

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL & ST SIMON STOCK CARMELITE CHURCH,

41 KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET LONDON W6 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 (also 10.00am on Sundays)

Priests in the Parish: Fr 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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30th Sunday of the Year - 25th October 2020

REFLECTION

The Gospel today brings us to the heart of who we are and what we are before God, the essence of our life as Christians. To live is to love the Lord our God with everything we are and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Jesus makes it clear that any action or religious observance that does not prioritize this, no matter how holy, noble or heroic, misses the point.

We are told that the Pharisees put this question to Jesus in order to trap him: "What is the greatest commandment in the law?" It is not at all surprising that the Pharisees should ask this question, although the question in this instance is malicious. The Pharisees, so-called because they were a separatist group, were strict observers of the law. But which law? Apart from the ten commandments, there were about 613 other commandments (that is teachings, precepts or regulations) which every faithful Jew should observe, and they are contained in what is the five Books of the Bible (the Torah).

When Jesus was asked what was the greatest of these commandments, he quoted two of them which he merged into one (from Deut 6:4 and Lev 19:18): "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind; and you must love your neighbour as yourself." On these, Jesus says, hang the entire Law and the Prophets. In other words, all the contents of the Hebrew Bible are summarized in this commandment.

In saying this, Jesus is also saying that all the contents of his teaching (now recorded in the Christian Bible) can be summarized in this precept. And it makes us realize how important this is. Love – perhaps the most frequently used word in every aspect of our life – is the summary of the essence of our life. Yet, it is a word that carries enormous ambiguity due to the way it is used. But we can make no mistake about what Jesus says regarding this pivotal commandment.

Clearly the love that Jesus speaks of is our love for God which finds expression in our love for our neighbours. The foundation of this love is God's own love for us. In giving this teaching, about two weeks before his death on the cross, Jesus was also pointing to the nature of God's love, and to the kind of love he was talking about. It is love that involves giving our life, giving everything that we are. That is the kind of love with which God loves us. That is the kind of love with which we must love our neighbour. The measure of our love for our neighbour is the love with which Jesus himself loves us.

It is not about rules. A lot of us tend to believe that Christianity is about keeping rules and avoiding sin. Doubtless, we need rules for the proper functioning of the Church. But it is not the essence of our Christian life. Like the Pharisees, we can get trapped in such details as whether or not Holy Communion should be received in the hand or the tongue, or whether or not we abstain from meat on Fridays. We assume that we are good Christians because we keep these rules. Jesus has unambiguously defined for us what true Christianity consists in: to love our fellow human beings with everything that we are as though we were loving God. For truly, only by loving our neighbour can we truly love God.

The Holy Spirit by Whom we were confirmed as Christians is a spirit of love, unity and prudence. Let us ask that the Holy Spirit may give us the fullness of understanding of what God's love for us means, so that we may live it out in the love of our neighbours.

NOTICES

November Dead List

The envelopes to request Mass for our dead relatives and friends for the month of November is now available at the back of the Church. Please leave your requests in one of the offering boxes from where they will be collected and placed in front of the altar.

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

Confirmation

Today the sacrament of confirmation will be administered to the candidates in our parish who have been preparing for the past year. The Confirmation Mass will be at 2.00pm this afternoon. We ask you to pray for our candidates who will be confirmed.

Collections Last Sunday	Offering	£1,416
	Gift Aid	£196

Thank you for your generosity

Fr. Thaddeus, OCD