



SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Seventh Sunday of Easter

21st May 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

The Prayer of Jesus: An Invitation to Us All

Today, we are brought into the heart of Jesus' prayer. As part of the Last Supper discourse in John's Gospel, Jesus prays for his first disciples and for us, and in doing so invites us and draws us into his prayer. To accept this invitation is to feel the pulse of our Lord's Sacred Heart as he shares the intimate relationship between him and the Father and asks for protection of his disciples who must continue his mission in the world.

The first thing to pay attention to is the tone of Jesus' prayer. It is passionate and intimate. We hear the word "Father" six times, and we learn that this prayer is about Jesus' relationship with the Father. Prayer is always a relationship. Jesus is entirely committed to doing the Father's will because of the inextricable unity that exists between them. And this is the unity into which Jesus invites us, or rather

he asks the Father to bring us into this unity.

Eternal life is to live in such unity with God as exists between Jesus and the Father. Jesus says, "Eternal life is to know you the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." It is only in prayer that we get into such knowledge of God. In Jesus' prayer (which he said as a human being), we see how he transcends his immediate human need – the imminent danger of suffering and death – into the wider need of the world to which the will of God is ultimately directed. This is the hidden wisdom we find in prayer: Our own immediate situation dissolves into the wider picture or plan that God has for our life and the world. Through prayer, God brings us to this understanding which is otherwise inaccessible through other means.

Therefore, through the prayer of Jesus, we learn how to communicate with God. Prayer is communication, a heart-to-heart talk between God and human beings. Prayer is therefore the ultimate model of every good communication. We can purify the way we communicate with each other by paying attention to our prayer, following this model that Jesus has given us.

Today we celebrate World Communications Day. In the Pope's message this year, he invites us to reflect on how we communicate with each other and in our social circles. Communicating in love, he says, requires speaking with the heart and in truth, just as Jesus shows in his prayer to the Father. A few excerpts from the Holy Father's message will help our reflection, and you're invited to read the full message which is available online.

“After listening to the other with a pure heart, we will also be able to speak *following the truth in love* (cf. Eph 4:15). We should not be afraid of proclaiming the truth, even if it is at times uncomfortable, but of doing so without charity, without heart. Because “the Christian’s programme” — as Benedict XVI wrote — “is ‘a heart which sees’”. A heart that reveals the truth of our being with its beat and that, for this reason, should be listened to. This leads those who listen to attune themselves to the same wave length, to the point of being able to hear within their heart also the heartbeat of the other. Then the miracle of encounter can take place, which makes us look at one another with compassion, welcoming our mutual frailties with

respect rather than judging by hearsay and sowing discord and division.”

“Listening without prejudice, attentively and openly, gives rise to speaking according to God’s style, nurtured by closeness, compassion and tenderness. We have a pressing need in the Church for communication that kindles hearts, that is balm on wounds and that shines light on the journey of our brothers and sisters. I dream of an ecclesial communication that knows how to let itself be guided by the Holy Spirit, gentle and at the same time, prophetic, that knows how to find new ways and means for the wonderful proclamation it is called to deliver in the third millennium. A communication which puts the relationship with

God and one’s neighbour, especially the neediest, at the centre and which knows how to light the fire of faith rather than preserve the ashes of a self-referential identity. A form of communication founded on humility in listening and *parrhesia* in speaking, which never separates truth from charity.”

As we await the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us ask our Lord to give us a heart that listens and is open to the Spirit of God. For only with such a heart can we truly pray as Jesus has taught us. And only with such a heart can we truly communicate with each other in love, speaking the truth with charity and lighting the fire of love and understanding in hearts that listen to us.

NOTICES

Second Collection
World Communications Day

Today is World Communications Day. **We have been asked to take up a second collection** to help with the work of the Bishops’ Conference in forging positive relationships with media outlets to communicate news relating to every aspect of the life of the Catholic Church and her people.

CAFOD Volunteering

Did you know that Church teaching says that we should not only support those in poverty but also tackle the root causes of poverty? Pope Benedict XVI said that “Love — caritas — is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace.” For decades CAFOD has spoken out against injustice. To find out more and get involved in tackling the root causes of poverty, please go to cafod.org.uk/latestcampaigns

Eucharistic Adoration for Young People

Bishop Nicholas Hudson and Westminster Youth Ministry are hosting a Eucharistic Adoration event for young people from the diocese. This will take place on Wednesday 31st May from 7.30pm to 9pm at Farm St Church in Mayfair, and Bishop Nicholas will be assisted by our World Youth Day Pilgrims.

Untold Stories: The Holy Land and Us

Join us for this conversation between **Sarah Agha**, co-presenter of the acclaimed BBC2 series with **Dr Harry Hagopian**, ecumenical consultant, international lawyer & analyst on the MENA & Gulf regions. @ Our Lady of Victories Parish centre in the parish centre 235a Kensington High Street W8 6SA
When? Tuesday, May 30th, 7-8.30 PM.

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



Thank you and God bless!

<u>Collections Last Sunday</u>	Offering	£1355
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£76
Thank you for your generosity!		

Fr Thaddeus