdict of the chief priests and scribes is that the appropriate punishment for the wicked tenants would be to “put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who would produce fruit.” Thus, they declared what they themselves deserved by not believing in Jesus and plotting to put him to death.

But God did not carry out this deserved punishment. Instead, through Jesus he showed how enduring his mercy is. So while the parable is about the judgment of Israel, it shows that God’s judgment consists in showing mercy, in giving humanity another chance to make the right decision.

Yes, we are the tenants in God’s vineyard. And the Gospel is pointing to a real danger that we can fall into. When we want something, we want to see it through and we are totally blind to the Spirit of God that is calling us to listen to God. The chief priests and the Pharisees were entrenched in the Jewish laws and cultic practices and they would not entertain any voice offering another way to God. They would rather subdue and do everything to exterminate that

voice. We too find ourselves in this danger when we are not open to allow ourselves to be challenged by the word of God and we prefer to stick to our own ways and subdue every voice that threatens our comfort. Jesus says to us today, that if we insist on our own ways and not listen to what Jesus teaches us, the kingdom which he has given us will be taken from us and given to those who will bear its fruit – the fruit of obedience to the will of God.

God is constantly calling us to follow His will, to allow ourselves to be guided by Him, to take the opportunities that He is constantly offering us for repentance. He is calling us to cultivate his vineyard and nurture it so that it may bear fruit. The flourishing of our neighbours is the blossoming of God's vineyard. To love them and to continue to strive for peace is the greatest act of nurturing God's vineyard. And to do that, given that human beings are inevitably difficult, Jesus asks us to cultivate a close relationship first with Him, that He may give us the graces we need for this task. Let us come to Him in the Eucharist where He feeds us with Himself and teaches us to submit totally to the will of God.

NOTICES

1. New Safety Guidelines

- Our attention is called to the updated safety guidelines as at 24 September. Face covering and 2m safe distance continue to be in force in our place of worship.
- Educational based activities continue as usual, but support groups are limited to 15 persons.
- From 28th September, wedding liturgies and reception will be restricted to a maximum of 15 people. This includes the priest, musicians, etc.
- Funerals and Baptisms are capped at 30 people.
- NHS Test and Trace QR code is on display at the entrance to the church to allow those with mobile phone to check-in themselves. The paper form of check-in will continue to be available.

1. The provisional date for confirmation in our parish is 25th October, if the ongoing catechism classes go as planned.

2. We have started in our parish a healing Mass every first Saturday of the month. You are invited to join us at this special Mass in praying for healing for our world. Solemn Benediction is also held every Saturday now at 11.50am.

3. Registration is still ongoing for candidates preparing for baptism and First Holy Communion. Please contact the parish if you wish to register or email us at catechism.co-ordinator@carmelitechurch.org

4. Today is the Sunday for Peter's Pence offering. This is the offering made for the work of our Holy Father, the Pope. While acknowledging the difficult times we are in, we are encouraged to give what we can for the work of the Pope. There is a dedicated website where you could make a donation any time: <https://www.obolodisanpietro.va/en/dona.html>

5. Collections Last Sunday:

Offering	-	£1247
Gift-Aid	-	£124

Thank you for your generosity