



SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Third Sunday of Easter

23rd April 2023

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

Do Not be Afraid Peace Be Unto You

We have been reading various versions of the resurrection story according to the different evangelists. Today we read an account from the Gospel of Luke. As you may know, out of the four evangelists, Luke is the only one that was not a Jew. He was a Gentile and well-educated, and he accompanied St Paul during his preaching writing down the stories about Jesus that Paul told.

St Luke's resurrection story emphasizes how this event changed the world by transforming the disciples of Jesus. He tells us about the encounter of the disciples with Jesus, how they did not recognize him initially until he broke the bread in front of them. The action of breaking of bread, that is the Eucharist, was the sole identity of Jesus' followers. So when the early Christians heard that Jesus

broke the bread with his disciples after his resurrection, it reminded them of their own Eucharist and the presence of the resurrected Lord among them. Sharing in the Eucharist was a sign of peace and unity among the early Christians.

Like the other evangelists, St Luke emphasizes the point that 'Peace' was Jesus' gift to the disciples when he appeared to them after his resurrection. "Peace be with you," he said. To understand the preciousness of this gift, remember the story in our Gospel today, how two of Jesus' disciples despondent about the events in Jerusalem of Jesus' crucifixion and not having seen him risen, journeyed back to their home in Emmaus in frustration. The other disciples in Jerusalem had locked themselves up in a room, having been disappointed at the turn of events (that is, Jesus

being killed and buried) and being quite despondent and unsure of their future which before then had totally been committed to Jesus. They were also afraid that those who killed Jesus might come after them. Even when they heard rumours of Jesus being alive, they were still afraid to step out and go in search of him. They may have even been feeling guilty about their behaviour during Jesus' arrest and trial and did not know how to face him if indeed he was alive. This is the scenario into which Jesus appeared to them, and his first words were "Peace be with you." Oh how much they needed to hear that!

But what does this Peace mean? The word 'Peace' would have been very familiar to the disciples. *Shalom* is a daily greeting among the Jews and expresses a wish of well-being and wholeness for

another person. In the context of Jesus' greeting, we can understand peace to mean a state of tranquillity, since the disciples were troubled. However, this tranquillity was not to be achieved by hiding away in a locked room. As a Latin saying goes: "*Si vis pacem, para bellum*" (If you want peace, prepare for war). But in this case, it is a different kind of war. It would be a war against unbelief, against the disharmony and conflicts that arise in people's hearts due to lack of faith. The disciples were being given the gift of peace so that they might become ambassadors of peace in the world.

Jesus' revelation of himself to the disciples in this encounter in today's Gospel shows us that He himself is that peace which God has given. To reassure them and make them recognise him, Jesus first opened the scriptures to them and "their hearts burned within them." Later, he sat at table with them, broke the bread and ate with them. At that moment their eyes were opened, and they remembered all the things that Jesus taught them, most importantly the love he shared with them and his instruction to "do this in memory of me." Instantly, they went back to Jerusalem to share the news and to celebrate with the other disciples. The Eucharist, therefore, was to

be the source of unity and peace among the disciples.

Jesus still comes to us today when we find ourselves locked up in a room and crippled by fear and in doubt. He speaks the same words to us "Peace be with you." In the Eucharist he shows us his hands, his feet and his pierced side, he feeds us in order to open our hearts to understand what he teaches us. He wants to enter into our hearts. With Jesus beside us, we, like the disciples, can face up to the difficulties of life and become instruments of peace in the world. The great gift that we bear is sharing the life of Jesus. We are his chosen ambassadors of peace in our world.

NOTICES

Priest Training Fund

Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently **48** men studying at Allen Hall seminary, **14** of whom are from our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also from our Diocese. Last year **8** men who studied at Allen Hall were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

To make your Sunday offering, please scan this QR Code
With your mobile phone
OR

Click here: [My Offering](#)

Thank you and God bless!



Collections Last Sunday

Offering	£1211
Gift Aid Envelopes	£198

Thank you for your generosity!