

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL & ST SIMON STOCK, CARMELITE CHURCH

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Mass Times: Sundays: Sat. Vigil 6.00 p.m., Sun. 8.30 a.m., 10.00 a.m., 12.15 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.

Weekdays (including Bank Holidays): 8.00 a.m., 12.15 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.

Livestream: www.carmelitechurch.org & YouTube: "Kensington Carmelite Church"

Confessions: Sat: 11.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. & 5.00 - 5.50 p.m. Weekdays: 5.40 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Priests in the Parish: Fr Thaddeus Ekuma ocd, Fr Matt Blake ocd,

Fr Tijo Xavier ocd, Fr Theophilus Nyamali, ocd

Safeguarding Reps: Franca Bren & Teresa Lynch

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Pentecost Sunday – 5th June 2022

Pope Benedict on the Holy Spirit and the Church

The Holy Spirit is not an isolated value or a value that can be isolated. It is according to his essence to direct us into the unity of the triune God. When we pass through the history of salvation from Christmas to Easter, Father and Son appear to us in contrast, in mission and obedience. Now the Holy Spirit does not represent a third reality somewhere next to or between the other two. He leads us to the unity of God. Looking to him means overcoming distinction and recognizing the ring of eternal love that is the highest unity. He who wants to speak of the Spirit must speak of the Trinity of God. If the doctrine of the Holy Spirit is supposed to be in a certain respect a corrective to a one-sided Christocentrism, then this corrective consists in the Spirit teaching us to see Christ entirely in the mystery of the trinitarian God as our way to the Father in perpetual conversation of love with him.

The Holy Spirit points to the Trinity, and thereby he points to us. For the trinitarian God is the archetype of the new united humanity, the archetype of the Church, as the prayer of Jesus may be seen as its word of institution: "that they may be one, even as we are one" (Jn 17:11b, cf. 21f.). The Trinity is measure and foundation of the Church. The Trinity brings the word of creation day to its goal, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Gen 1:26). In the Trinity, mankind which in its disunity became a counter image of God, should become once again the one Adam, whose image, as the Fathers say, was defaced by sin and now lies about in pieces. The divine measure of should again come to prominence, unity, in it "as we are one". So the Trinity, God himself, is the archetype of the Church. Church does not mean another idea in addition to man, but rather man on the way to himself. If the Holy Spirit expresses and is the unity of God then he is the real vital element of the Church in which distinction is reconciled in togetherness and the dispersed pieces of Adam are fit together again.

For this reason the liturgical representation of the Holy Spirit begins with the celebration of the Holy Trinity. Such a celebration tells us what the Spirit is: nothing in himself that one could put alongside others, but rather the mystery that God in love is entirely one, single, and that he is, however, at the same time counterpart, exchange, community. And from the Trinity, the Spirit tells us what God's idea for us was: unity according to the image of God. He also tells us, however, that we humans among ourselves can become one only when we find God ourselves in a higher unity, as it were, in a third party. Only when we are one with God can we be united among ourselves. The way to the other leads over God. Without this medium of our unity, we would remain eternally separated from one another by abysses that no good will can bridge.

Everyone who experiences his/her humanity with alert senses perceives that we are not speaking of mere theological theories. The ultimate inaccessibility of the other, the impossibility of giving

oneself to another and understanding one another for any length of time has perhaps seldom been learned so dramatically as in the twentieth century. "Life means being lonely, no one knows the other, everyone is alone", Hermann Hesse formulated. When I speak with the other, it is as if a wall of translucent glass stood between us: we see each other, and yet we do not see each other; we are near to each other, and yet we cannot come near to each other. This is how Albert Camus described the same experience.

Pentecost, the presence of the trinitarian mystery in our human world, is the answer to this experience. The Holy Spirit is concerned with the basic human question: How can we come to each other? How can I remain myself, respect the otherness of the other, and, nevertheless, step outside the fence of loneliness and touch the other from inside?

From: Images of Hope: Meditations on Major Feasts

NOTICES

Bereavement Support Group in our Parish

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Why not join our Bereavement Support Group. We will meet at the Parish Centre on Wednesdays from 4.00pm – 5.30pm. For more information please contact Dani at danidegeorge@yahoo.co.uk

Encounter Festival

Our Carmelite Priory in Oxford is organising a weekend of encounter with self, God and others intended for those between 25 – 35 years old. The Encounter Festival is meant help you discover God as a dear friend and deepen your prayer life as well as find others to walk alongside you on the journey. Date is 29 – 31 July 2022. For registration and programme details, please visit the website www.carmelite.uk.net/retreats/encounter-festival/

Pulse Family Retreat, 12th June

The next retreat will be a full day starting at 9.00am to 5.00pm on 12th June @ SPEC Centre, Pinner HA5 3EP. Registrations are now open and we would recommend to book as soon as possible.

Children 0-12 years old are welcome. Organised for families by families. The retreat is structured around times of teaching and personal prayer for parents. Fr Matt Blake, Carmelite, will help the parents (re)discover the power of prayer. Children participate in a school of prayer specially tailored to their age, under the responsibility of volunteers.

If you would like to register or just know a little bit more, please visit our website:

<https://www.pulse-retreats.com/catholic-family-retreat-june-2022>

Volunteer for CAFOD

CAFOD is currently looking for volunteers in our parish, with good public speaking skills, who want to help us tackle poverty and injustice. Full training will be provided, no previous experience is necessary. For further details, call Tony Sheen on 020 8449 6970 or email: tsheen@cafod.org.uk.

Collections Last Sunday

Offering	£1046
Gift Aid Envelopes	£108

Thank you for your generosity

Fr. Thaddeus, OCD