

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL & ST SIMON STOCK CARMELITE CHURCH,
41 KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET, 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 (also 10.00am on Sundays)

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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The Solemnity of All Saints – 1st November 2020

REFLECTION

Let us rejoice in the Lord! This is today's opening invitation. Let us rejoice, not because we are already saints, but because it is our destiny. As St John tells us in the second reading, "we are already God's children; but what we shall be in the future has not yet be revealed. All we know is that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see Him as He really is (1 Jn 3:2). This is who we are, and this is what we celebrate in anticipation in this Solemnity.

The first reading from the Apocalypse describes a great multitude impossible to count, from every nation, race, people and tongue (Rev 7:9). This number includes not only those whom we know as canonized saints but also those who are unknown; it includes Old Testament figures who lived before Jesus as well as many of our relatives and friends. It assures us that an innumerable number of people who strove to do the will of God during their lifetime have been blessed with the vision of God's glory. We celebrate because these people have reached the goal of life (which is heaven or God); at the same time we remind ourselves of our own journey and the need to keep our eyes fixed on God and the heavenly inheritance which He offers us as His children.

For one thing, the lives of the saints encourage us not to give up our own struggles. They had to struggle like we do now, falling and rising as they journeyed through life, but never gave up trying to follow God's will till the end. The stories we hear of the lives of the saints depict them not as perfect human beings but people who were always open to God's will and sometimes endured indescribable sufferings and persecutions. But they persevered. Some, like St Augustine, struggled greatly in their youth and show us that God is constantly in search of us, offering us the opportunity to embrace life with him. Saints like Therese of Lisieux and the recently beatified Carlo Acutis (only 15yrs old) teach us that age is not an inhibition to the grace of blessedness.

Our hope is strengthened when we realize that while holiness demands our constant effort, it is ultimately a gift of God. We are the children of God and Our Father will not hesitate to give us this gift. He has given us everything to prepare us to enjoy the fullness of happiness with Him. He gave us most importantly Christ his Son to free us from the bondage of sin and to show us the way of love. Christ has purchased us with His blood and has made us children of God, as St. John says, "See what love the Father has bestowed on us by letting us be called the

children of God. And that is what we are (1 Jn 3:1). Let us then live as his children, trusting that in the fulness of time we too, like the saints, will enjoy the fulness of His glory.

So, while here on earth we must continue to strive in following the path to blessedness which Jesus has laid out for us. The Gospel today describes that path – being poor in spirit, gentle, hungry for justice, merciful, pure in heart, making peace, and so on. We know that only Jesus is the truly blessed one. But to the extent which we participate in Him by following this path, we too can share in His blessedness. He has given us the Eucharist – food for our journey. And He will see to it that what He has begun in us is brought to completion. Let us put our trust in His help. For it is only through His help that we can become a people fit to enjoy the fulness of God's glory like all the saints.

NOTICES

November Dead List

The envelopes to request Mass for our dead relatives and friends for the month of November is still 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 or simply give it to any of the priests.

2020/21 Preparations for First Holy Communion and Confirmation

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

Confirmation

This year's Confirmation Mass was held successfully last Sunday. We thank you all for your prayers for our confirmands. New candidates for confirmation can now register to start their preparations for next year.

RIP

We recently lost one of our parishioners, Mr John Mamby-Brooks. A memorial mass will be held here in our church on Wednesday, 3rd November at 3.00pm. We ask you to pray for the repose of his soul. And we send our condolences to his wife, Joanna, and all those he has left behind.

Sick and Retired Priests' Collection

There will be a collection next Sunday for sick and retired priests of our Diocese. This is our chance to say thank you to our sick and retired priests who have given so much. You will find a donation envelope at the back of the church today. Please take one home, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. You can also donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. There is also a QR code on the envelope that you can scan with a phone camera to give online.

Collections Last Sunday	Offering	£1,561
	Gift Aid	£224

Thank you for your generosity

Fr. Thaddeus, OCD