SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

27th Sunday Ordinary Time (B) **6th October 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 Odiahi
Safeguarding Rep: Franca Bren

Reflection

Christian Marriage and the Beauty of Family Life

Excerpts from Pope Francis's reflection on Marriage

In the Church and in the world, there is a strong need to rediscover the meaning and value of the conjugal union between man and woman on which the family is based. Indeed, an aspect, certainly not secondary, of the crisis that is affecting many families is the practical ignorance, personal and collective, regarding marriage.

The Church received from her Lord the mission of proclaiming the Good News and it also illuminates and supports that "great mystery" which is conjugal and family love. The Church as a whole can be said to be a big family, and in a very particular way through the life of those who form a domestic church, she receives and transmits the light of Christ and his Gospel in the family sphere. The gospel of the family recalls the divine plan of the creation of man and women, that is the "beginning", according to the word of Jesus: "Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one'? So, they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mt 19:4-6). And this being one flesh is part of the divine plan of redemption.

Marriage according to Christian Revelation is not a ceremony or a social event, no; it is neither a formality nor an abstract ideal: it is a reality with its own precise consistency, not "a form of mere emotional satisfaction that can be constructed in any way or modified at will" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 24 November 2013, 66).

Jesus gives a simple yet at the same time profound answer: "What God has joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mt 19:6). "God himself is the author of matrimony", as Vatican Council II affirms (Gaudium et Spes, 48), and this can be understood as referring to every single conjugal union. Indeed, spouses give life to their union, with free consent, but only the Holy Spirit has the power to make a man and woman a sole existence. Moreover, "the Saviour of men and the Spouse of the Church comes into the lives of married Christians through the sacrament of matrimony" (ibid., 48). All this leads us to recognize that every true marriage, even non-sacramental, is a gift of God to the spouses. Matrimony is always a gift! Conjugal fidelity rests on divine fidelity; conjugal fruitfulness is based on divine fruitfulness. Man and woman are called to accept this gift and freely correspond to it with the reciprocal gift of self.

This beautiful vision may seem utopian, inasmuch as it does not seem to take human frailty, the inconstancy of love, into account. Indissolubility is often conceived of as an ideal, and the mindset according to which marriage lasts as long as there is love tends to prevail. It lasts as long as there is love. But which love is it? Here too there is often unawareness of true conjugal love, reduced to the sentimental level or to mere selfish satisfactions. Instead, matrimonial love is inseparable from marriage itself, in which human love, fragile and limited, meets with divine

love, always faithful and merciful. I wonder: can there be a "dutiful" love? The answer is found in the commandment on love, as Christ said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (Jn 13:34). I want to emphasize this latter: hidden crises are not resolved in concealment, but in mutual forgiveness.

Marriage should not be idealized, as though it existed only where there are no problems. God's plan, being placed in our hands, is always imperfectly realized, and yet "the Lord's presence dwells in real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes. Living in a family makes it hard for us to feign or lie; we cannot hide behind a mask. If that authenticity is inspired by love, then the Lord reigns there, with his joy and his peace. The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of real gestures, concrete gestures. In that variety of gifts and encounters which deepen communion, God has his dwelling place. This mutual concern 'brings together the human and the divine', for it is filled with the love of God.

In the Christian economy of salvation, marriage constitutes first and foremost the way to the holiness of the spouses themselves, a holiness lived out in the daily routine of life: this is an essential aspect of the Gospel of the family. It is significant that the Church is today proposing some married couples as examples of holiness; and I am also thinking of the countless spouses who sanctify themselves and edify the Church with what I have called the "holiness next door" (*Gaudete et exultate*, 19 March 2018, 4-6).

Let us always nourish in ourselves the spirit of thankfulness and gratitude to the Lord for his gifts; and in this way we will also be able to help others nourish it in the different situations of their lives.

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

NOTICES

OCTOBER – THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

The month of October is traditionally the month of the rosary. We are encouraged to pray the mysteries of the rosary during the month. We can do this either privately, with our families or with the groups to which we belong.

Every evening at 5.40pm throughout the month of October, we will recite the rosary in common here in our church. We encourage you all to come and join in saying the rosary together.

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

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	£1773
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£98

Thank you for your generosity!

Fr Thaddeus