

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 & 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

2nd Sunday of the Year (Peace Sunday) – 15th January 2023

No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace – Excerpts from The 2023 Message of Pope Francis

"Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians, 5:1-2).

With these words, the Apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonian community to remain steadfast, their hearts and feet firmly planted and their gaze fixed on the world around them and the events of history, even as they awaited the Lord's return. When tragic events seem to overwhelm our lives, and we feel plunged into a dark and difficult maelstrom of injustice and suffering, we are likewise called to keep our hearts open to hope and to trust in God, who makes himself present, accompanies us with tenderness, sustains us in our weariness and, above all, guides our path. For this reason, Saint Paul constantly exhorts the community to be vigilant, seeking goodness, justice and truth: "So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober" (5:6). His words are an invitation to remain alert and not to withdraw into fear, sorrow or resignation, or to yield to distraction or discouragement. Instead, we should be like sentinels keeping watch and ready to glimpse the first light of dawn, even at the darkest hour.

Certainly, after directly experiencing the fragility of our own lives and the world around us, we can say that the greatest lesson we learned from Covid-19 was the realization that we all need one another. That our greatest and yet most fragile treasure is our shared humanity as brothers and sisters, children of God. And that none of us can be saved alone. Consequently, we urgently need to join together in seeking and promoting the universal values that can guide the growth of this human fraternity. We also learned that the trust we put in progress, technology and the effects of globalization was not only excessive, but turned into an individualistic and idolatrous intoxication, compromising the very promise of justice, harmony and peace that we so ardently sought. In our fast-paced world, the widespread problems of inequality, injustice, poverty and marginalization continue to fuel unrest and conflict, and generate violence and even wars.

What then is being asked of us? First of all, to let our hearts be changed by our experience of the crisis, to let God, at this time in history, transform our customary criteria for viewing the world around us. We can no longer think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests; instead, we must think in terms of the common good, recognizing that we belong to a greater community, and opening our minds and hearts to universal human fraternity. We cannot continue to focus simply on preserving ourselves; rather, the time has come for all of us to endeavour to heal our society and our planet, to lay the foundations for a more just and peaceful world, and to commit ourselves seriously to pursuing a good that is truly common.

In order to do this, and to live better lives after the Covid-19 emergency, we cannot ignore one fundamental fact, namely that the many moral, social, political and economic crises we are experiencing are all interconnected, and what we see as isolated problems are actually causes and effects of one another. Consequently, we are called to confront the challenges of our world in a spirit of responsibility and compassion. We must revisit the issue of ensuring public health for all. We must promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to spawn poverty and death. We urgently need to join in caring for our common home and in implementing clear and effective measures to combat climate change. We need to battle the virus of inequality and to ensure food and dignified labour for all, supporting those who lack even a minimum wage and find themselves in great difficulty. The scandal of entire peoples starving remains an open wound. We also need to develop suitable policies for welcoming and integrating migrants and those whom our societies discard. Only by responding generously to these situations, with an altruism inspired by God's infinite and merciful love, will we be able to build a new world and contribute to the extension of his kingdom, which is a kingdom of love, justice and peace.

NOTICES

Confirmation Classes begin Today January 15

Confirmation classes start today the 15th of January 2023 from 4.30 pm to 5.45 pm and will hold at the same time every Sunday. Children between the age of 13 to 17 are eligible to apply. Paper application forms are available at the back of the church. You may also complete the form on our website <https://carmelitechurch.org/activities/catechism-classes/>

Peace Sunday

This Sunday, 15 January, is PEACE SUNDAY. In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi. Their website suggests many ways we can all promote peace in our daily lives. There are activities for families to do at home, including a 15-minute peace liturgy for young children. www.paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023. Pax Christi also needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, please follow the link on paxchristi website www.paxchristi.org.uk.

Mass for the celebration of Santo Niño – 22nd January

You are invited to join the Filipino community in our parish for the celebration of this year's feast of Santo Niño (The Infant Jesus of Prague). A special Mass will be celebrated here in our Parish at 2.00pm on 22nd January. Do come and pray with us.

2023 Ecumenical Service

The 2023 Unity Service will be held on Thursday, 19th January at 7.00pm at St Stephen's, Gloucester Road SW7 4RL. Please save the date. Refreshments will follow after the service. All are welcome.

World Youth Day Lisbon 2023

Are you a young person trying to discern what God is calling you to do? Do you want to meet other Catholic young adults from across the globe? Come with the UK Carmelite friars as we travel from Avila to Fatima to Lisbon. We journey from 24th July to 6th August 2023. See the poster on the Notice Boards for more information.

Collections Last Sunday

Offering	£1414
Gift Aid Envelopes	£150

Thank you for your generosity

Fr. Thaddeus, OCD