

**PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL AND ST SIMON STOCK  
CARMELITE CHURCH 41 KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET LONDON W6 4BB**

Tel: 020 7937 9866

[www.carmelitechurch.org](http://www.carmelitechurch.org)

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

---

**Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) – 11th April 2021**

The Feast today reminds me of the movie *Pay it Forward*. In the movie, the young boy, Trevor, explains that to ‘pay it forward’ is to “do for another person one act that they are incapable of doing for themselves”. So Trevor tries to convince his teacher to befriend his mother who is an alcoholic and in that way save his mother from alcohol and save him from his abusive father. The teacher who having survived an abusive father has a very low self-esteem and considers himself incapable of being in a loving relationship. In the chain of paying it forward, the teacher steps out of his comfort zone and ventures into a loving relationship. Trevor’s mother reaches out to her mother who is also an alcoholic. And Trevor after welcoming a homeless man to their home, tries to defend his classmate who is being bullied by his mates and loses his life in the process. At his funeral, traffic is uncontrollable. His grandmother, his mate whom he saved as well as the bullies all unite at the funeral. Each person trying to pay forward the gift of kindness each has received. This was Trevor’s idea of how to change the world.

God’s mercy reaches out to humanity to do for us what we are incapable of doing for ourselves. God in His mercy looks at us in what we are, not just what we do. This is why He is able not only to forgive us but also to provide for us graces necessary for us to live happily forever. We say that God is mercy not just because of what He does but because mercy is His essential attribute. This is shown in the fact that God’s optimum revelation of His mercy is a Person – His Son Jesus who is our salvation. God’s Mercy came to dwell with us in order to experience everything that we are. So God looks at us in whole, including our experiences, and knows exactly what we are.

This Feast of Divine mercy was instituted in 2001 by Pope John Paul II, and it arose out of a series of apparitions which Sr Faustina received. The Pope noted in his homily during the canonization of Sr Faustina that the message of the apparitions is linked to the experience of the World War. This is what the Holy Father said:

*Today my joy is truly great in presenting the life and witness of Sr. Faustina to the whole Church as a gift of God for our time. By Divine Providence, the life of this humble daughter of Poland was completely linked with the history of the twentieth century, the century we have just left behind. In fact, it was between the First and Second World Wars that Christ entrusted his message of mercy to her. Those who remember, who were witnesses and participants in the events of those years and the horrible sufferings they caused for millions of people know well how necessary was this message of mercy.*

*(Pope John Paul II, Homily for Canonization of St Faustina, April 30 2000)*

When we listen to Jesus speaking in the Gospels we learn so many aspects of God’s mercy and He makes it clear that the single objective of our Christian life is to become merciful just as God is. We remember the three parables about God’s mercy in Luke 15. God is like the good shepherd who leaves 99 sheep to go in search of the one lost one. God is like a woman who sweeps out her house in search of her lost coin. And God is like a father who waits patiently for his lost son and comes out of the house to welcome him back when he returns.

This is all because God Himself is mercy and has experienced everything that we are including our suffering. The Letter to the Hebrews (4:15) assures us that “we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin. Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. As we continue to celebrate our experience of God’s mercy in the resurrection of our Lord, let us pay it forward so that all people may experience the power in His mercy.

---

## NOTICES

### **Thanksgiving**

The Carmelite Community wishes to thank you all for your generous gifts during this Easter. We pray that the grace of our Lord’s resurrection may continue to hold us together to support one another on our Christian journey.

### **Masses During Easter Week**

From Monday (12 April) our weekly Masses and services returns to normal. Mass in the morning return to 8.00am and the Mass at 12.15pm and 6.00pm remain as usual. Confessions and adoration also return to normal as before Easter.

### **Implications of New Covid Roadmap**

On Monday, 12 April, the next step in the easing of COVID restrictions will be activated. However, this step has little or no impact on the way our place of worship operates. We will continue to sanitize the church after every worship. Please continue to wear your mask, sit on marked places and keep an appropriate distance. Number caps for funerals remain at 30, weddings are still discouraged but where absolutely necessary, numbers are capped at 15.

### **Year of St Joseph**

Next week we will announce dates for the events to mark the year of St Joseph. From May a 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. 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@srcc.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@srcc.org.uk) for information.

### **Collections Last Sunday**

Offering	£1470
Gift Aid	£128

Thank you for your generosity

*Fr. Thaddeus OCD*