



SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A

26th March 2023

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

41 KENSINGTON CHURCH ST., LONDON W8 4BB

Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

Email: enquiries@carmelitechurch.org

Tel. 0207 937 9866

Mobile: 0770 8203 595

@Carmelitechurchkensington on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

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 (All Masses): 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

Reflection

God's Spirit is Life

Homily by a Carmelite Priest

What does it really mean to be alive? Or we may also ask, what does it really mean to die? Our readings today answer these questions quite unambiguously even if the answer surprises us. To live is, frankly, to have the Spirit of God within us. As we hear in the vision of the Prophet Ezekiel as well as in the Gospel, it is the Spirit (or breath) of God that brings life to anyone who is dead.

Obviously, the vision of Ezekiel is expressed in symbols. To speak of 'the dead' refers not only to the physically dead but more importantly to the spiritually dead. The Spirit not only brings about the resurrection of the

physically dead but also of the spiritually dead. To be fully alive is to live in the Spirit of God. Hence, as in Ezekiel the graves contain the dead, among the living, a sinner is not living life to the full. Something has got in the way of a full relationship with Christ – the acts of sin. If these acts have been serious, and a relationship with Christ is non-existent, then, in a way, the sinner is among the "living dead." The promise of God, says Ezekiel, is to such people. God is ready to raise up the sinner, the spiritually dead. With the Holy Spirit, comes Life.

Compare St Peter before and after the first Pentecost. Until the descent of the Holy Spirit,

Peter was weak, scared and usually locked away safe from trouble. With the other apostles, he was changed completely that day the Spirit came to them. Then, he was out of the locked room, began to speak, and started his mission of conversion. Life was never the same for him again. He was ready to die for Christ. Not at all the man who could not admit to a servant-girl that he knew Jesus. Now his life had taken on a meaning that he had not dreamed about. And this was a man who had followed Christ for years!

Now, we might think of our own faith. Is the Holy Spirit alive and well within us? We may not be great sinners, but do

we look and act like a people fired by the beliefs we share? In the Second Reading, St Paul writes about this. He tells us that the Holy Spirit has made a home in us, and that we should, and must, respond to him. It is the same Spirit as raised Jesus. Now, he is ready to take over our lives. We only have to accept.

In the Gospel, Jesus does what Ezekiel described in symbol. He goes to the grave of Lazarus, with “many of the Jews behind him.” Through

this action of Christ, the Spirit of faith passed into them. Although the long Gospel story is about the raising of the dead Lazarus, Christ has also raised to life the spiritually dead who looked on. The power of Jesus was at work here for both the dead man in his grave, and the “living dead” who saw, and then believed.

Let us think again about our own faith. Have we become living examples of Christ in the world today? Christ has claimed us through baptism. If

Christ has taken hold on our lives, how can we not try to change his world? In the Lazarus story, Jesus defeated death. His love beat the grave, and also the graveyard of sin. He says to us, “I am the resurrection.” He is the ultimate in love, for us. Now it is our duty to pass that ultimate love around our own world. We have been given, and accepted, God’s gift of faith. We must now go out and share it.

NOTICES

MARY GILBERT – RIP

We received the sad news of the passing of Mary Gilbert who was an active member of this church and was a regular volunteer during the COVID times, devoted her time to cleaning the church and keeping all of us safe. **A Requiem Mass will be held for her close to her home at Holy Trinity, Brook Green on Monday 3rd April, 2023.** Her funeral is on 29th March at Prestwich. Let us pray for the repose of her soul.

Schedule of Services for Holy Week

We have now published our schedule of services for Holy Week and Easter. It is available on our church notice boards, on our website and on our social media platforms. A take-away card is also available at the back of the church. Please do prepare to join us during the Holy Week.

Palm Sunday

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. Palm branches will be available at the entrance to the church.

Cardinal’s Lenten Appeal

Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinals Lenten appeal: Marriage and Family Life; Youth and Evangelisation; the Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic followed by the cost-of-living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: heat or eat? And this crisis is far from over. The church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can’t give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – please see the posters on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope today for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

Collections Last Sunday

Offering	£1510
Gift Aid Envelopes	£63

Thank you for your generosity!

Fr. Thaddeus OCD

HYMNS FOR 6.00PM SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

Please Sing along!

Entrance Hymn

Led by The Spirit

Led by the Spirit of our God,
we go to fast and pray,
with Christ into the wilderness;
we join his paschal way.
“Rend not your garments, rend
your hearts.
Turn back your lives to me.”
Thus says our kind and gracious
God,
whose reign is liberty.

Led by the Spirit, we confront
Temptation face to face,
and know full well we must rely
on God’s redeeming grace.
On bread alone, we cannot live,
but nourished by the Word,
we seek the will of God to do:
this is our drink and food.

Led by the Spirit, now draw
near
the waters of rebirth,
with hearts that long to worship
God
in Spirit and in truth.
“Whoever drinks the drink I
give
shall never thirst again.”
Thus says the Lord who died for
us,
our Saviour, kin and friend.

Led by The Spirit, now sing
praise,
To God the Trinity,
The Source of Life, the living
Word,
Made flesh to set us free,
The Spirit blowing where it will,
To make us friends of God,
This myst’ry far beyond our
reach,
Yet near in healing love.

Offertory Hymn

Lord, who throughout these forty days

Lord, who throughout these
forty days,
For us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our
sins,
And close by you to stay.

As you with satan did contend,
And did the vict’ry win,
O give us strength in you to
fight,
In you to conquer sin.
As you did hunger bear and
thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and always live
By your most holy word.

Communion Hymn

God So Loved the world

God So Loved the world
That He gave his only begotten
Son,
That who so believeth in Him
Should not perish but have
everlasting life.
For God sent not His son into
the World to Condemn the
World,
But that the world through Him
might be saved.

Recessional Hymn

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
and blest is the fruit of your
womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now

and at the hour of death.
Amen.

Gentle woman, quiet light,
morning star, so strong and
bright,
gentle Mother, peaceful dove,
teach us wisdom; teach us love.

You were chosen by the Father;
you were chosen for the Son.
You were chosen from all
women
and for woman, shining one.

Gentle woman, quiet light,
morning star, so strong and
bright,
gentle Mother, peaceful dove,
teach us wisdom; teach us love.

Blessed are you among women,
blest in turn all women, too.
Blessed they with peaceful
spirits.
Blessed they with gentle hearts.
Praise the Father and the Son
And the Spirit three-in-one
As it was when time began
Now and evermore.