



# Newsletter



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

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

**New Year/ Ordinary time 2018**

**Volume 10. Issue 7: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year Edition**

Editor: Champo Nkonjela [champdavy@gmail.com](mailto:champdavy@gmail.com)

17 Enfield Close, Erdington. B23 5SE. Birmingham.

**January- February 2018**

Dear friends,

A very happy New Year to you all!

I hope that you all enjoyed a happy celebration of Christmas and the New Year and have managed to avoid the colds and flu that have been around- or, at least are well on the road to recovery.

We are going to need all our energy for our very special meeting on **3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018** when we celebrate our **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!** Since Christmas I have been busy making phone calls and sending out invitations to people who I hope will be able to join us. So far, there has been a good response. It would be great if we could all bring a friend- or two! Anniversaries are important occasions for looking back and remembering the journey we have shared and those who have journeyed with us- as well as looking forward to the journey ahead. All rather like New Year!

As well as welcoming our Prior Provincial, Fr Kevin Alban and National Chaplain, Fr Michael Cox, members of the Third Order National Council, including our recently elected Moderator, Rosie Bradshaw, will be with us together with members of our National Council. It will be the first opportunity for us to meet as Carmelite Family and hear a little of their experience and work on our behalf and to share our hopes for the future.

Looking back entails thinking of the beginnings and asking questions like- How did we begin? Why are we here? What is it that keeps us coming together? What have we done in 10 years? Good questions for us all to ponder- and perhaps have our answers for those visitors who might ask them!

It is also a time to thank those who have been here helping from the beginning and ask if it is time for others to take the lead in certain areas. Champo has generously offered to take on managing our website and circulating the newsletter. Thank you, Champo, and also Kim who has worked hard to keep us up to date and in touch over the past 10 years as well as managing her very busy work and family life.

At our January meeting Martin led a very interesting session on Bl. Titus Brandsma following his visit to Dachau in December. I have found some words from Bl. Titus for reflection (see overleaf).

This week we are keeping the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and very soon, when Lent begins, we will start our Lent course when we meet with other Christians in our local area of EC1 and 2. You are all most welcome to any of the sessions. Copies of the book we will be using will be on sale on 3<sup>rd</sup> February together with details of other venues.

Looking forward very much to seeing you all on **3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018.**

All good wishes and blessings

Sylvia. e-mail: [info@carmelinthecity.org.uk](mailto:info@carmelinthecity.org.uk)

tel 07889 436165

Dates to remember,

2<sup>nd</sup> February  
Presentation of the Lord.

14<sup>th</sup> February  
Ash  
Wednesday.  
Lent begins.

1<sup>st</sup> March  
St David.  
Bishop, Patron of Wales.

17<sup>th</sup> March  
St Patrick,  
Bishop, Patron of Ireland.

19<sup>th</sup> March  
St Joseph.  
Principal Protector of the Carmelite Order

25<sup>th</sup> March  
Palm Sunday.  
The Great Week begins

Your prayers are asked for:  
Teresa Lennon (Birmingham T.O. Chapter) and Fr James McCaffery, OCD, who have died recently. RIP.

For all Christians that they will continue to work together so that all may live in freedom from discrimination, violence, abuse and slavery.

## Details of forthcoming events

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February Family Fast day: CAFOD Lent appeal to help those suffering from poor nutrition.**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 10 for 10.30 am Wesley's Chapel, City Road. Ecumenical Lent Course begins. The course runs for 5 Saturdays during Lent. We will be using the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book, Say it to God by Luigi Gioa OSB. Copies will be available at £6 discounted from £9.99.**

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### Carmel in the City meetings

**Our next meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Celebrating 10 years of Carmel in the City.**

**PLEASE NOTE: Formation group meets at 10.30 for reading, discussion on topic of the Carmelite Family and liturgy preparation. All welcome.**

**11.30.** Quiet prayer. **12.00.** Mass with our Prior Provincial, Fr Kevin Alban O.Carm. and our National Chaplain, Fr Michael Cox O.Carm, followed by bring and share lunch. **14. 00.** Afternoon session. **15.00.** Lectio Divina ending at 15.30.

**3<sup>rd</sup> March. 10am for 10.30.** Ecumenical Lent course session at St Giles, Cripplegate (optional) **11.30.** Quiet Prayer at St Joseph's followed by Mass and afternoon session. Ending at 14.30 pm.

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Pat Mc Manus thanks you all very much for the Christmas card, prayers and good wishes. She is still very ill but feeling much happier with her family close by to visit her.

Please keep other sick members of Carmel in the City in your prayers: Jean Hunt, Julie Gallagher also Fr Wilfrid McGreal. O.Carm.

From all eternity God has chosen us, has loved us and has predestined us to live in intimate union with Him. God desires to live in us through grace. This union is sublime, like that of the divine maternity of Our Lady. Rightfully, we also can be called 'God bearers'. God sends his angel also to us to ask us continually to open our heart to the light of the world in order to bear it like a lantern...

We too must receive God in our hearts, we must carry God within our hearts, nourish him and allow him to grow in us in such a way that he will be born of us and live with us as God-with-us, Emmanuel.



*Bl. Titus Brandsma. 1936 (from a talk to the Marian Congress in Tongerlo)*