



SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

14th Sunday of the Year A

Sunday 9th 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

"Come to me all you who labour"
Says, Our King of Peace

In Jesus' time (and one dares say, in our own time too), kings and rulers expressed their power and authority by making wars to expand their territory and gain wealth for more war. Needless to say, the consequences of this are slavery, suffering, oppression and all other degrading human conditions that are precipitated by war. As we see in epic films, horses were the ancient war animals. This background helps us understand the readings that we have heard today.

We say that Jesus is the King and the Ruler of the world. But what does this mean? Knowing what earthly kings and rulers are like, should be frightened? Clearly not! Long before Jesus, the Prophet Zechariah prophesied about the God-King that would come to rule the world, and he paints a picture of a king that is completely different from earthly kings. "Behold, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a

donkey. He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished." This is clearly a different kind of king who comes to establish a lasting and universal peace, symbolized by his riding on a donkey.

More than that, when Jesus comes into the world, he not only seeks to establish peace but also goes about healing the wounds and trauma that have been caused by earthly kings. He invites everyone into a new kingdom where love and peace reign. "Come to me", he says. And to whom does he say these words? To "all who labour and are overburdened". He wants to care for all those suffering hardship. His message to them is clear. "I will give you rest". That is a promise. And it is a telling sign of how great a king we have. He wants to be a king for all and bring his peace to all. Jesus is not a part of any group, class, or section of humanity. He is open to all, and is the king of love for us all.

Looking back at Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as a king, we see how paradoxical it was. A king making such an unexpected journey of peace when the people awaited a warrior. Their ambitions were limited by a simple let's-get-rid-of-the-Romans hope in a Messiah. It was difficult for them to understand what Jesus was about. Even when Jesus was on the cross, they still didn't understand, and probably expected him to leap from it at the last minute. After all, that is what anybody else would have done.

If Jesus had jumped from the cross and gone on to drive out the out Romans, then what kind of Messiah would he have been? A very restricted one. Restricted both in time (his era) and space (to Palestine only). Just what does a Roman occupation matter now? Or, if we think about it, any political force?

Jesus Christ was beyond all that pettiness. He wanted to save people, not bring some trivial political solution to a small-time problem.

After all, all political problems are caused by people, and in time all become unimportant. To overcome the real problem, of sin, Jesus had to die. Through dying he did destroy sin, and in his resurrection, has led us to real life in a real kingdom.

So, St Paul reminds us that like political problems, our own bodies are temporary. They are a symbol of all that is in this world. Bodies wear

out, die, decay. But, although that will happen to our bodies, our Spirit will not die. The world cannot touch our Spirit, unless we let it. The real world of Jesus is beyond the reach of those who would want to destroy. They are limited by the here and now. The reality of Jesus, love, is beyond such limitation.

What could we do, for example, that is better than comforting a child who

has fallen over? That is basic love, and much more important than treaties and political agreements. Jesus chose twelve simple, ordinary, weak Apostles. Not high-flying executives close to earthly power. He placed his kingdom in the hands of love. Ordinary, no-frills love. That is the key to the kingdom. That is the key to Christ's kingship. That is how we must seek to follow his Way.

NOTICES

MASS OF SOLEMN PROFESSION – 3.00PM

Next Sunday, **16th July** the Mass of the Solemn Profession to our 2 Carmelite brothers will be at 3.00pm. Refreshments will follow, after the Mass in our hall. You're all invited.

2ND COLLECTION TODAY – STELLA MARIS

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL

Next Sunday, 16th July is the Celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mt Carmel – the Patroness of our Church as well as the Carmelite Order. The Solemn Mass will be at **6.00pm**. **We will have a Garden Party after the Mass to celebrate this Feast Day.**

LEGION OF MARY

We are in the process of re-establishing a Legion of Mary Praesidium in our Parish. The Legion of Mary is a group of devotees who carry out lay apostolic ministry under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. If you would like to join this group, please come to a retreat being organised here in our church on **July 22, 10.00am**. See poster on the notice board for more information.

REGISTRATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF ST THERESE 2023 – 2025



In 2023 we will 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:

July 11th and 25th - 7.00pm in the Hall
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