



SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

17th Sunday of the Year A

Sunday 30th July 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, Fr Matt Blake,

Fr Tijo Xavier, Fr Theophilus Nyamali

Safeguarding Reps: Franca Bren

Reflection

The Benefits of Wisdom

The standards imposed on us by our society, our world, can oftentimes blind us to where true value, true treasure lies. Yet, what truly brings happiness in our lives is to find the real values to live for. How can we find these values, and what do these values consist of? Perhaps these are the questions the Evangelist, Matthew tried to answer for his nascent Christian community in the first century. Like ourselves today, the early Christian community lived in a world that offered all kinds of false values, and like we, they had to navigate this life's maze to find where true values lay. The Christian wisdom helped them to achieve this.

The story of the remarkable reign of King Solomon must have been common in the early centuries. I heard the story as a child. The wisdom of Solomon, displayed in his judgement of the case between two women contesting for the ownership of a baby, was a classic children's story told to impart wisdom. But how did Solomon obtain such rare give of

wisdom? Mind you, we are not speaking here about being intellectually smart, being excellent at sports or in business. It's more than that. It is having the gift of discernment, of sound judgment in every aspect of life. In the language of St Paul, it is being led by the Spirit of God.

Our first reading today gives a summary story of how Solomon acquired his wisdom. Having been crowned king, Solomon was asked to make one request to God for anything that he wants. If you were presented with the same question, what would you ask? Even without being led into the imaginative, we can simply ask ourselves what we ask from God in our prayers. Solomon's request would surprise many of us. He asked for the gift of wisdom – to be able to govern his subjects well. Conscious of and acknowledging his own inadequacies and inexperience, he asks God for the skills he needs to rule his people. He does not ask anything for his own advantage.

In the Evangelist Matthew's terms, King Solomon is that kind of person who finds a real treasure and would sacrifice everything in order to buy it. The Evangelist teaches us that the Kingdom of heaven is a treasure or a pearl of inestimable value. And we should sacrifice everything to ensure we have it. Luckily, to obtain the Kingdom of Heaven does not require being materially rich. Quite the contrary. It requires, instead, the attitude of King Solomon – the consciousness and acknowledgment of our inadequacies and weaknesses and asking for the gift of wisdom to navigate our world of competing values.

The Kingdom of Heaven is not straight jacketed. It is life lived in the Spirit of God. Consequently, it involves every day small decisions which must combine both some old values inherited perhaps from our families as well as an openness to the Spirit who is always pointing us in new ways of living out our Christian life. This is what the Evangelist

Matthew calls *bringing out from one's storeroom things both new and old*, which is the mark of a true disciple of the Kingdom of heaven. These little everyday decisions do not come easy. We are oftentimes inclined either to the old or to the new, and we feel anxious when the lines between the old and the new seem to cross each other.

However, God continues to reveal himself to us through His Spirit. He continues renew the world through the Spirit until that perfect image intended for us his children is achieved. In the Second Reading, St. Paul describes the journey that lies ahead of us. It is a journey into becoming the *true images of God's son* just as God intended us to be.

He has chosen us and therefore given us the freedom to choose Him every day. When we, like Solomon, ask for the wisdom to live, God's generosity fills us with riches beyond imagining – the values of His Kingdom: love, generosity, peace and joy.

NOTICES

REGISTRATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

Registration is now open for those to prepare for First Holy Communion from September and Confirmation in January. If you have children for first holy communion or Confirmation, please do register them ahead of September and January. Children for First Holy Communion must be 7yrs old by 31st August while children for Confirmation must be 13yrs old by 31st August. The registration form can be downloaded from or completed on our website www.carmelitechurch.org/activities/catechism-classes or simply request for a form by emailing catechism.co-ordinator@carmelitechurch.org for First Holy Communion form and confirmation@carmelitechurch.org for Confirmation registration form.

MARATHON IN AID OF THE PASSAGE

Run the Royal Parks Half Marathon in aid of The Passage - Sunday 8th October 2023. All money raised will go towards supporting those currently experiencing or threatened by street homelessness so that we can end homelessness for good. Sign up here: <https://passage.org.uk/get-involved/events/royal-parks-half-marathon/> Registration. fee: £20 Fundraising goal: £300

WORLD YOUTH DAY ALTERNATIVE IN LONDON

If you can't attend the main event in Lisbon, why not join **WYD in London** - a day celebration on **Saturday 5th August 2023** from 11am-5pm. **Venue:** Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX. **To register** a group or individually, fill in the form: bit.ly/wydlondon

ANNIVERSARIES OF ST THERESE 2023 – 2025



This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Theresia of the Child Jesus (January 2nd, 1873), as well as the first centenary of her beatification (April 29, 1923) and, in 2025, the first centenary of her canonization (May 17, 1925). For this occasion,

Carmelites all over the world are engaging in a cycle of reading of the writings of Saint Theresia.

Each year, 8 selected texts will be proposed. They will be accompanied by a brief comment and some

questions aimed at stimulating reflection and dialogue. The main objective is to make us aware of the relevance of the experience and message of Theresia of the Child Jesus for us today. For this year, we are focusing on reading and reflection on the Autobiographical Manuscripts and other writings of Theresia.

Dates for our Reading and Reflection:

August 8th and 22nd	- 7.00pm in the Hall
Sept. 12th and 26th	- 7.00pm in the Hall
Oct. 10th and 24th	- 7.00pm in the Hall

**You may make your offering or donation by scanning this QR Code
With your mobile phone**

Thank you and God bless!

