

**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

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.

Livestream: www.carmelitechurch.org; YouTube: "Kensington Carmelite Church"

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

Livestreamed Masses: Everyday at 12.15pm and 6.00pm

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

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28th Sunday of the Year- 11th October 2020

REFLECTION

As we listen to our Gospel today, we might feel confused or even distressed about the action of God regarding the man 'without a wedding garment' at the last part of the Gospel. When I read this parable years ago, I felt very confused and wondered why this man should receive such a harsh treatment simply because he had no wedding garment on. Moreover, we were told that the messengers invited everyone they saw, even from the roadside. Perhaps this man had no other clothes to wear, which should not warrant his being "bound hand and foot and thrown into the dark." So how are we to understand this difficult aspect of the parable or indeed the whole parable?

This *Parable of the Wedding Banquet* uses the image of a festive banquet to describe the kingdom of God. The banquet is, of course, prepared by God himself as described in the prophecy of Isaiah (25:6-10) in our first reading. Not only will the Lord provide rich food and juicy wine, he will also remove mourning and sadness, destroy death and offer salvation for all. Like every banquet, each person must freely respond to the invitation given by the host. And we all have been invited. We have to ask ourselves if in our daily life we are responding to that invitation.

As we see from the parable, accepting to honour the invitation to the banquet is not enough. Those invited must also have the proper disposition (garment) required of them. At the beginning of the first century, at the time of Jesus, it was a Jewish wedding custom that the father of groom would provide wedding garments free of charge to all invitees. It was therefore expected that everyone would wear the provided wedding garment, irrespective of whether the person had a better attire. Dignitaries as well as the poor received the same wedding garment and were expected to be dressed in them. Not to conform to this custom would be an affront to the bridegroom. Against this background, it is easy to understand the reaction of the host in our parable towards the man without a wedding garment.

It is God himself who has prepared this banquet. The acceptance of God's invitation is the acceptance of Jesus, because it is to Christ that we are invited. To accept Jesus means that we resolve to dress ourselves in humility which enables us to live in Christ's love and life. St Paul recognizes how difficult this task is and tells us, in the Letter to the Philippians (4:12-14, 19-20), that Jesus himself will provide the strength for this task and will provide whatever grace that is needed. All we need to do is to accept the invitation and resolve to do our best daily. It is never too late to accept this invitation but there are also consequences for not accepting it, as we are told in the parable today.

We read from the parable in the Gospel that those who rejected the invitation of God to His banquet had their towns burnt and destroyed. In history, this probably refers to the destruction of Jerusalem in c.70 AD because of the refusal of most of the Jewish religious leaders to accept Jesus. But it also refers to the catastrophe that envelopes our life even now when we reject Jesus by failing to dress ourselves

in the wedding garment of humility. Like the man without a wedding garment, we cannot truly partake in God's banquet without humility since it is an indispensable disposition for accepting Jesus and following his way. This is why this parable was directed against the Chief Priests and elders of Israel. They were too preoccupied with maintaining their power and position that they could not see who Jesus truly was. They had refused to put on their wedding garment and still presumed that they would be allowed into the banquet.

Let us continue to pray for the grace of humility and openness to Jesus as he directs our lives. That we may allow ourselves to be truly fed by him in the Eucharist and to accept the grace of salvation he offers us through the gift of himself.

NOTICES

Feast day of St. Teresa of Avila

The feast day of St. Teresa of Avila, the Foundress of the Discalced Carmelites, occurs on 15th October. There will be a liturgical celebration here in our Church to celebrate this feast at 6.00pm on Thursday the 15th. You are all invited to come and celebrate with us as we ask St Teresa to pray for our families and friends and indeed the whole world. Unfortunately, due to the present situation we cannot dine in the usual way after that Mass. Talks on aspects of St. Teresa's life will be given by Fr. Matt Blake and streamed from our Oxford community on 12th – 14th. To register please email inquiries@oxcacs.org

Confirmation

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

Healing Mass

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.

2020/21 Preparations for Baptism and First Holy Communion

Registration is still ongoing for candidates preparing for baptism and First Holy Communion. If you wish to register please contact the parish by filling the form on the parish website or email us at catechism.co-ordinator@carmelitechurch.org

Closure of Pauline Centre at 199 High Street Kensington

The Pauline Sisters at 199 Kensington High Street wish to inform us that their books and media centre at this address unfortunately has to close after 55 years of operation. They wish to thank all the users of the centre and ask for your prayers for the future of their apostolate. Orders can still be placed online at www.pauline-uk.org.

CAFOD

This week our parish is marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of the envelopes after Mass.

Vacancy at St Richard Reynolds

St Richard Reynolds are recruiting for an outstanding English teacher from December 2020 / January 2021 (maternity cover). Please contact recruitment@srrcc.org.uk for further details or visit our website <https://www.strichardreynolds.org.uk/our-college/work-at-srr>.

Collections Last Sunday	Offering	£1,507
	Gift Aid	£228

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