SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C **23rd February 2025**

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 John Williamson, Fr Joseph Odiahi
Safeguarding Rep: Franca Bren (Email: kensington2sg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Reflection

RECONCILING DIFFERENCES

Gospel Beatitudes call us to believe and express our faith in Jesus. But they also call us towards accepting the challenge to be reconciliatory by nature. Teresa of Avila once wrote:
"Recommend the Sister to God and strive yourself to practice with great perfection the virtue opposite the fault that appears in her. Make every effort to do this so that you teach that Sister in deed what perhaps through words or punishment she might not understand or profit by; and the imitation of the virtue in which one sees another excel has a great tendency to spread. This is good advice; don't forget it."

Not quite sure what she means by punishment - perhaps it is like a parent trying to correct their child. They withhold their playing with their favourite toy in order to get them to see their wrong ways and change? Nevertheless, it is a Christian's claim that Jesus not only in word but in deed encouraged people to believe in the reality of God's love. Sometimes it was only a word, other times it needed a deed, or, even both to help another change.

The above quote from Teresa of Avila seeks to preserve unity within the community. She encourages them not to engage in fault finding and disrupt community life. Teresa recommends looking towards one's own faults and try to practice an opposite virtue when the other sister's vice is more apparent. It was a way to guard the heart from drifting into judgementalism and even narcissism generating a restlessness within the sisters – both in the one who sees the fault and the one caught in the fault (perhaps unaware of being so).

In Luke's gospel passage today, there is a challenge focused on practicing a deed as a deeper way to practice love of neighbour. To extend it towards others besides our nearest and dearest and greater than our own faith members. There can be no longer "eye for an eye" "tooth for a tooth" if the other - generally considered an enemy – stands before us, as we see in the first reading with David and Saul.

Within the liturgy there is a powerful action called the "Sign of peace". These days more seem to bow reverently to the other due to the scare of Covid-19. Imagine turning round in the pew to the person behind you and discover they are the person whom you have been arguing with for the past week! How powerful a sign it would be of a spirituality that guards the heart. One actively and genuinely trying to reconcile differences in that moment; prepared to wrestle with that interior battle "will I or won't I" and

genuinely extend peace towards the other.

Jesus' sermon introduces how to avoid corrupting our ability to go beyond our natural tendencies to react negatively. To rise above the vices we are on the receiving end of.

In "deed" we can become a strong sign that God is real for us so it can become real for another. Really? Love my enemies? Do good to one who hates me? We can see love of neighbour is not a cosy attitude in life to take when it seeks to be as inclusive. It is, however, an attitude through which practical love of neighbour resembles that of the Father revealed in Jesus.

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

NOTICES

NICANOR ABALOS – RIP

The funeral mass of **Nicanor Abalos** RIP will be in this Church Wednesday February 26th, 10.00am

JUBILEE TALK AT ALLEN HALL

To Celebrate the Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope and the 1700th Anniversary of Nicaea, the first Ecumenical Council, on Saturday, 22 March at 3 pm there will be a talk at Allen Hall Seminary entitled, "Consubstantial with the Father: Christ our Hope". It will be given by Canon John O'Leary, Rector of Allen Hall. He also teaches philosophy at the seminary and lectures on the doctrine of Creation and Eschatology at St Mary's University. You are invited to stay for refreshments after the talk, then enjoy a tour of Allen Hall with an explanation of its rich history starting at 5pm. You are also most welcome to join the Allen Hall community for Vespers at 5:30 pm. This will end with devotions to the Douai Martyrs - including veneration of St Cuthbert Mayne's relic. The evening will finish at about 6 pm. Just coming for the talk is fine. To help plan for numbers, please register to attend by emailing parector@rcdow.org.uk. Allen Hall is located at 28 Beaufort Street, Chelsea, SW3 5AA (on the site of St Thomas More's House). Buses 19, 49, 319, 345 stop practically at the front door and nos. 11 and 22 stop close by on the King's Road.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT COURSES

Our Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality in Oxford has a number of spiritual enrichment courses being offered this January. If you would like to sign up to one of these courses please see the poster on the notice board of pick up a leaflet at the back of the church which has useful information.

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	£1600
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£118

Thank you for your generosity!

Fr Thaddeus