SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

5th Sunday of Easter **18th May 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

A NEW COMMANDMENT

A family betrayal! It was a family – the family of Jesus and his apostles. They worked together, shared meals and confided in one another for three years. It may not have been a perfect family – there were times of misunderstanding and power struggle – but Jesus, their Master, held them together in the bond of peace. But one of them betrayed all the others by betraying their Master, just for personal benefits. It must have hurt them at the core to find that it was one among them, their own brother, who would sell them out.

It was at this time, Judas has just gone from the room, and knowing the burning anger in the apostles, that Jesus spoke from the depth of his heart, like a father to his children. "I am giving you a new commandment, love one another as I have loved you." There is a whole lot in that statement, and even a lot more because of the circumstance in which Jesus uttered it.

A New Commandment
What makes this a new commandment? Is there an old or previous commandment to which it might be compared? Clearly, a similar commandment is already given in the Old Law (the Torah): 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But this is evidently quite different from the new commandment that Jesus gave, more so because of the circumstance. First, the command is no longer to love your neighbour as yourself but to love and Jesus loves – and the way Jesus loves was made abundantly clear in the events of that Last Supper (the sharing of bread, the washing of the apostle's feet) and the crucifixion. Second, the new commandment is asking for a total break from the old retributive attitude towards love. In the old commandment, their brother Judas, who betrayed them, should have had no recourse to mercy and no claim to their love. In fact, what the apostles were being commanded, to love as Jesus loves, requires a whole new way of thinking.

A New Way
Jesus knew that for the world to be sustained, something new had to happen. There had to be a totally new way of thinking. In fact, God was bringing about a new heaven and a new earth, just as John saw in his vision. The change needed was so drastic that God was going to make his dwelling place with man. God is making all things new.

Judas' betrayal could have been seen as an unforgivable sin by his brother apostles. But Jesus wanted to give them a new way of looking at it. 'Now is the Son of Man glorified,' he said, 'and God is glorified in him.' Judas' action, therefore, is going to inadvertently

bring about the glorification of God through the glorification of Jesus. In other words, his action is going to bring about God's plan to be revealed in a new way, as never seen before. God is going to eternally dwell with his people in order to make all things new through a new Christian community. If the apostles understood this, they would not be so mad at Judas.

A New Community

The new commandment given by Jesus to his apostles sets clear indications of how he wants the new Christian community to live after his death and resurrection. At the head of that Christian community will be the glorified Son of Man – Jesus – who will not be a distant head, but God dwelling with his people. The glorification of God through Jesus' death and resurrection, facilitated by Judas, will be made manifest in the love which the disciples show for one another. "By this," Jesus says, "all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

You are the one to whom the new commandment has been given – to love as Jesus has loved you. By your love for others, people will know that you are Jesus' disciple.

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

NOTICES

2ND JUBILEE YEAR TALK

To Celebrate the Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope and the 1700th Anniversary of Nicaea, the first Ecumenical Council, there will be a talk at Allen Hall Seminary on the eve of Pentecost, Saturday, 7 June at 3pm entitled, "The Holy Spirit – Taste and Dynamism of Hope". It will be given by Canon John O'Leary, Rector of Allen Hall. You are invited to stay for refreshments after the talk. You are also most welcome to join the Allen Hall community for Vespers at 5:30 pm. To help plan for numbers, please register to attend by emailin parector@rcdow.org.uk (her name is Monica). Numbers are limited, so early registration is recommended! Just coming for the talk without staying for any other part of the afternoon is fine. However, kindly indicate for which additional elements of the programme you wish to stay. The address of Allen Hall is 28 Beaufort Street, Chelsea, SW3 5AA (it's 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.

RETROUVAILLE MARRIAGE MINISTRY

Alone or bored in your marriage? Considering separation or are already divorced? If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get back on track. Call to find out more
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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	£1458
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£115

Thank you for your generosity!

Fr Thaddeus