SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time **11th October 2026**

parish of our lady of mount carmel & st simon stock, carmelite church
41 kensington church street, london w8 4bb

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Sunday Mass Times: Sat Vigil 6.00 p.m., Sun. 8.30 a.m., 10.00 a.m., 12.15 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.
Weekday Mass Times (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. Mon - Fri: 5.40 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.
Priests in the Parish: Fr Matt Blake OCD, Fr John McGowan OCD, Fr John Williamson OCD
Fr Jerome Ituah OCD, Fr Joseph Odiahi OCD,
Fr Bartholomew Senewo OCD, Fr Yamai Bature OCD

Safeguarding Rep: Franca Bren

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

REFLECTION

Our first reading today from the prophet Isaiah is a beautiful message of hope. It is a reading frequently chosen for funerals and it is easy to understand why. We look forward to the great banquet; "a feast of rich food and well-aged wine". At the same time all that oppresses or worries us in this world is wiped out: first and foremost, death "is swallowed up", but in addition to death all the clouds and shadows that overhang human life.

"Mountains" are a very important biblical symbol. They are the places human beings come face to face with God. To be in God's presence is like being at the greatest banquet we could possibly imagine. We are nourished with the greatest food imaginable – God Himself. And all the cares and worries of this world disappear. The Prophet's message is clear – "this is our God". The words he uses sum it up for us very well:

> "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." Let us take these words with us today, words of hope.

Let us believe in the truth these words express. The Prophet Isaiah wants to communicate the reality of this to the people of his time, let us hear his message also in the lives we live and the world we live in.

NOTICES

World Mission Sunday

Next Sunday, October 18th, is "World Mission Sunday". We reflect on the Church's mission to preach the Word of God to the "ends of the earth". A special collection will be taken to help with this great work. Thank you for your generosity.

St Teresa of Avila

Thursday October 15th is the Feast of St. Teresa of Avila. Masses in our church are at the usual times; the 6.00pm mass will be the solemn mass.

Let us listen to a little of her teaching: "Whoever has not begun the practice of prayer, I beg for the love of the Lord not to go without so great a good. There is nothing here to fear but only something to desire. For prayer in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us".

Baby Loss Awareness Week

October 9 – 15, 2026 marks the 24th annual "baby loss awareness week". The following is an extract from the Bishops Conference message for this week: "Every day in the United Kingdom, over a dozen children die in the womb, during birth or shortly afterwards. Each is a unique human being with a soul and God-given identity. For parents and relatives, this represents the loss of a loved one, whose life is infinitely valuable, and who leaves an unfillable void.

Hundreds of thousands of parents each year have to say goodbye to their children prematurely. Often, this happens in isolation. They therefore need our love, support, and prayers as they continue to honour their child's life. We remind them that the doors of our churches and communities are always open to welcome them for prayer and comfort".

Carmelite Encounter — Parish Youth Ministry

Learning to pray in silence (Oct, week 3)

After two weeks on why prayer matters, this is the practical evening. Sr Margaret explains how to pray in silence for fifteen minutes a day: where, when and how, and what to do when your mind wanders or nothing seems to happen. We will try it together on the night.

Faith Formation Programmes

This time of year, we invite people to register for our various programmes:

First Holy Communion: children 7+ **Confirmation:** young people 13+

RCIA: adults seeking the sacraments, entering the Church, or returning after time away.

Thank you to all who serve in these programmes, and we welcome new volunteers.
Application forms are available at the back of the church, and enquiries can be sent to:
enquiries@carmelitechurch.org.

Little Sisters of the Poor

You will remember the Sisters came to this Church July 4th and 5th to make an appeal to help their work of caring for the elderly and vulnerable. The total raised was £4,811.57. Thank you for your great generosity.

My apologies for the long delay in communicating the amount raised and thanking you - this was due to a technical hitch.

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	£1,529.92
	Gift Aid Envelopes	£158

Thank you for your generosity

Fr Matt Blake, OCD