



# SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

30<sup>th</sup> April 2023

## **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 (All Masses):** [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

### Reflection

### Vocation: Grace and Mission

### Pope Francis' Message

Today is a day of prayer for vocations. We reflect on the gift of vocations that God has given to each one of us. Our Holy Father has given a reflection on this 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the celebration to help us in our prayer. An excerpt is given below. You are invited to read the full message of the Pope.

This year I would ask you, in your reflection and prayer, to take as your guide the theme "Vocation: Grace and Mission". This Day is a precious opportunity for recalling with wonder that the Lord's call is grace, complete gift, and at the same time a commitment to bring the Gospel to others. We are called to a faith that bears witness, one that closely connects the life of grace, as experienced in the sacraments and ecclesial communion, to our apostolate in the world. Led by the Spirit, Christians are challenged to respond to existential peripheries and human dramas, ever conscious that the mission is God's work; it is not

carried out by us alone, but always in ecclesial communion, together with our brothers and sisters, and under the guidance of the Church's pastors. For this has always been God's dream: that we should live with him in a communion of love.

#### *"Chosen before the creation of the world"*

In the course of our lives, this call, which is part of the fibre of our being and the secret of our happiness, comes to us by the work of the Holy Spirit in ever new ways. It enlightens our minds, strengthens our wills, fills us with amazement and sets our hearts afire. At times, the Spirit comes to us in completely unexpected ways. So it was for me when, on 21 September 1953, as I was on my way to an annual school celebration, I was led to stop by a church and go to confession. That day changed my life and left a mark that has endured to the present day. God's call to the gift of self tends to make itself known gradually: in our encounter with

situations of poverty, in moments of prayer, when we see a clear witness to the Gospel, or read something that opens our minds. When we hear God's word and sense that it is spoken directly to us, in the advice given by a fellow brother or sister, in moments of sickness or sorrow... In all the ways he calls us, God shows infinite creativity.

#### *"I am a mission on this earth"*

Five years ago, in the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*, I spoke to every baptized person, saying, "You need to see the entirety of your life as a mission" (No. 23). Yes, because each and every one of us is able to say: "I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273). Our shared mission as Christians is to bear joyful witness wherever we find ourselves, through our actions and words, to the experience of being with Jesus and members of his community, which is the Church. That mission finds expression in works of material and

spiritual mercy, in a welcoming and gentle way of life that reflects closeness, compassion and tenderness, in contrast to the culture of waste and indifference. By being a neighbour, like the Good Samaritan (cf. *Lk* 10:25-37), we come to understand the heart of our Christian vocation: to imitate Jesus Christ, who came to serve, not to be served (cf. *Mk* 10:45).

This missionary activity does not arise simply from our own abilities, plans and projects, nor from our sheer willpower or our efforts to practice the virtues; it is the result of a profound experience in the company of Jesus. Only then can we testify to a Person, a Life, and thus become “apostles”. Only then can we regard ourselves as “sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light,

blessing, enlivening, raising, healing and freeing” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273).

#### ***Called together and convened***

The Church is an *Ecclesia*, the Greek word for *an assembly of persons called and convened*, in order to form the community of missionary disciples of Jesus Christ committed to sharing love among themselves (cf. *Jn* 13:34; 15:12) and spreading that love to all others, so that God’s kingdom may come.

Within the Church, all of us are servants, in accordance with the variety of our vocations, charisms and ministries. Our common vocation to give ourselves in love develops and finds concrete expression in the life of lay men and women, devoted to raising a family as a small *domestic*

*church* and working as a leaven of the Gospel to renew the different sectors of society; in the testimony of consecrated women and men who are completely committed to God for the sake of their brothers and sisters as a prophetic sign of the kingdom of God; in ordained ministers – deacons, priests and bishops – placed at the service of preaching, prayer and fostering the communion of the holy People of God. Only in relation with all the others, does any particular vocation in the Church fully disclose its true nature and richness. Viewed in this light, the Church is a vocational “symphony”, with every vocation united yet distinct, in harmony and joined together in “going forth” to radiate throughout the world the new life of the kingdom of God.

## **NOTICES**

### **Priest Training Fund**

This weekend our second collection will be in support of the Priest Training Fund, which benefits the parishes and the Diocese of Westminster by providing us with new priests. The formation of our priests is of top priority – it is our future.

The Priest Training Fund pays for the training and education of seminarians at our seminary, Allen Hall.

There are currently 48 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 14 of whom are from our own Diocese, as well as two men studying in Rome and two in Valladolid. Last year five men were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. It costs on average £25,000 per man, per year of formation – that is about £150,000 to form and educate a new priest, who makes a lifetime commitment to Christ and the Church.

The Priest Training Fund also pays for the ongoing education and formation of our priests post-ordination. Priests are the heart of the Catholic Church. So, I ask you to please be generous in your support of this appeal and to continue to pray for vocations and our seminarians.

Donation envelopes are available at the back of the church – you can use this envelope to make a one-off donation or to set up a regular donation to the Priest Training Fund. If you can Gift Aid, please don’t forget to tick it off.

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



**Thank you and God bless!**

#### **Collections Last Sunday**

Offering	£1631
Gift Aid Envelopes	£48

Thank you for your generosity!

*Fr Thaddeus*