



SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

2nd Sunday of Easter

Divine Mercy

27th April 2025

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

Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

Email: enquiries@carmelitechurch.org

Tel. 0207 937 9866

Mobile: 0770 8203 595

@kensingtoncarmelitechurch on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

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 MYSTERY OF GOD'S MERCY

The Feast of Divine mercy was instituted in 2001 by Pope John Paul II, and it arose out of a series of apparitions which Sr Faustina received. The Pope noted in his homily during the canonization of Sr Faustina that the message of the apparitions is linked to the experience of the World War. This is what the Holy Father said: *Today my joy is truly great in presenting the life and witness of Sr. Faustina to the whole Church as a gift of God for our time. By Divine Providence, the life of this humble daughter of Poland was completely linked with the history of the twentieth century, the century we have just left behind. In fact, it was between the First and Second World Wars that Christ entrusted his message of mercy to her. Those who remember, who were witnesses and participants in the events of those years and the horrible sufferings they caused for millions of people know well how*

necessary was this message of mercy.

(Pope John Paul II, Homily for Canonization of St Faustina, April 30 2000)

This reflection given twenty-five years ago continues to hold relevance today. Many countries and communities of our world continue to be ravaged by war, people enduring untold suffering. Now more than before is there need to call on God's mercy for our suffering humanity. God's mercy reaches out to humanity to do for us what we are incapable of doing for ourselves. God in His mercy looks at us in what we are, not just what we do. This is why He is able not only to forgive us but also to provide for us graces necessary for us to live happily forever. We say that God is mercy not just because of what He does but because mercy is His essential attribute. This is shown in the fact that God's

optimum revelation of His mercy is a Person – His Son Jesus who is our salvation. God's Mercy came to dwell with us in order to experience everything that we are. So, God looks at us in whole, including our experiences, and knows exactly what we are.

Incidentally, we celebrate this feast at the same time as we mourn the passing of Pope Francis whose teaching emphasized the mercy of God. His invitation to the church and the entire world is to look upon one another and our earth with the same mercy with which God looks at the world; to stand in solidarity with those who suffer the most in our world.

When we listen to Jesus speaking in the Gospels we learn so many aspects of God's mercy and He makes it clear that the single objective of our Christian life is to become merciful just as God is. We

remember the three parables about God's mercy in Luke 15. God is like the good shepherd who leaves 99 sheep to go in search of the one lost one. God is like a woman who sweeps out her house in search of her lost coin. And God is like a father who waits patiently for his lost son and comes out of the house to welcome him back when he returns.

This is all because God Himself is mercy and has experienced everything that we are including our suffering. The Letter to the Hebrews (4:15) assures us that "we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who

was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin. Therefore, we approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." This is a consolation for our world still in suffering, especially for those who are victims of war. God is not silent. As Pope Benedict says in one of his meditations, speaking about the meekness of Christ, the Passover Lamb: *"The Lamb with his mortal wound tells us that, in the end, it is not those who kill who will be the victors; on the contrary, the world is sustained by those who sacrifice themselves. It is the sacrifice of him who becomes the "Lamb slain" that holds heaven and earth together.*

True victory lies in this sacrifice. It gives rise to that life which imparts a meaning to history, through all its atrocities, and which can finally turn them into a song of joy."

As we continue to celebrate our experience of God's mercy in the resurrection of our Lord, let us pray that people, especially those who make decisions that cause suffering to others, may experience the power of God's mercy in their lives.

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



NOTICES

A NOTE OF THANKS ONCE AGAIN

Thanks to all who have participated our Holy Week and Easter ceremonies both in person and electronically. A special thanks to all who put so much work into preparing the Church and organising the ceremonies – readers, servers, singers, musicians, cleaners, stewards, and so many more. Thanks for all your gifts during this Easter period. May the Risen Christ bring light, healing and hope into all our lives.

ALL ACTIVITIES RESUME AS USUAL FROM THIS WEEK

Beginning Monday this week, all our usual liturgical activities resume after the Easter week break. Confessions and adoration resume at the usual times. Our Friday evening and night prayer with benediction also resume.

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