SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

25th Sunday Ordinary Time (B) **22nd September 2024**

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL & ST SIMON STOCK, CARMELITE CHURCH
41 KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET, LONDON W8 4BB

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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 Odiahi
Safeguarding Rep: Franca Bren

Reflection

Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham

Traditionally we celebrate Our Lady of Walsingham September 24th. This year it has been raised by the Church to the status of an official "Feast", giving England its own unique feast of Mary. Therefore, this Tuesday September 24th is a special day for the Church in this country.

The origins of Walsingham go back to 1061 when an Anglo-Saxon noblewoman, Richeldis de Faverches, prayed that she might undertake some special work to give honour to Mary. The answer she received is recounted in the Pynson Ballad [c1485]: *"Our Lady led Richeldis in spirit to Nazareth and showed her the house where the Angel had greeted her. 'Look, daughter', said Our Lady. 'Take the measurements of this house and erect another one like it in Walsingham, dedicated to praising and honouring me. All who come there shall find help in their need. It shall be a perpetual memorial to the great joy of the Annunciation, ground and origin of all my joys and the root of humanity's gracious Redemption. This came about through Gabriel's message that I would be a mother through my humility; and conceive God's Son in virginity."*

We do not know exactly when the house was built but in 1153 Papal approval was given to a community of Augustinian Canons to build a Priory in Walsingham. Subsequently Walsingham became one of the principal pilgrimage centres of Europe; after Jerusalem, Rome and Compostella. Many English Kings and other nobility came on pilgrimage to Walsingham including King Henry VIII and his first two wives, Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn.

In 1538 Henry VIII ordered the destruction of the Shrine as part of the Reformation. The famous statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was taken to London and burned. After this Walsingham ceased to be a place of public pilgrimage, any devotion that continued had to be in private. Nothing remains today of the original shrine. The site is in the grounds of a private house. However, after Catholic Emancipation [1829] devotion gradually returned.

In 1896, Catherine Pearson Boyd, purchased the 14th century Slipper Chapel – about a mile from Walsingham. It was restored to Catholic use and ever since it is the Catholic Shrine. The Anglicans have since built a Shrine in Walsingham and other Christian Denominations including the Orthodox have a presence there also. Nowadays it is once more an important place of Christian prayer and pilgrimage.

Devotion to Mary was very strong in England in Medieval times. England was given the title **Dowry**

of Mary. This was used by Kings and others as an official title for the country. The **Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham** reminds us of this rich tradition and helps us to be inspired by the example and faith of those who went before us. Walsingham has once more become an important place of pilgrimage; and let us hope and pray that this new feast may be the beginning of a new era of devotion to Mary and love of pilgrimage.

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as in the mystery of the Incarnation the blessed and ever Virgin Mary conceived her Son in her heart before she conceived him in the womb, so we, your pilgrim people, rejoicing in her motherly care, may welcome Him into our hearts and become a holy house fit for his eternal dwelling. Through Christ our Lord. Amen [prayer for feast of Our Lady of Walsingham].

NOTICES

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

SOLEMN MASS FOR THE FEAST OF ST. THERESE

On **1st October**, we will have a Solemn Mass in honour of St Therese of Lisieux at **6.00pm**. Refereshments will follow after the Mass. All are invited.

REGISTRATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

Registration in preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation is now open. If you have children for first holy communion or confirmation, please do register them as soon as you can. Children for holy communion must be 7yrs old by 31st August while children for confirmation must be 13 years by 31st August. Registration form can be found on our website: www.carmelitechurch.org/activities/catechism-classes or email enquiries@carmelitechurch.org to request a form.

RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH AND ADULT CONFIRMATION

Registration is open for any adult who wishes to be become a Catholic or be received into the Catholic church. Also any adult Catholic who is not yet confirmed and wishes to receive the sacrament of Confirmation should make contact through enquiries@carmelitechurch.org

VOLUNTEER AT RAHAB - ADORATRICES

Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. Please, join Rahab - Adoratrices in the fight against human trafficking. Volunteering with Rahab is an opportunity to positively impact someone's life.

For further information:
Email: CONTACT@RAHABUK.COM
Tele: 020 7370 3901
www.rahabuk.com

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

Collections Last Sunday:	Offering	£1758
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£108

Thank you for your generosity!

Fr Thaddeus