SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Trinity Sunday | ***Happy Fathers' Day*** | **15th June 2025**

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL & ST SIMON STOCK, CARMELITE CHURCH
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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 UNITY OF LOVE

Today's liturgy invites us to enter into the life of the Blessed Trinity – The Father, Son and Holy Spirit – not so much as to fully understand and explain the Trinity as to appreciate the gift that God bestows upon us through this mystery. It is a celebration of the various manifestations of our God to the world in order to reveal the depth of His love. The mystery of God was first revealed at creation, then in the stories of God's covenant relationship with the biblical Israel who recognised their identity as God's chosen people.

In the Old Testament, the 'Word of God' and the 'Spirit of God' are recurring themes that describe God's self-manifestation. They were present at the moment of creation, as the book of Genesis recounts: "And God said, let *Us* make man in *Our* own image and likeness" (Gen. 1:26). As our first reading today shows, Israel saw God's Word (given as Commandments through Moses and the prophets) as shaping their history as the people of God. The Spirit of God was seen as the source of breath and life, as the Psalmist sang (Ps 103):

You hide your face they are dismayed
You take back your spirit, they die
You send forth your spirit, they are created
And you renew the face of the earth

God's self-expression of Himself took a dramatic turn in the coming of His eternal Son, Jesus, into the world. In the gospels Jesus frequently speaks of His intimate relationship with the Father, and we learn from what He says that He is so close to the Father that 'They are One.' In other words, they share the same divine nature. Jesus is the icon of the Father, the perfect image of God. This bond of love between the Father and the Son is given expression in the Person of the Holy Spirit. Thus, we say that our God is a Trinitarian God.

But what does this mean? It means that the essence of our God is love and unity. Our Trinitarian God is therefore an archetype of our united humanity and of the Church. This nature of our God teaches us that the only way to be truly happy and fulfilled human beings is to live in unity with others. The prevalent condition of loneliness in our world can only be overcome when we are able to step outside of ourselves and touch others from the inside. We live in a society where we emphasize privacy, and we really do not want to be known. We fear losing ourselves to others perhaps because we are ashamed of what they are going to find. In this situation the unity of our Trinitarian God teaches us how to come to each other by stepping outside our own loneliness to meet the other person,

respecting the gift that is the other person while at the same time remaining ourselves. We can truly find ourselves only when we allow ourselves to partake in this higher unity called the Trinity.

Thus, the love expressed within the Trinity is not only a model of our Christian life but is personified in the Holy Spirit who is given to us and marks us out as Christians. This is what happened when we were baptised in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. As such, we have been drawn into the life of the Trinity itself. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to form a unity which we call the Church. Only within this unity can our deepest yearnings be met, our deepest loneliness resolved. But we have to open up the door to love and let ourselves be loved in this way. Jesus wants to draw all of us into this unity which He shares with the Father and the Holy Spirit. 'That we all may be one just as He and the Father are one.' He has commissioned us to 'Go and make disciples of all nations.' In other words, to draw all people into this unity in the Trinity by sharing the love that we have received from our God.

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

NOTICES

PROTEST AGAINST ASSISTED DYING BILL

Please join Religious Communities on a peaceful protest on **18th June**, standing in solidarity outside the Houses of Parliament. Time: 8.30am @ Old Palace Yard, by the statue of George V, SW1P 3JY

The nearest Tube station is Westminster.

CONGRATUALTIONS

We congratulate our new communicants and confirmands and thank the catechists and parents for the marvellous work of preparing them for this day. Let us support them with our prayers as they undertake their Christian journey. We thank or dear Bishop James Curry for confirming our candidates.

ENDING HUNGER TOGETHER – FOOD BANK REQUEST

I am writing from Kensington & Chelsea Foodbank to ask for your support in providing essential food parcels to local people facing hunger. We rely on the generosity of our community to help us meet this growing need. Kensington & Chelsea Foodbank has been a lifeline for many struggling households, offering not only food but also a sense of hope and stability.

But emergency food parcels are only a short-term solution. Alongside giving out food we partner with local support services to offer food bank clients advice on benefits, debt, employment, housing, immigration, addiction and well-being. Often people attending the foodbank aren't aware of the support available to them. Once their immediate need for food is met, they can find expert advisors immediately on hand to help them find routes out of food insecurity.

We are reaching out to our neighbours to ask for donations and support to help us continue our work. Times are tough for a lot of local people, and we are here to offer the community help, support and dignity in their lowest times - and we would love your support! If you would like to donate to this cause, please speak to the priest. Thank you

DAY FOR LIFE SECOND COLLECTION

Today we pray for and support those who work on life projects across the whole spectrucm of life. We have been asked to take up a second collection to support these projects. Please do donate as you can. Thank you.

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	£1381
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£163

Thank you for your generosity!

Fr Thaddeus