

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

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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 17th January 2021

Today we celebrate Peace Sunday. The theme chosen by Pope Francis in his message for this year's World Day of Peace is "*A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace.*" The following text is an extract from that message. I encourage you to read the full message of the Pope which is published on our website.

Care in the Ministry of Jesus

Jesus' life and ministry represent the supreme revelation of the Father's love for humanity (cf. Jn 3:16). In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus showed himself to be the one consecrated by the Lord and "sent to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed" (Lk 4:18). These messianic actions, associated with the Jubilee year, bear eloquent witness to the mission he received from the Father. In his compassion, Christ drew near to the sick in body and spirit, and brought them healing; he pardoned sinners and gave them new life. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for his sheep (cf. Jn 10:11-18; Ezek 34:1-31). He is the Good Samaritan who stoops to help the injured man, binds his wounds and cares for him (cf. Lk 10:30-37).

At the culmination of his mission, Jesus gave the ultimate proof of his care for us by offering himself on the cross to set us free from the slavery of sin and death. By the sacrificial gift of his life, he opened for us the path of love. To each of us he says, "Follow me; go and do likewise" (cf. Lk 10:37).

A culture of care in the life of Jesus' followers

The spiritual and corporal works of mercy were at the heart of charity as practised by the early Church. The first generation of Christians shared what they had, so that no one among them would be in need (cf. Acts 4:34-35). They strove to make their community a welcoming home, concerned for every human need and ready to care for those most in need. It became customary to make voluntary offerings in order to feed the poor, bury the dead and care for orphans, the elderly and victims of disasters like shipwrecks. In later times, when the generosity of Christians had lost its initial fervour, some Fathers of the Church insisted that property was meant by God for the common good. For Saint Ambrose, "nature poured out all things for the common use of all... and thus produced a common right for all, but greed has made it a right for only a few". After the persecutions of the first centuries, the Church used her newfound freedom to inspire society and its culture. "The needs of the times called forth new efforts in the service of Christian charity. History records innumerable examples of practical works of mercy... The Church's work among the poor was to a great extent highly organized. There arose many institutions for the relief of every human need: hospitals, poor houses, orphanages, foundling homes, shelters for travellers...

There can be no peace without a culture of care

The culture of care thus calls for a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance. As such, it represents a privileged path to peace. May we work together to advance towards a new horizon of love and peace, of fraternity and solidarity, of mutual support and acceptance. May we never yield to the temptation to disregard others, especially those in greatest need, and to look the other way;^[26] instead, may we strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, “to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another”.

NOTICES

Church Opening

Our church remains open for prayer and common worship at the usual times. We continue to do everything possible to make this church safe for everyone that comes here in order to provide spiritual support to everyone that needs it at these critical times.

Greater Precaution because of COVID-19 New Variants

We urge everyone that comes to our church to exercise greater precaution and observe our safety protocols in the church especially at this time. **Wear a facemask before entering the church, sanitize your hands by the entrance, and sit only on the marked spaces. Maintain at least 2m distance at all times while in the church.** Be assured the church is carefully sanitized and disinfected after every use.

Talks on Mark's Gospel by Fr Matt Blake

Fr. Matt will be giving a series of talks on Mark's Gospel beginning on the 20th of January. These talks will help us understand the Gospel readings during this year of Mark's Gospel. The dates are Wednesdays January 20th, 27th, February 3rd and 10th livestream at 10.00am and repeated at 8.00pm on our website www.carmelitechurch.org and YouTube 'Kensington Carmelite Church.'

Peace Sunday

In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi. Their website suggests many ways we can all promote peace in our daily lives. There are activities for families to do at home, including a 15-minute peace liturgy for young children.

www.paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2021. Pax Christi also needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, please follow the link on paxchristi website www.paxchristi.org.uk.

Mass for the celebration of Santo Niño

You are invited to join the Filipino community in our parish as they mark the 25th anniversary of Santo Niño (The Infant Jesus of Prague) in this Parish. Mass will be celebrated here in our Parish at 2.00pm on 24th January 2021. Do come and pray with us.

<u>Collections Last Sunday</u>	Offering	£767
	Gift Aid	£181

Thank you for your generosity

Fr. Thaddeus, OCD

Registered Charity No: 253645