SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Second Sunday of Lent **16th March 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

FEAST OF ST PATRICK

Tomorrow, March 17th, we celebrate the Feast of **St. Patrick**, a feast celebrated in many places throughout the world. Patrick's influence has reached the "ends of the earth". Patrick's birthplace is unknown – places in England, Scotland, Wales and Brittany [Northern France] have been suggested down through the centuries. The name *Patricius* is Roman and suggests he was the son of a local official employed by the Roman empire. He was born around the year 400 or a little later. According to his own account, his *Confessio,* he was captured and taken to Ireland as a slave when he was sixteen years old. Six years later he escaped and returned to his home.

He tells us that this time of captivity was a time of spiritual growth for him. He learned to pray and trust in God. After his escape *"he heard the call of the Irish"* and decided to train as a priest and return to Ireland as a missionary. He studied in France and was ordained a priest there. The year 432 is traditionally given as the date of his return to Ireland. Later he was appointed Bishop of Ireland.

Patrick, with the help of companions, set about the establishment of the Church in Ireland [not without opposition and difficulties]. They were not the first Christians in Ireland, or the first missionaries, but they were the first to be successful in making numerous converts and establishing the Church throughout the country. They established Churches and Diocese, and monasteries of men and women. It is the first systematic evangelisation of a people outside the confines and influence of the Roman Empire.

The work of Patrick and his companions gives birth to what will become known as the *Celtic Church*. They developed a Church with customs and practices distinctive from the predominant Roman Church [for example, a different method for calculating the date of Easter]. This distinctive form of Christianity will later spread through Brittain and parts of continental Europe. It will become a Church centred very much around monasteries: and some of its striking characteristics are its emphasis on the contemplative life, pilgrimages, ascetical practices, and a strong missionary spirit. Two practices of the Celtic Church that have become part of Christian practice as we know it today are individual confessions and the Paschal Fire that we light at Easter.

Two of Patrick's writing have come down to us, his *Declaration or Confessions* and his *Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus*. These writings are considered authentic

by most scholars. Also, the famous prayer/hymn, *St. Patrick's Breastplate*, is attributed to Patrick. Let us conclude with some words from this prayer:

"Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in the mouth of friend and stranger."

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

NOTICES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Fridays during Lent after the evening Mass, we have Stations of the Cross devotion. Our usual evening prayer together will be replaced by the Stations of the Cross. You are all invited to this Lenten devotion.

COLLECTIONS/APPEALS

CAFOD: [Catholic agency for Overseas Development]. Special Collection this weekend **March 16**. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church.

National Shrine of Walsingham: Special Collection weekend of **March 22/23**. Envelopes available at back of Church.

COFEE MORNING THIS MONTH

This month our community gathering, coffee morning, after 10.00am mass will be on the fourth Sunday, **Sunday March 23rd** [instead of the usual third Sunday]. This will be our Lenten Soup Kitchen. Please come along after 10.00am mass and after 12.15 mass to share some time together, enjoy delicious soup and raise some funds for Cafod.

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.

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	£1332
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£208

Thank you for your generosity!

Fr Thaddeus