

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 Tijo Xavier ocd, Fr Theophilus Nyamali, ocd

2nd Sunday of Lent – 13th March 2022

St. Peters Basilica, Rome, March 12th, 1622

This Saturday, March 12th, we in the Carmelite Order celebrate the 4th centenary of the canonisation of **St. Teresa of Avila** (1515 – 1582). Pope Gregory XV canonised Teresa and four others in what is sometimes described as the greatest canonisation ceremony in the history of the Church. Teresa's companions in glory that day were:

Isodore de Merlo Y Quintana (1070 – 1130) usually known as **Isodore the Farmer**. He was born near Madrid and worked all his life as a farm labourer. He was married and had one son. His wife Maria is considered a saint though she is not yet canonised. He is Patron of the city of Madrid and Patron of farmers.

Ignatius of Loyola (1491 – 1556). A former soldier who founded the Jesuits. His followers were to commit especially to study and missionary work. His spiritual teaching known as the "spiritual exercises" has had an enormous influence on the prayer lives of so many people. He is Patron of spiritual retreats.

Francis Xavier (1506 – 1552) He co-founded the Jesuits with Ignatius and was one of the first seven Jesuits to take vows in 1534. He gave himself extensively to missionary work especially in India and Japan. He and **St. Therese of Lisieux** are joint Patrons of the missions.

Philip Neri (1515 – 1595). A native of Florence, he lived most of his life in Rome and is known as the second Apostle of Rome [St. Peter being the first]. He founded the **Congregation of the Oratory** and dedicated his life to ministry among the poor of Rome.

St Teresa wrote these profound and prophetic words in her Interior Castle [V 4:6]. "Look at the multitude of souls God draws to Himself by means of one. He is to be greatly praised for the thousands converted by the martyrs: for a young girl like St. Ursula: for those the devil must have lost through St. Dominic, St. Francis, and other founders of Religious Orders, and those he now loses through Father Ignatius (of Loyola), the one who founded the Society (Jesuits)..... Oh, my daughters, how prepared this Lord is to grant us favours now just as He has granted them to others in the past. He is even more in need that we desire to receive them, for there are fewer now who care about his honour than there were then".

It is impossible to imagine the number of people influenced, inspired and drawn to God by these five saints. Teresa's words have been fulfilled in herself and in these heavenly companions. Teresa was convinced that one person who lives Christianity well can change the world. She tells us that the world in her day needed people who listen to God and follow His's call – we can say that that is even more necessary today. She sees Ignatius fulfilling this in the many Jesuits she knew, and who helped and supported her. Prophetically she puts Ignatius on the same level as Dominic and Francis, the great founders, even though Ignatius is only dead twenty years, and his beatification and canonisation are a long way off.

One other point we should carefully note in the above quote: the people who do great good in our world are the ones "who desire to receive" God's favours and gifts. All the above saints did

great work, but it is the grace, blessings and gifts that God bestowed on them that gave their works the power and effectiveness that makes them the great influences they are. By learning to depend upon God and being always open to his grace, they became God's great apostles and saints. Today the Church gives thanks to God for these five giants of the spiritual life and we pray that their spirit may be as alive in us as it was in generations past.

NOTICES

Prayers for Peace

Each Friday during Lent after the Stations of the Cross we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 8.00pm to pray for peace in Ukraine. It will mostly be in silence, but we will have some prayers for peace and prayers for the victims of the war.

Funeral

The funeral of **Mr. Thaddeus Teodorczuk RIP** will take place in this Church Thursday March 31st, 11.00am.

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday during Lent we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross at **18.30**. Our Friday evening programme for Lent will therefore be: **17.00** Exposition of Blessed Sacrament; **18.00** Mass; **18.30** Stations of the Cross.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal

Helping people on the margins of life to live a life of dignity. Envelopes are at the back of the Church or you can donate direct: HSBC Bank, SW1Y 5EY. WRCDT Cardinals Appeal. Sort Code 40 05 20 A/C No. 12031558. For further information: www.cardinalsledenappeal.org.uk

Parish Lenten Reflections

Our Parish Lenten Reflection has started **every Thursday of March**. Time is 5.00pm – 20 minutes reflection with exposition of Blessed Sacrament followed by Mass at 6.00pm

Details:

Thursday March 17th Blessed Marie Eugene

Thursday March 24th St. John of the Cross

Thursday March 31st St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

[Those who cannot be present can follow on Website or YouTube]

Recruitment – The Society of Friends

The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral is seeking to recruit a part time Organising Secretary to help administer the charity, assist in recruiting new members and in organising events. The appointment based in Westminster Cathedral Clergy House is for 20 hours per week at a salary in the region of £14,500 per annum. The appointment is for 12 months. Closing date 27 March 2022. For further details please visit <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/the-friends-see-an-organising-secretary/>

Please see the 'NOTICES' section of our website for other events including job opportunities

Collections Last Sunday

Offering	£1535
Gift Aid Envelopes	£1203

Thank you for your generosity

Fr. Matt Blake, OCD