



Newsletter

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

www.carmelinthecity.org.uk

August/ September 2017

Volume 10. Issue 4: 10th Anniversary Year Edition

Editor: Kim Insley kim.insley@ucl.ac.uk

**Shawfields, 152 Cudham Lane North, Cudham, Sevenoaks, Kent,
TN14 7QT**

**August- September 2017: The
Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Dear friends

The Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady always seems to me to mark a turning point in the year. Even if we are still in the middle of our summer holiday season, autumn suddenly appears close, and, in the countryside, the harvest is beginning. Today, as I write, we are celebrating the Queenship of Mary at the end of the Octave of the Assumption. The Gospel for today is St Luke's account of the Annunciation which has so much to say to us as Lay Carmelites: the angel comes to Mary in a very ordinary place where she is going about her ordinary life, nothing special, not a palace or church, but in her home on an ordinary day, and, afterwards, 'the angel left her'. Mary was alone, but, instead of being overwhelmed with the experience and message of the angel, she turned straightaway to the thought of her cousin, Elizabeth, and how she might help her. Mary responded to the angel's message with an act of service to someone she recognises needs her help. She is a model for us as lay people, living out our very ordinary lives, not in monasteries or friaries, but in our homes among our families and neighbours, bringing the Gospel message by little acts of service.

The past few weeks have been busy. In July, we had the first Profession in the Third Order of Champo and Mariusz during Mass celebrated by Fr Chris Vipers and Fr Kevin Prince. Congratulations to them. We also had the renewal of commitment to the Carmelite Family for those who were unable to get to Aylesford for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We continued our reflection on Carmel in a changing World and Church by discussing the image of fire using St Teresa's and Edith Stein's words of a 'world in the flames' to describe the world of their day as well as St John of the Cross's poem Living Flame of Love and we were very conscious of the sadness in our City from the London Bridge attack and the Grenfell tower fire.

The Feast day celebration at Aylesford was very well attended this year and it was great to see so many of you there and to meet up with lay Carmelites from Leigh on Sea, Aylesford and Faversham. There will be a fuller account in the next edition of Assumpta. There was general agreement that we should extend the invitation still wider next year and to work with the friars towards greater involvement.

It poured with rain for most of the day of the summer walk but it was a good experience, nevertheless. Rosemary, Mariusz and Marilyn joined me and we had an especially warm welcome at the Charterhouse. It was also a great opportunity to hear from Marilyn about her past 6 months teaching in Ruanda over a shared meal.

Our next meeting is 2nd September. Details are overleaf. Please pray for Sue who will be making her first Profession and Pene and Sofia, previously from Warwick Street Third Order community, making their final Profession.

All good wishes and blessings,

Sylvia. e-mail: info@carmelinthecity.org.uk

tel 07889 436165

Dates to remember

8th September
Nativity of the
BVM, Feast.

14th September
**Exaltation of
the Holy Cross**

17th September
St Albert of
Jerusalem,
bishop and
lawgiver of
Carmel

21st September
St Matthew,
Apostle and
Evangelist

29th September
Ss. Michael,
Gabriel &
Raphael

1st October
St. Therese of
Lisieux

7th October
Our Lady of
the Rosary.

Your prayers
are asked for:
the sick,
especially Pat
McManus and
Fr Wilfrid
McGreal
O.Carm.

For our
families: that
all may find
some time of
quiet and rest
during the
holiday and
return to work,
school or
college
refreshed and
energised; for
the harvest:
and all those
who work to
provide our
food, for those
who are in
need: that the
Spirit is with
them; and for
the care of
creation.

Details of forthcoming events

**Friday 29th September to Sunday 1st October:
Eighth National Gathering of the Third Order in Britain.**

Minsteracres, Retreat Centre, near Consett, Co. Durham.

This is a very important gathering for all of us as decisions will be made concerning both Third Order and Spirituality Groups for the next 3 years. More information will be available on 2nd September and a detailed programme for the weekend will be sent soon to those who will represent Carmel in the City.

Carmel in the City meetings

Our next meeting is on 2nd September

Formation group meets at 10.30.

11.30 Quiet prayer.

12.00 Mass, including Professions with Fr Kevin Prince followed by bring and share lunch.

13.30 Business meeting.

13.45 Afternoon session. Listening exercise postponed from July meeting. Carmel – a place and a journey Part 2.

15.00 Lectio Divina **ending at 15.30.**

7th October

10am for 10.30 Autumn ecumenical session. St Giles, Cripplegate. Return to St Joseph's for

12.00 Mass followed by bring and share lunch and Afternoon session: Celebrating Our Lady of the Rosary with Fr Michael Cox O.Carm. National Chaplain.

Words to ponder:

‘Many and varied are the ways’
through the lived experience of religious
that the Lord has inspired forms of lay spirituality
which are rich and appealing.

For many centuries now Carmel has been
a pre-eminent and sure road to holiness
for many lay people.

The Rule of St Albert is like a spring
from which the river of the charism flows.

The values that it expresses
have been translated into ever new forms
which are suited to people in various places and different periods.

This has enabled people to incarnate
the Carmelite charism in a concrete way
and to live out its spirituality
in a way proper to them.

Preface to Living the Carmelite Way. The Rule for the Third Order of Carmel.