

**PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL & ST SIMON STOCK, CARMELITE CHURCH**  
**41 KENSINGTON CHURCH ST., LONDON W8 4BB**

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**Mass Times:** Sun: 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](http://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

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**Solemnity of Christ the King – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Welcome Christ our King**

It couldn't be more fitting to have the feast of Christ the King conclude our liturgical year. It summarises for us the essence of our Christian life and summarizes all the teachings of Jesus in the gospels. Jesus is our King, he wants to be our King, and he wants us to allow him to be our King.

Worldly kingship is something very familiar to us in this country and indeed in many parts of the world. But, as in the biblical times, it is fraught with difficulties. We find an example in the Old Testament – that moment when Israel wanted a king (I Sam 8). Prior to that time, the Lord God was their king. But the people wanted a worldly king, one who would sort out their battles just like the other nations. And the Lord warned them through the prophet that the king who would reign over them would take everything they had from them: their sons, their daughters, their fields and vineyards, and the produce of their crops. Contrary to the kings of this world who take from their subjects, God's kingship is one that bestows gifts on his subjects. As Jesus said, "My Kingdom is not of this world."

So, what is Jesus' Kingdom like? To better reflect on this question, let us consider what his kingship obtains for us. As Jesus walked into Jerusalem to be welcomed as king, he knew what the implications would be. The prevailing powers and authorities would not take it kindly, he knew he would pose a threat to the sitting kings and rulers. But he accepted his kingship because of us his brothers and sisters. As our second reading indicates, it was so that he could 'wash away our sins and make us a line of kings and priests to serve God.' By accepting his controversial kingship, he made us heirs to royalty with all the benefits that come with it. Because of Jesus' kingship, we are looked upon as God's royal children. But that is not all. Jesus is a king who gives up himself in death for his subjects, knowing that only by this way would he change the prevailing human way of thinking which places kings as leaders to be served. Jesus reversed this way of thinking by his kingship. He is a king who serves his subjects and died that they might have life. By doing this, Jesus has left an example of love and service that has formed the basis of unity for all humanity.

Many people in Jerusalem did not accept Jesus' as king. Like them, we too are faced with a choice. The question is, who (or what) do you want to reign in your life? And there are endless options: money, career, family, friends, or a combination of some or all of these. But experience shows that each of these will ultimately let us down. Jesus is offering us the gift of his kingship. He wants to reign in our lives. To allow his reign is to allow ourselves to be moulded and used as his instruments of love and service in the world.

There is great joy in allowing Jesus to be our king, in other words, to reign in us. We may not be conscious of this or feel it, but the truth that Jesus came to bear witness to is that we are kings (perhaps better to say princes and princesses). That is the meaning of Jesus' response to Pilate in our Gospel: "Yes, I am king, it is for this reason that I was born. To bear witness to the truth." That 'truth' is that God is King and has thus made all His children, through Jesus, princes and princesses. That we are not conscious of this gift does not make it less true. But, of course, like Jesus our kingship is not of this world. This is why we need not be wealthy or live in palaces to be what we are. We are kings in the likeness of Jesus. True kings give themselves to love and service, and regard everyone in their domain as brothers and sisters.

Let us allow Jesus to reign in us, and so truly live as kings that we are, honouring, loving and serving one another.

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## NOTICES

### **Advent Retreat – 7.00pm on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> December**

To prepare us for Christmas, the Carmelite Friars are organising a retreat at 7.00pm on Mondays beginning on 28<sup>th</sup> November, then 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> December. This will be our parish advent retreat and you are all invited to participate as our advent journey together is important for our celebration of Christmas. The retreat will take place in the hall. Those who are unable to join us physically can join the Zoom group. Please email us on [enquiries@carmelitechurch.org](mailto:enquiries@carmelitechurch.org) for a Zoom link. Talk recording may be available online.

### **Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation – Call for Registration**

Those who wish for their children to receive the sacrament of Confirmation next year may now register them for classes. The registration form is available at the back of the church and on our website <https://carmelitechurch.org/activities/catechism-classes/> Classes are due to start in January.



### **Mildred Piper RIP**

We received news of the passing of Mildred Piper who many of us know very well. She was both a Catechist and a Lay Reader in our Church. Her Funeral Mass is now confirmed and will be held here in our Church on 5<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm. May her soul rest in peace.

### **Vacancy at The Religious of Mary Immaculate Convent**

The Religious of Mary Immaculate Convent near Gloucester Road Station are looking for a part time Office and Facilities Manager. For enquires please contact Sr. Antonia Reyes  
Email address: [book@rmilondonhostel.org](mailto:book@rmilondonhostel.org)

### **Carmelite Retreat–Pilgrimage In Bethlehem for Christmas**

Join us on 6 special nights Retreat-Pilgrimage in the Holy Land. We will share 7 days together learning from Israel's prophets and St John of the Cross in the places most associated with the birth of Christ. For more details contact [admin@carmelite.org.uk](mailto:admin@carmelite.org.uk)

### **Children Classes and Liturgy**

We have commenced our children's classes and liturgy. The gathering of children for their own liturgy will be very beneficial to their growth in faith. Therefore we encourage all parents with children of this age to bring them to the 10.00am Mass so that they can participate in the class and liturgy.

### **Collections Last Sunday**

Offering	£1417
Gift Aid Envelopes	£86

Thank you for your generosity

*Fr. Thaddeus, OCD*