

**PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL & ST SIMON STOCK, CARMELITE CHURCH**  
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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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**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**Lord, have pity on me. Lord, that I may See!**

Today we hear the story of a blind man, Bartimaeus, and his incredible faith. To appreciate this story, we must recall what we read last week – about the two disciples of Jesus who requested to be placed in positions of power and authority in Jesus' kingdom. In the Gospel of Mark, the story of the blind man follows immediately after the story about the two disciples and presents a contrast to the attitude of those two disciples. It invites us to identify with Bartimaeus as representative of true discipleship.

Let us consider the scenario. Bartimaeus, apart from being a blind man is also a beggar. Contrast his request (Lord, have pity on me) with the request of the two disciples (Grant that we may sit one on your left and the other on your right in your glory). Bartimaeus is sitting by the roadside and Jesus is passing by on his way through Jericho to Jerusalem with his disciples and a crowd of people who are accompanying him. When Bartimaeus cries out to Jesus for help, the crowd try to stop him, but he cries out more insistently. It is his last chance because Jesus is going to Jerusalem and he is not coming back. You can see the blind man's desperation, he won't let go of his only chance to be healed. No one could stop him. Jesus notices his heartfelt cry and calls him to come.

There is something remarkable about the blind man's cry, what he calls Jesus and his reaction to Jesus' invitation. What he says is "Son of David, have pity on me." Who would not harken and run to the aid of such a voice? Moreover, notice that what he calls Jesus: "Son of David" which is the title of the Messiah. Now, remember that this is the contentious title on account of which Jesus is in trouble with the religious officials and most people either do not recognize Jesus as such or are afraid to say it lest the opponents of Jesus come after them. But the blind man has nothing to lose, after all he is blind. So he is not afraid to proclaim Jesus as Son of David, the Messiah. Yet as a dramatic irony, the story wants us to realize that it is this man who is blind who actually sees. It is a reminder of the piercing line in Antoine de Saint-Exupery's book, *The Little Prince*: "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eyes." It is often surprising that it is the blind who can perceive things more than those with sight, because they see with their hearts. Another noteworthy thing about Bartimaeus is his reaction to Jesus' call. He throws off his cloak (as if nothing matters to him anymore) and goes to Jesus. Then follows the question: what do you want? "That I may see." And I guess what was in Jesus' mind is something like, "You can already see with your heart, but now let your physical eyes also see."

The final significant detail of this story is how Jesus addresses Bartimaeus: "Go on your way, your faith has saved you." We might read this as "continue on your way" – his way includes his faith in Jesus, his persistence in his belief (not allowing himself to be silenced) and his attitude of abandoning everything to respond to Jesus. This correlates with Jesus who is also on his own way (to Jerusalem), not allowing his opponents to stand in the way of fulfilling his Father's will. In sum, this story invites us today to take a look at the blind man, Bartimaeus, and imitate him. One question you might ask yourself is: if Jesus asks you "what do you want me to do for you?"

what would be your answer? Would it be the gift of sight, of faith or of power and position? Do you want to see? What do you want to see? Through Bartimaeus we're being told what faith entails: abandoning ourselves to God, leaving behind all the covering we rely on and giving up the things we want to control.

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## NOTICES

### **Increase in COVID Infections – PLEASE WEAR A MASK**

We are aware of gradual surge in COVID infections. In order to maintain our confidence in our safety in the church, we urge everyone not medically exempted to wear a mask while in the church and to continue to sanitize hands and keep a safe distance. By this charity to one another, we shall all get through these trying times.

### **Registration of Interest to join the Teresian Choir for 10am Mass**

We are in the process of reorganising the 10am Mass choir which will be known as The Teresian Choir. Anyone interested in singing at this choir or playing an instrument should please email [enquiries@carmelitechurch.org](mailto:enquiries@carmelitechurch.org) or speak to any of the priests.

### **Registration for Holy Rosary Confraternity**

We intend to gather a group of devotees interested in the Ministry of saying the Holy Rosary for the needs of the Church. This group will be dedicated to saying the Rosary collectively as a ministry. If you would like to join this group please email [enquiries@carmelitechurch.org](mailto:enquiries@carmelitechurch.org) or speak to one of the priests to give your name and register your interest.

### **Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith Open Day**

Following the postponement of our Sixth Form Open evening, we would like confirm that our Sixth Form Open evening will now take place on Thursday, the 11th November from 4-6pm.

### **The Universe Catholic Weekly**

*The Universe Catholic Weekly* is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new online newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order your Digital copy by going to [www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk](http://www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk) or call us on 0743661 7650 and ask for Michelle. Special offer: Only £20 for 3 months.

### **A message from CAFOD**

Thank you for supporting our Climate Crisis Appeal for our recent Family Fast Day. Every donation helps us in our work and is gratefully received. [cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis](http://cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis) Please pray for the success of the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, from 31 October to 12 November. There are prayer cards at the back of church; please do take one and pray that that world leaders will put the needs of marginalised communities around the world, those most affected by climate change, right at the heart of these climate talks. For more information see [cafod.org.uk/COP26](http://cafod.org.uk/COP26)

### **Fr John McGowan Transferred to our Carmelite Community in Gerrards Cross**

We thank Fr John for his ministry in our parish, especially his dedication to the youth group. We pray for him as he joins our Community in Gerrards Cross and we wish him well

<b><u>Collections Last Sunday</u></b>	Offering	£1210
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£97

Thank you for your generosity

*Fr. Thaddeus, OCD*