SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

19th Sunday Ordinary Time **10th August 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: Sun: Sat Vigil 6.00 p.m., Sun. 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 ocd, Fr Matt Blake ocd, Fr John Williamson ocd, Fr Joseph Odiahi, ocd, Fr Bartholomew Senewo, ocd, Fr Antony Parsons, ocd.
Safeguarding Rep: Franca Bren

Reflection

FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

Today we are presented with the value of questioning. Wise people of old searching for the meaning of life and life's most important things questioned many conventional beliefs especially those taken-for-granted ones. Our readings invite us to one of those big questions: What is the value of riches? What is their place in our journey in Christ?

Perhaps we should first acknowledge that the value of riches in our present society is a taken-for-granted, just as it was in every single past era. It is no novelty that great value is placed on riches; as in Jesus' time so it is in our own time. Money does things: it buys many things that we need to survive (but surely not all) and almost everything that we don't need in order to live well.

The book of Ecclesiastes, attributed to King Solomon, questions the wisdom of the strain and toil, the laborious days and restless nights which we spend in pursuit of riches, especially the ones we do not really need. Most wars have been fought in the quest for or protection of riches with attendant suffering and loss of human life. The tendency for us to hoard riches is the major cause of deprivation in the world. This is why the wise king questions the value of riches that is acquired at the detriment of our own and/or other people's happiness. It is our human tendency to hoard wealth and to secure our future – the future which we learn from today's parable is in God's hands alone. 'A person's life is not made secure by what he/she owns, even when he/she has more that he/she needs,' Jesus says.

Thus, we see Jesus in the Gospel uncompromisingly brush aside a family inheritance dispute brought to him by a man in the crowd. Jesus is simply not interested in such matters, as possessions are unrelated to his primary concern – the Kingdom of God. He further warns against avarice of every kind. The parable that he gives is quite condemnatory with a strong language, in order to demonstrate how far removed the issues of possessions are from the issues of God's Kingdom. The rich man in the parable is called a 'Fool' because rather than give away his surplus wealth, he decided to build more storage in order to hoard them. His condemnation is clearly not because of his fortune, but his hoarding tendency, seeking to provide for a future that lies not in his hands, for that same night demand was made of his soul.

So, is Jesus against material possessions? Certainly not! However, the Gospels frequently

indicate that salvation comes first to the poor. But this does not necessarily refer to those who have no material possessions, although there is a recurrent corelation between material poverty and that of the spirit, but not always. For example, the first people who were open to God's word were mostly peasants, like the shepherds of Bethlehem to whom the news of the birth of the Messiah was first revealed. But we also have people like Zacchaeus and Joseph of Arimathea, who were wealthy men and were open to Jesus' teaching. It would seem therefore, that the problem is not having possessions but how we hold and what we do with them, as is clearly indicated in the story of the rich man and Lazarus.

The Gospel is reminding us of an age-long problem that continues to affect our world even today. The deprivation in the world is not because of insufficient resources, rather it is because of the few people who hold and manage available resources and hoard them to secure a future for themselves, leaving most others worse off. Let us ask our Lord to grant us a generous heart, that we may hold and use possessions and gifts from God for the benefit of all.

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

NOTICES

EMPLOYMENT OPPOFRTUNITY AT SPUC

Join the Pro-Life Mission – SPUC Education Officer (England)

SPUC is hiring a full-time Education Officer, based in London with travel across England. Help bring the pro-life message to schools and communities through engaging talks and outreach. A passion for life and youth engagement essential.

To apply or find out more, visit spuc.org.uk/joinourteam

REGISTRATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Registration is now open for those to prepare for First Holy Communion from October. If you have children for first holy communion, please do register them ahead of September. Children must be 7yrs old by 31st August. The registration form is on our website www.carmelitechurch.org/activities/catechism-classes or simply email and request a form.

ACN APPEAL – 17TH AUGUST

On the weekend of August 16/17, there will be an appeal and special collection on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). ACN was set up more than 75 years ago at the request of the Vatican, supporting 5000 projects in around 150 countries. This year, ACN has stepped up its support for persecuted Christians, offering food, medicine, help with education and other desperately needed assistance to help Christians live out their faith. Your love and support have been received and felt by many.

The appeal focuses on projects in Africa and the Holy Land. There will also be a trade stall selling items after the Mass. All purchases go directly to the ACN projects.

If you wish to get involved in the work of ACN, please contact Eileen Murray
Mobile: 07939362478 Email: eileen.murray@acnuk.or
Or go to www,acnuk.org

You may make your offering or donation by scanning this QR Code with your mobile phone
Thank you and God bless!

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Collections Last Sunday

Offering
Gift Aid Envelopes

Thank you for your generosity!

Fr Thaddeus