

**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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**32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) – 7th November 2021**

**Giving All You Have**

The disposition to give to others may be a common thing. All of us do give of things that we have and many of us even give of ourselves in service. One question that we are asked today is how much we are prepared to give. In other words, how much does our giving cost us? The reason this question is important is because it is a lot easier to give a little out of what we have. But what if everything we have (literally everything) is demanded of us, would we still be able to give?

As Jesus approaches the end of his mission on earth, he has a few last opportunities to teach his disciples the meaning of (his) life. Jesus' acceptance of suffering and death will be a scandal to his disciple, so he helps them to understand the true value of the sacrifice he is going to make and its benefits to humankind. He compares his sacrifice to a widow offering everything he she has.

Both the widow of Zerephat in our first reading and the widow in our Gospel describe the self-giving of Jesus and serve as an example of the self-giving disposition of a true disciple. In both stories we find that trust in God is the driving force behind the actions of the two widows. The widow of Zerephat trusted in the God of the Prophet Elijah and offered to the prophet the last meal in her household at a time of devastating famine. She also had a son who would die if their food ran out. Despite this apparent danger to her and her son's life, she did not hold back when Elijah asked her for a meal, with the promise that God would miraculously replenish her meal jar. In her total trust in God, she did as she was told and her household was saved from famine. Similarly, the poor widow in the Gospel offered her last penny to the temple treasury in total trust that God would preserve her. The remarkable thing about her gesture, as Jesus pointed out, is her disposition. While many of the rich put in a great deal, the poor widow put in all she had to live on. Jesus remarked that she had given the most valuable offering.

The importance of the two stories about the widows lies on the fact that they point to Jesus' offering of himself. Like these widows, Jesus is not merely making an offering out of what he has, but he is offering himself, that is, everything that he is. This is why the book of Hebrews describes Jesus as the perfect high priest. Rather than making offerings of lamb for the expiation of sin as Israel's high priests did, he offered himself once for all. In this way, he dealt with sin once for all.

We are, now, Jesus' disciples listening to this message. First, we are asked to trust God wholly especially in those circumstances of our life when God would seem absent. Trust is the perfect sacrifice we can offer to God because in trusting God we are offering ourselves in all our vulnerabilities. When we find ourselves in sickness, abandoned by family and friends, in pain of loss of a loved one, in the loss of our sustenance, or we feel that the world is on top of us, in these moments God asks us for a sacrifice of trust.

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## NOTICES

### **Our Parish Synodal Pathway**

Please mark the dates **17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November** and **1<sup>st</sup> December** in your diary. These are the days for the 'listening phase' of our synod. At **6.30pm** (that is, after evening Mass) on these three days we will have sessions in which we discuss the issues pertaining to our parish in particular and to the wider church. Everyone is invited to this discussion as each person's experience counts. Please do come along and let us together forge a way into the future of our Christian community.

### **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.

### **Sick and Retired Priests' Collection**

Today we have a collection for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese. This is our chance to say thank you to our sick and retired priests who have given so much. Donation envelopes are at the back of the church. You can also donate online at [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations) or by scanning the QR code printed on the envelope.

### **RIP Valeria Ossola**

We have received news of the the death of Valeria Ossola RIP. She died in her native Switzerland, where she had moved back to some years ago. For several decades she was a very active member of this parish and well known to many people who come here. May she rest in peace.

### **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 fill an enrolment form at the back of the church.

### **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 fill the enrolment form which is at the back of the church.

### **Teacher Vacancy at St Richard Reynolds Catholic College, Twickenham**

We are looking for an outstanding practitioner who can teach GCSE RE mostly in KS3 (A level Philosophy & Ethics would be desirable but not essential) to join us from January 2022 to deliver high-quality lessons to ensure great learning. Salary negotiable dependent upon calibre and experience. Please send the CES application form, two references, and a covering letter to [recruitment@srrcc.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@srrcc.org.uk) by Friday 26th November 2021. Please also get in touch if you would like to talk in more detail about the role. <https://www.strichardreynolds.org.uk/our-college/work-at-srr>

<b><u>Collections Last Sunday</u></b>	Offering	£1176
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£121

Thank you for your generosity

*Fr. Thaddeus, OCD*