

**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.

Easter Sunday – 4th April 2021

GOD IS DOING SOMETHING NEW. This is what we celebrate in the resurrection of our Lord. New light, new hope, renewed faith. In the account of the Passion of Jesus that we read on Good Friday, it ended by saying that they rolled the stone over the tomb and all went sorrowfully away. For many of the onlookers at Jesus's crucifixion it was the end. Perhaps even for the disciples it seemed like the end because they too, as St John's Gospel tells us, had failed to understand the teaching of Scripture that Jesus would rise again. But in fact it was not the end because God is always doing something new. Life has begun again. Jesus has risen. And He has gone ahead to Galilee when He would be re-joined by His disciples just as He promised them. The readings at our vigil last night showed us how this story started before time began, so it cannot come to end; God cannot be held bound in a tomb blocked by a stone. The reason all of this was happening is because no one realized that it is God they were dealing with, or because like we ourselves, they could not completely comprehend who God is.

St Luke in his Gospel tells us how it always began anew when everything appeared to have ended. He tells us that after the burial of Jesus, some group of disciples were walking home to Emmaus a little dejected because events did not turn out as they expected. Then Jesus revealed himself anew among them and reassured them that it had not ended. St. John gives us the impression that Jesus's disciples went back to their businesses, to their fishing boats and so on. Matthew probably had to find a new job, since he couldn't have gone back to be a tax collector. However, at some point when they were gathered as a group, the resurrected Jesus appeared to them and reassured them that there was no going back to the old life, something new had happened and things would never be the same again.

Do you feel this newness that Easter brings? The new light of Christ has banished darkness in all its forms. Can you hear the spring, the freshness of the flowers, the cooing of birds, the freshness of leaves? Even nature sings and bears witness to this newness. What song are you singing? What do you hear?

For many of us the difficulties of the past year may have given us the feeling that all is ended. The loss of jobs, loss of family members and friends, the sickness that has taken over the world – these certainly weigh upon us and make us feel that perhaps it is the end. But God is making things new in the resurrection of Christ. God has opened our tombs, He has rolled the stone away and set us free from whatever was binding us. But we have to rise and get out in order to experience this new gift of grace. The new Light has come and darkness is banished. In Christ we have victory over all the difficulties of the past year. Let the resurrection of Christ renew our hope and rekindle our faith in our God who is always renewing our life.

NOTICES

Thanksgiving and Happy Easter

The Carmelite Community wishes to thank you all for your unending support as we work together in our parish to develop and enrich our Christian faith. Thank you for your gifts and donations that support us. We thank those who come in to give a helping hand – the readers, the stewards, those who clean the church every Monday night and those who provide flowers to beautify the church. We pray God's blessing up everyone. And may the Resurrection of our Lord bring us new hope in this troubling time and sustain our faith till the end. WE WISH YOU ALL HAPPY EASTER SEASON!

Masses During Easter Week

Please note that our morning Mass during the Easter week (until next Sunday) is at 8.30am (and not 8.00am as usual). The Mass at 12.15pm and 6.00pm remain as usual. Throughout the Easter week, adoration is in the evening (at 4.30pm) only. Also confessions are by appointment only.

Year of St Joseph

We will resume events to mark the year of St Joseph after the Octave of Easter. One reflection will be given each month on the life of St Joseph and his significance as the Patron of the Church and of our families. Dates for the reflections will be announced in due time. The reflections will be via livestream until such a time when it is safe to gather.

Vacancies at St Richard Reynolds Catholic College

St Richard Reynolds has a number of teaching (Primary Teacher - September 2021) and support staff (Finance Manager Summer 2021) vacancies. Further details on the website or please contact recruitment@srrcc.org.uk for information.

<u>Collections Last Sunday</u>	Offering	£1275
	Gift Aid	£239

Thank you for your generosity.

Fr. Thaddeus OCD