

**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.

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**Third Sunday of Easter – 18th April 2021**

We have been reading various versions of the resurrection story according to the different evangelists. Today we read an account from the Gospel of Luke. As you may know, out of the four evangelists, Luke is the only one that was not a Jew. He was a Gentile and well-educated, and he accompanied St Paul during his preaching, writing down the stories about Jesus that Paul told.

St Luke's resurrection story emphasizes how this event changed the world by transforming the disciples of Jesus. He tells us about the encounter of the disciples with Jesus, how they did not recognize him initially until he broke the bread in front of them. The action of breaking of bread, that is the Eucharist, was the sole identity of Jesus's followers. So when the early Christians heard that Jesus broke the bread with his disciples after his resurrection, it reminded them of their own Eucharist and the presence of the resurrected Lord among them. Sharing in the Eucharist was a sign of peace and unity among the early Christians.

Like the other evangelists, St Luke emphasizes the point that 'Peace' was Jesus's gift to the disciples when he appeared to them after his resurrection. "Peace be with you," he said. To understand the preciousness of this gift, remember that the disciples had locked themselves up in a room, having been disappointed at the turn of events (that is, Jesus being killed and buried) and being quite despondent and unsure of their future which before then had totally been committed to Jesus. They were also afraid that those who killed Jesus might come after them. Even when they heard rumours of Jesus being alive, they were still afraid to step out and go in search of him. They may have even been feeling guilty about their behaviour during Jesus's arrest and trial and did not know how to face him if indeed he was alive. This is the scenario into which Jesus appeared to them and his first words were "Peace be with you." Oh how much they needed to hear that!

But what does this Peace mean? The word 'Peace' would have been very familiar to the disciples. *Shalom* is a daily greeting among the Jews and expresses a wish of well-being and wholeness for another person. In the context of Jesus's greeting, we can understand peace to mean a state of tranquillity, since the disciples were troubled. However, this tranquillity was not to be achieved by hiding away in a locked room. As a Latin saying goes: "*Si vis pacem, para bellum*" (If you want peace, prepare for war). But in this case it is different kind of war. It would be a war against unbelief, against the disharmony and conflicts that arise in people's hearts due to lack of faith. The disciples were being given the gift of peace so that they might become ambassadors of peace in the world.

The next action of Jesus in this encounter with the disciples shows us that He himself is that peace which God has given. To reassure them that he was not a ghost, Jesus took a piece of grilled fish and ate it. At that moment they remembered the last supper and all the things that Jesus taught them, most importantly the love he shared with them and his instruction to "do this in memory of me." The Eucharist was to be the source of unity and peace among the disciples.

Jesus still comes to us today when we find ourselves locked up in a room and crippled by fear and in doubt. He speaks the same words to us “Peace be with you.” In the Eucharist he shows us his hands, his feet and his pierced side, he feeds us in order to open our hearts to understand what he teaches us. He wants to enter into our hearts. With Jesus beside us, we, like the disciples, can face up to the difficulties of life and become instruments of peace in the world. The great gift that we bear is sharing the life of Jesus. We are his chosen ambassadors of peace in our world.

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## NOTICES

### **Year of St Joseph**

To mark the year of St. Joseph there will be a talk every first Wednesday of the month beginning in May. The talk will be a reflection on an aspect of the life of St Joseph and his significance as the Patron of the Church and of our families. The talks will be livestreamed on our website and YouTube at 10.00am and repeated at 8.00pm. The first talk will be given on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Priest Training Fund**

Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 42 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 18 of whom are for our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also for our Diocese. Last year two men who studied at Allen Hall and one who studied in Rome ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation leaflets are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can donate online anytime at [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations)

### **CAFOD Thanks You**

Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD’s Family Fast Day during Lent. We featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.

### **Free Online Teacher Training**

If you are currently involved in teaching English, whether teacher or volunteer, or are interested in teacher training, there is an opportunity for a free training for Level 3 ESOL & Literacy offered by TWiN. If you are interested in more information on this, please contact Mr Andrew Holt, email: [aholt@twinuk.com](mailto:aholt@twinuk.com), phone: 07566 781070

<b><u>Collections Last Sunday</u></b>	Offering	£1130
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£270

Thank you for your generosity

*Fr. Thaddeus OCD*