



Newsletter

A PRAYING COMMUNITY IN LONDON SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

Ascension & Pentecost

May-June 2018

Dear Friends,

When we met at St Joseph's in April, we began the process of discerning the next stage of our journey as a Carmelite Spirituality Group- a community of Lay Carmelites- in our City, with a very helpful talk by Mark Courtney from the Discalced Secular Order (OCDS) and an update from Isabel on the work of our own National Council (O.Carm.). Our hope for the future is that we can work and pray together more closely and give one another support during what might be difficult times with fewer active friars in both Orders available to help us. The Carmelite Family- what it is and how we are family- looks to be an important theme for the future.

In July we will have our annual Listening Exercise when your suggestions about what we might need to learn or consider or do will be gathered together to be basis of our programme for the coming year- September 2018 -July 2019. Please be ready to share your thoughts.

Naturally, for us as Carmelites, this all begins with prayer. This year, providentially, our Bishops have decided that we should return to the tradition of celebrating the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord on Thursday giving us the nine days- the novena- of prayer before Pentecost. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to unite ourselves in prayer with Mary and the Apostles during these nine days, praying for the gifts of the Holy Spirit as we discern our future direction.

Recently, on 19th March, St Joseph's Feast Day, Pope Francis issued his new Apostolic Exhortation: *Gaudete et Exsultate- Rejoice and Be Glad!* If you haven't already seen it, you may wish to get a copy or download it to read. I recommend it. The link is http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html. There is much in it for us to ponder together as a community and, I'm sure, will be a help and guide for us.

During this month of May, Pope Francis is urging us to think very carefully about our mission as Lay people. His prayer intention for this month is:

Let us pray together this month that the lay faithful may fulfil their specific mission, the mission that they received in Baptism, putting their creativity at the service of the challenges of today's world.

And our Carmelite Order website o.carm.org/en in a comment on the Exhortation, has the following message for us:

The Holy Spirit will fulfil the things of Jesus in us, if we act in the name of Jesus and observe the great commandment of the practice of love. In his recent encyclical Gaudete et Exsultate, Pope Francis quotes Lumen Gentium: The Holy Spirit bestows holiness in abundance among God's holy and faithful people, for "it has pleased God to make men and women holy and to save them, not as individuals without any bond between them, but rather as a people who might acknowledge him in truth and serve him in holiness."

There is plenty for us to do! We will meet again on 2nd June when our Prior Provincial, Fr Kevin Alban will be with us. Details overleaf.

All good wishes (Sylvia Lucas)

Details of Forthcoming Events

Sunday 13th May World Communications Day. A day of prayer for all who work in the media.

Carmel in the City meeting

Our next meeting is on 2nd June. Eucharist and the Scriptures: God's Story and Our Story.

Formation Group meets at **10.30** for reading and discussion on topic ***Carmel and the Kingdom: Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation and liturgy preparation.*** All welcome.

11.30 Quiet prayer. **12noon** Mass with Fr Kevin Alban O.Carm. followed by bring and share lunch. **13.45** Afternoon Session. Talk by Fr Kevin followed by Lectio Divina. Ending at **15.30**.

Saturday 23rd June Carmelite Pilgrimage to Walsingham. 11am Talk by Fr Matt Blake OCD followed by Mass. Afternoon Procession, sprinkling at the well, Exposition and Benediction.

Sunday 15th July Our Lady of Mount Carmel Pilgrimage, Aylesford Priory. We will be meeting with other members of the Carmelite Family from the South East and assisting with Rosary procession. Further details will be given on 2nd June.

7th July. Discerning our direction. Listening exercise.

8th- 12th October A Journey with the Saints of Spain. Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Avila, Salamanca and Segovia.

Your prayers are asked for: the sick, especially Pat McManus. For journalists and all who work in the media that they will promote a journalism of peace, at the service of those in our world who have no voice. For peace in our World especially in Syria and the Middle East. Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for them.



A thought for May, Mary's month, from Pope Francis.

Mary...lived the Beatitudes of Jesus as none other. She is the woman who rejoiced in the presence of God, who treasured everything in her heart, and who let herself be pierced by the sword. Mary is the saint among saints, blessed above all others. She teaches us the way to holiness and she walks ever at our side.

16TH - MAY

St. Simon Stock of Aylesford

20TH - MAY

Pentecost Sunday. Easter season Ends

27TH - MAY

Trinity Sunday

31ST - MAY

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

3RD - JUNE

Corpus Christi

8TH - JUNE

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

24TH - JUNE

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

29TH - JUNE

Saints Peter and Paul

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