

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

Web: [www.carmelitechurch.org](http://www.carmelitechurch.org)  
Tel: 0207 937 9866

Email: [enquiries@carmelitechurch.org](mailto:enquiries@carmelitechurch.org)  
Mobile: 0770 8203 595

**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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**Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B – 27th June 2021**

Last Sunday we reflected on the power of Jesus over the forces of nature manifested at the sea when he calmed the storm that threatened the life of his disciples. Like the disciples we were invited to greater faith and trust in Jesus especially when we face our daily tempest. Our readings today invite us to continue this reflection as the Gospel once again presents us with an account of the manifestation of Jesus's power. God's power is manifested always for the sake of His children, and not even death can stand as an obstacle to the power of God.

Mark's Gospel always teaches by means of stories. We all love stories because they bring us to the scene of the event and sometimes make us participate in the event. But always, the Gospel leaves us to make our own judgment of the situation and decide for ourselves how to appropriately respond. Today we are given two stories of two people who are in various difficult circumstances in their lives. But they share one similarity: each overcame the social obstacles to their faith and sought the help of Jesus, and therefore Jesus acknowledged their faith and healed them.

Jairus is described as a synagogue official, someone with a considerable social and religious and economic standing. He came to Jesus to ask for his help to heal his daughter who was desperately sick. He made this request while Jesus was out in the open with a crowd of people. So his request was not made in private. To make the scene even more dramatic, we read that he fell at Jesus's feet as he pleaded with him. His action therefore required a considerable amount of disregard for his social status and shows his desperation as well as his love for his daughter.

The journey to Jairus's house required great urgency (like a doctor rushing to an emergency situation with green flashing lights). But observe how St Mark tells this story. Jesus leaves for Jairus's house with a whole crowd of people who could potentially slow the pace of the journey. We can imagine the apprehension and haste with which Jairus must be walking, and here is Jesus being slowed down by the crowd.

To make matters worse, we are told that an event took place along the road involving a woman with a very debilitating health condition. She has suffered from haemorrhage for 12 years – a sickness which culturally meant that she was ostracised from the community and forbidden from going close to, not to speak of touching, anyone. But amidst the crowd, the woman pushed her way and touched Jesus's cloak because she believed that if only she could touch him she would be cured. And she was, instantly. But only Jesus knew what had happened because he felt 'power leave him.' It was impossible at that moment to single out the woman since she had been cured and was now like everyone else in the crowd. And when Jesus asked who had touched him, she had the courage to own up what she had done. And Jesus acknowledged her faith.

Now imagine how impatient Jairus must have been while all this was going on. This woman has significantly delayed the journey and reduced the chances of his daughter being saved from dying.

His fear was confirmed when his servants arrived to say that his daughter had died. In spite of the situation now seeming hopeless, Jesus encouraged him to ‘have no fear, only have faith.’ He did. And although his daughter had died, Jesus restored her to life.

So, it is faith, faith and more faith which gives us access to God’s power. The word used to describe the action of the woman in the Gospel does not simply mean ‘touch;’ it means ‘clinging onto’ Jesus. It is faith only that can make us cling onto Jesus – the kind of faith that defies every social attempt to suppress it. May the faith of this woman in our Gospel become a light for us to help us wade through everything that stands in our way to receiving healing from Jesus.

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## NOTICES

### **Second Collection Next Sunday for Peter’s Pence**

Next Sunday we have a second collection for Peter’s Pence. We are all familiar with this collection which is taken once a year to help the work of our Holy Father the Pope. Envelopes marked ‘Peter’s Pence’ is at the back of the church which can be taken and returned at your convenience. Please use these for your donation for the Pope. Thank you.

### **Church Opening**

Our church is now open from 7.30am to 7.00pm. All COVID protocols will continue to be observed including signing in using Test & Trace number or NHS App. Please continue to sanitize your hands, wear your face mask and maintain a safe distance while in the church.

### **Preparations for First Holy Communion**

We are accepting registrations for preparations for Holy Communion. The last group met by Zoom only. But this group which will begin classes in September will meet face to face here in our church hall. All necessary protocols for safety at that time will of course be followed. If you have children for First Holy Communion, please do register them ahead of September. Children must be 7yrs old by 31<sup>st</sup> August. The registration form is on our website [www.carmelitechurch.org/activities/catechism-classes](http://www.carmelitechurch.org/activities/catechism-classes) or simply email [catechism.co-ordinator@carmelitechurch.org](mailto:catechism.co-ordinator@carmelitechurch.org) and request a form to be sent to you.

<b><u>Collections Last Sunday</u></b>	Offering	£1115
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£227

Thank you for your generosity

*Fr. Thaddeus, OCD*