

**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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**Easter Sunday – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**The Resurrection**

*“Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega. All time belongs to Him and all the ages; To Him be glory and power through every age and for ever. Amen”*

We hear these words at the beginning of our Easter Vigil celebration. They are an attempt to express what is being celebrated, in this most solemn celebration of the Church’s year. Other days of the year we celebrate events in the life of Jesus [Christmas, Ascension, etc] or the lives of saints but at Easter we celebrate everything – even the word “everything” does not do justice to what we are celebrating. The Resurrection takes us beyond the boundaries of the cosmos, the boundaries of human thought, the boundaries of human language, the boundaries of everything known up until now.

Luke’s Gospel [which we read at Easter vigil] begins the account with these words: *“On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn.....”*. At the very beginning of the bible, we read that God created everything in a week [the first reading of the Easter Vigil; Genesis 1:1 – 2:2]. Now we are at the first sign of dawn, in the first day of a “New Week”. The resurrection has taken us to the threshold of realities that up until now are unknown and cannot be known in our normal way of knowing.

John’s Gospel [which we read Easter Sunday] expresses this reality in different terms – it is “still dark”. When the disciple went into the tomb; “he saw and he believed”. It is dark outside, the tomb will be even darker, he saw nothing with physical eyes. He saw with the eyes of faith, the eyes of his soul. He saw with a clarity greater than anything that can be seen with physical eyes. He is more certain of what he “saw” than he would be of anything he saw physically or proved scientifically. This is a new way of “knowing”. The disciples cannot say how they know or what they know, but they know for certain that they know. This certainty they will preach in the midst of all dangers and hardship, and most of them will die for it.

At our Easter Vigil and during the season of Easter people are baptised, this has been happening for the past two thousand years. Each year we see and meet people who “saw” and “believed” what the disciples saw and believed when they entered the dark tomb. They profess baptism with the same joy, conviction and certainty.

All throughout history, and in our own times also, we hear about people who suffered rejection, misunderstanding and hardship for their belief in the Resurrection and some of these will give their lives for this belief. Their conviction is as strong, and is as strongly tested, as the conviction of those disciples who entered the tomb.

All these people have stood at the “first sign of dawn” and that is where we stand today. Easter is the slightest little glimpse into an infinite and, as yet, unknown reality. We also know it is real, let us pray that our faith may grow and that we may live our lives with this life-changing conviction. The first witnesses to the Resurrection saw our world and all reality through that first little glimpse

of light of the new day. Our world needs that light more than ever. The beginning of John's Gospel tells us that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overpower it. May the light that can overcome all darkness shine in all the dark places of our world today.

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#### A NOTE OF THANKS

*Thanks to you all who have participated our Holy Week and Easter ceremonies both in person and electronically. It is great that so many are able to attend in person this year after the limitations of the past two years. A special thanks to all who have put so much work into preparing the Church and organising the ceremonies - readers, servers, singers, musicians, cleaners, stewards, and so many more. Thank you for all your gifts during this Easter period.*

*The Carmelite Community wishes you all a very happy and Blessed Easter. May the Risen Christ bring light, healing and hope into all our lives.*

#### NOTICES

##### **Change to our Easter Week Masses**

Please note that on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this Easter week** (19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> April), **there will be no 12.15pm Mass** here in our church. On these days the priests will be away for a gathering of the Carmelites in Oxford. The 8.00am and 6.00pm Mass will hold as usual. *Apologies for any inconvenience caused due to a previous notice.*

<b><u>Collections Last Sunday</u></b>	Offering	£1525
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£1115

Thank you for your generosity

*Fr. Thaddeus, OCD*