



# Newsletter

**A PRAYING COMMUNITY  
IN LONDON SERVING  
GOD'S PEOPLE**

[www.carmelinthecity.org.uk](http://www.carmelinthecity.org.uk)

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**April-May 2017: Holy Week and Easter**

Dear friends

Lent is almost over with Palm Sunday and Holy Week very close now. I hope this Lent has given you some time to ponder, with Mary, the faithful disciple, on Our Lord's life and perhaps to be alongside her over the coming two weeks as we walk the Way of the Cross to Calvary and Easter. If we truly enter into this time we might experience a little of Mary's sorrow as she stayed close to her Son, standing, as St John tell us, at the foot of the Cross. And then we will be ready to celebrate Easter with a deeper understanding of the meaning of Resurrection in our lives. Thank you to those of you who came along to the Lent ecumenical sessions.

All around us the world is coming to life with the bright spring flowers and trees bursting into leaf to remind us of new life, Resurrection. Creation is a miracle which we can so easily take for granted. Last year Pope Francis wrote a beautiful encyclical letter, *Laudato Si' on care for our common home*, to remind us of our responsibility to care for the environment, our amazingly beautiful natural world. We have not yet had time together to reflect on it but I hope we will be able to do so during the coming few months. I have it on my personal agenda to read over the Easter break now that my Lent reading is finished. You might like to do so, too.

As you know we are looking ahead to our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We will be concentrating on what we, as a lay Carmelite community in London, should *be* as well as *do* - for Carmel, for the Church and our society - in the years ahead. Following Fr Tony's visit in February to launch our anniversary year, I have written up the notes for his talk and Kim will put them on the website as soon as Fr Tony has approved them. Kim will also add Fr Joe Chalmers' letter to Lay Carmel which we read together at our March meeting. Please look carefully at these and pray about them ready for further discussion at the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

A big Thank You to those of you stayed behind for a 'Council' meeting after our last meeting. As I explained, Third Order communities elect their leaders and Council to take responsibility for formation, forward planning etc. but, as a Spirituality Group, we rely on volunteers. Please consider if there is some skill or experience that you can offer to support Carmel in the City as we go forward. We will aim to have a Council meeting every two months after the main meeting. If we can do this regularly we should not need to take too long. One task for the coming months is to have a census to update our database and help us keep in touch with people better, especially those who are not on email. Please consider if you might be able to help with this and let me know.

You will also be aware that the British Province is going through a time of change both for the friars and for lay Carmel. The Provincial Chapter will take place during the week of 8<sup>th</sup> May when the changes will come into effect. Please pray that the Chapter will be a time of grace for the Province and for all who are involved in the decision making required for the future of Carmel in Britain.

All good wishes and blessings for Easter

Sylvia

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Dates to remember

9<sup>th</sup> April  
Palm Sunday.  
Holy Week begins

13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>  
Paschal Triduum

16<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter Sunday

24<sup>th</sup> April.  
St George.  
Martyr, Patron of England

4<sup>th</sup> May  
The English Martyrs

16<sup>th</sup> May  
St Simon Stock

25<sup>th</sup> May  
St Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, nun.  
O.Carm.

Your prayers are asked for: the sick, especially Pat McManus.

For those who will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Communion and / or Confirmation at Easter and all those who will accompany them on their journey of faith.

Intention: That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God ...

## Details of forthcoming events

**Aylesford Priory Easter Triduum Retreat 13th—16th April, Joseph Chalmers, O.Carm. & Pastoral Team**

**20<sup>th</sup> May St Joseph's Parish pilgrimage to Aylesford.** Please reply to Sylvia as soon as possible if you would like to come. Coach will leave from St Joseph's.

**27<sup>th</sup> May Aylesford Priory. Day retreat to close anniversary year of St Mary Magdelene de' Pazzi.** Led by Fr Kevin Alban O.Carm.

**27<sup>th</sup> May. Summer celebrations at Shrine of St Jude, Faversham.** See website/ newsletter for details.

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## Carmel in the City meetings

### 6<sup>th</sup> May

**Formation group meets at 10.30.**

**11.30.** Quiet prayer.

**12.00.** Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion followed by bring and share lunch.

**13. 30.** Business meeting

**13.45.** Afternoon session. Carmel – A place and a journey. Discussion.

**15.00.** Lectio Divina ending at 15.30.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

**Programme for day as above: Continuing the Journey.**

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## Words to ponder:

From Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si' on care for our common home.*

Mary, the mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world. Just as her pierced heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and the creatures of this world laid waste by human power. Completely transfigured, she now lives with Jesus, and all creatures sing of her fairness. She is woman, "clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head, a crown of twelve stars". Carried up into heaven, she is the Mother and Queen of all creation. In her glorified body, together with the risen Christ, part of creation has reached the fullness of its beauty. She treasures the entire life of Jesus in her heart (cf. Lk2:19,51) and now understands the meaning of all things. Hence we can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom.

Son of God, Jesus,  
through you all things were made.  
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,  
you became part of this earth,  
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.  
Today you are alive in every creature  
in your risen glory.  
Praise be to you!

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

