SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Easter Sunday **20th April 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

THE EASTER EXPERIENCE

It is all about the joy of Easter. Today, the Christian community comes before the empty tomb, not with sadness but with rejoicing and resounding *alleluia* because Christ brings in a new dawn. Here we are wrapped in complete awe; what has never been heard of or happened before. We stand facing the reality of the empty tomb, cut in the midst of what could have happened to the dead body that was buried in the tomb now empty. The once dead body is truly risen; the grave is no more welcoming. It is easter, Christ is risen. The hold of sin on humanity has been broken; the devil is forever defeated. The resurrection is Jesus' victory over death: "*for we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him*". (Rom 6:9). The passion and death of Jesus takes on a deeper meaning and influence; the once rough body, with no beauty to look at him, takes on the glorious body as of the beloved Son of the Father. The narrative takes a completely different, or even shocking dimension. The ultimate good news is that Jesus did not end on the cross, he rose from the dead.

The feeling is that of a people who have moved from a long period of sorrow to serenity, peace and joy. The experience of the disciples who came very early in the morning to see the tomb is one that moved from being gloomy to the commencement of announcing the great news of the resurrection. What would have been tagged the "greatest failure in history" becomes the good news ever told and heard. On what grounds would Jesus' disciples have had the courage to speak about their experiences with Jesus; they would have to get ready to gradually let the story fade into complete oblivion. Jesus' inspiring teachings would have been a total waste of time; his confronting those who lived false lives would be ridiculed; at least, they will be proved right that he was more of a rebel than be mistaken for a good teacher.

In all, it is victory of good over evil; it is a demonstration of God who holds all things and manifests his power over all things. Not even the grave could put an end to God's plan for humanity. It is a different experience all together, for Christ's rising from the dead brings us to new life. This is what the church will continue to live and celebrate. Jesus is no more in the tomb but lives very close to us. The resurrection is at the very heart of that we believe and do as Christians; for we believe that Christ's rising has turned our darkness into bright light – the new life we have received through Christ.

The Gospel of Matthew recounts that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, finding the tomb empty and told by an Angel, not be afraid, departed with *fear* and *great joy* and ran to tell their story (cf. Matt 28:8). The resurrection is for us, to "throw" ourself in and benefit from it. The easter experience should permeate every aspect of our lives. We have what could be described as "New Heaven and New Earth." Christ's resurrection is also our own resurrection, for "death has no more power over us," for though our mortal body may die, we believe we shall reign with him in eternity. We have received the reason to hope; we are liberated from unnecessary fears and anxieties; now we have the assurance to put through life, to pray, to hope and to believe. The faith of Easter is that *pains and agonies shall pass away*. The "miracle" of Easter can once again be the reality of our everyday experience. This is the news that transformed the lives of Jesus' disciples, and which they also preached. This has become our story; we believe and live out our faith in the risen Lord and Saviour.

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

NOTICES

THANK YOU AND HAPPY EASTER

The Carmelite Community wishes to thank you for your participation in the Lenten activities and the Easter Triduum. Thank you to all those who facilitated the various activities that we had especially the soup kitchen, the stations of the cross as well as those who served at the various liturgies. Thank you for your donations during this period. We wish you all a Blessed Easter Season

WEEK AFTER EASTER

During this week (21st – 26th inclusive), Masses will be at 8.30am, 12.15pm & 6.00pm.
Adoration will be in the evening only from 5.00.pm until before evening Mass
Confession is by appointment only.

RIP ADELIA CASTILLO ABLAN

The Funeral Mass for **Adelia Castillo Ablan** takes place in this Church Friday April 25th, 1.30pm

PULSE CATHOLIC FAMILY RETREATS

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th June 2025

Children of all ages are welcome. Organised for families by families. The retreat is structured around times of teaching and personal prayer for parents.
Fr Matt Blake, Carmelite, will help the parents (re)discover the power of prayer.
Children participate in a school of prayer specially tailored to their age, under the responsibility of volunteers.
Registrations are now open until 5th May 2025
(pulse-retreats.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	£1714
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£138

Thank you for your generosity!

Fr Thaddeus