

Carmel in the City

Newsletter

A PRAYING COMMUNITY IN LONDON SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

HAPPY EASTER

March-April 2018

Dear Friends,

We are already over half way through Lent and it is time to begin focusing on our preparations for Holy Week and Easter. Thankfully, too, our weather seems to have remembered that winter should be over and there are signs of Spring at last.

Our most recent meeting on 3rd March, was a smaller gathering than usual with so many of you unable to travel because of the snow. We prayed for you all in our Lent Mass with Fr Chris Vipera and then had a time for discussion and *Lectio Divina* using the reading of the day from the prophet Micah. The small number gave us a good opportunity over lunch to share a little more of our personal stories and it has reminded me of the importance of our own stories and how they all become part of the Carmelite story when they are shared.

Our anniversary celebrations in February are now becoming a distant memory. It was good that so many friends and visitors were able to come to share the day with us which really became a gathering of the Carmelite Family from London and the South East. I hope that you have seen the photos on the various websites to remember the occasion. It was especially good to welcome Fr Kevin Alban O.Carm, and Fr Michael Cox O.Carm. as well as Rosie Bradshaw, our Moderator with other National Council members, visitors from Aylesford and Faversham Third Orders and two members of the OCD Seculars. I hope that

we can keep in touch and meet again before too long.

As we said, it was a time to look back but also a time to look forward to the journey ahead. This is our next task! Where do we go from here?

As always, I have turned to the Rule for the Third Order, *Living the Carmelite Way*. In our preparation for our anniversary we reflected on Fr Joseph Chalmers' letter to the Carmelite Family, *Into the Land of Carmel*, and Chapter 42 of the Rule onwards develops some of these thoughts. If you have a copy of either Fr Joseph's letter or the Rule, please take a little time before our next meeting to read and ponder on what Carmelite Family means to you, both as an individual in whatever way you are part of this family but also what it means in your parish, in the wider Church and for our world. What are the new challenges and how do we face up to them?

Rosie Bradshaw has sent me an extract from a book by Patrick McMahon O.Carm. which she has asked to be circulated to you to read. It will give us all much food for thought.

Looking forward very much to seeing you all on 7th April. It will be Easter time and Spring really should be here!

All good wishes and blessings for Holy Week and Easter.

(Sylvia Lucas)



Details of Forthcoming Events

CAFOD Lent appeal continues to help those suffering from poor nutrition, especially in African countries.

Saturday 17th March. 10 for 10.30 am Wesley's Chapel, City Road.

Ecumenical Lent Course concludes.

Saturday 5th May 11.00am- 2.00pm St. Jude Centre, Faversham.

Eucharist and the Scriptures: God's Story and Our Story. Fr Kevin Alban, Prior Provincial- O.Carm. All welcome.

Carmel in the City meetings

Our next meeting is on 7th April. The Carmelite Family: Diversity in Unity- meeting the challenges.

PLEASE NOTE: Formation group meets at 10.30 for readings, discussion on topic Carmel Call to Service and liturgy preparation. All welcome.

11.30. Quiet prayer. **12.00.** Mass with Fr Chris Vipers. followed by bring and share lunch. **14.00.** Afternoon session.

15.00. Lectio Divina ending at 15.30.

5th May. Bank holiday. No meeting at St Joseph's today. Please see above for details of meeting at St Jude Centre, Faversham, to which you are warmly invited.

Your prayers are asked for: the sick and those who care for them, especially Amanda Dickie, Pat McManus.

For peace in the world, that all children and families may be able to live in peace and stability, free from fear, violence, abuse, discrimination and slavery.

19TH -MARCH

St. Joseph, Principal Protector of the Carmelite Order.

25TH -MARCH

Palm Sunday. The Great Week begins.

29TH-MARCH

The Paschal Triduum.

1ST-APRIL

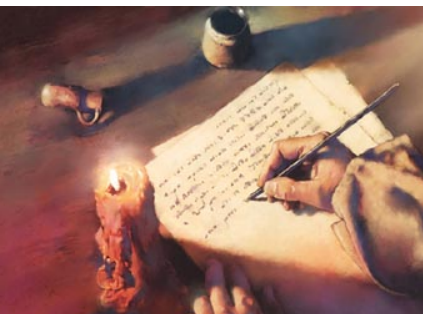
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection.

9TH-APRIL

The Annunciation of the Lord (transferred from 25th March)

23RD-APRIL

St. George's Day



In Germany, Edith Stein, St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, was writing about 'a world in flames' to describe this terrible time. On Good Friday 1938 she wrote a poem, Juxta Crucem tecum stare (To Stand at the Cross). It is a reflection on the meaning of discipleship. You might like to find it to ponder during Holy Week.

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