



SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Seventh Sunday of Easter

12th May 2024

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL & ST SIMON STOCK, CARMELITE CHURCH
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Mass Times Sundays: Vigil (Sat.) 6.00 p.m., 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 John Williamson,
Fr Kelvin Ekhoegbe, Fr Joseph Odiah

Safeguarding Rep: Franca Bren

Reflection

“CONSECRATE THEM IN THE TRUTH”

The Priestly Prayer of Jesus addressed to the Father for all of humanity stands as a powerful witness of his love and care for humanity. Jesus prayed from the depth of his being before his passion and death, the ultimate expression of this love. At the heart of this prayer is the experience of joy, the joy that is full, complete, and lacking nothing: "...to share my joy with them to the full". However, this joy in us has been threatened by the world because the world recognises that we do not belong to it. We have taken the resemblance of him who shared his own joy with us.

The prayer expressed Jesus' desire that we be his witnesses in the world and so he prayed, "I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the evil one". This

protection is guaranteed in the truth, and so Jesus prayed, 'consecrate them in the truth'. A mission of the truth of God's love is entrusted to us, so that the world might be transformed.

There appear to be a prevailing fear impeding our acceptance of this mission to share the truth of God's love – to consecrate the world in the truth by our witnessing. From the readings we can outline three factors underlining our fears:

A foundational misconception: there is a foundational misconception that my Christian life is I, me, and myself in relation with God. If this is the case, then the prayer of Jesus in today's gospel is useless and our being in the church is useless. Our spiritual journey has an individualistic approach however it bears a huge

responsibility to make God known to the world not only by words of mouth but by the very life we live.

Fear of what others may think: We all desire love and acceptance and so any action that is different from the norm of the day seems awkward. There is a sort of feeling of shame witnessing to our faith. The very element that makes us different we keep it aside for the sake of being accepted. When I put on my Scapular or in public pray my Rosary, make the sign of the Cross before meals at the restaurant, having the crucifix on the table in the office, seem awkward so we prefer to keep it silent and unnoticed. It will be as if we have received an informal warning not to witness to Christ or express our identity as Christians.

The Fear of being contradicted: there is a particular fear that

comes in the form of a question using the phrase “what if”: what if i express my faith and it offends another; what if they dont agree with me; what if they mock me; what if they contradict me; what if they persecute me? You can multiply the what if’s. Interestingly, these are not quite strange: the Jews contradicted all that Paul and Barnabas taught,

they were both persecuted and even stoned, but that didn.t stop their witnessing.

The readings today bring us the good news of love that conquers fear. The good news is the promised gift of the Father, the Holy Spirit. St Paul says, the Spirit that you have received is not a spirit of fear bringing you into

slavery but a spirit of adoption that makes you cry out Abba Father. As we prepare for the renewing power of this promised gift of the father at Pentecost we pray for the grace of courage to proclaim our faith by words and deeds.

READING

To follow the Mass Readings on your phone, please scan the QR Code:



NOTICES

EXPLORING EASTER, ASCENSION AND PENTECOST THROUGH THREE WORKS OF ART

Fr Evan from St Mary Abbots Church and Fr Tony from Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Simon Stock explore three famous works of art: 'Noli me tangere' by Giovanni Battista Caracciolo, 'The Ascension' by William Blake, 'Pentecost' by El Greco and reflect on how they depict the three great religious festivals of Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. **Entrance is free** but spaces are limited so please book here to reserve your place.

Booking is at Mary abbotts by scanning the square box on bottom right of poster

MAY DEVOTION

The month of May is referred to as the Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This time of the year is exceptionally special as it is dedicated to Marian devotion. Devotees and believers honour the Virgin Mary, revered not only as the Mother of God but also as the Mother of the Church. The tradition of dedicating May to the Virgin Mary offers a profound opportunity to explore her role and significance in the Christian life and how her life and virtues continue to inspire the hearts of the faithful.

There will be the recitation of the Rosary at 5pm daily

BOOK PROMOTION

Fr John McGowan will be talking about his book ‘**Sr Teresa & Fr Jerome: A Love Profound**’. *All are welcome.*

Date: Saturday, 18th May 2024
Time: After the 12:15pm Mass

**You may make your offering or donation by scanning this QR Code with your mobile phone
Thank you and God bless!**



<u>Collections Last Sunday:</u>	Offering	£1,509.08
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£182
Thank you for your generosity!		

Fr Thaddeus