



Summer Edition Newsletter

A PRAYING COMMUNITY IN LONDON SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

June-July 2018

CELEBRATING ST ELIJAH & OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Dear Friends,

Next Sunday, 24th June, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist, who, of course, was Our Lord's cousin and whose birth is remembered every time we recite the Benedictus. In many parts of Europe, this Feast also marks midsummer and there are great celebrations for the shortest night of the year. Occasionally I visit my friends in the south German Alps where Johannestag- St John's Day- is kept with great energy: marching bands, huge bonfires high on the mountains, fireworks and lots of partying all night!

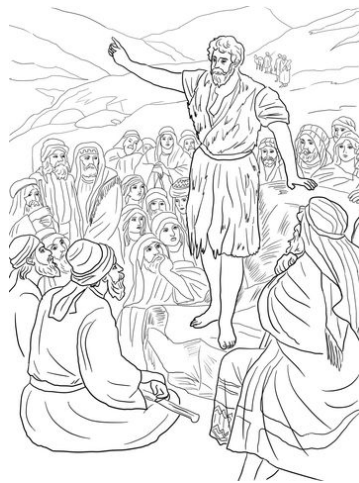
Some of you may know that it was here, in south Germany at age 12, that I first met Catholics, and decided that when I returned home to England I would become one, too! Unfortunately, I didn't know any so I had to find out as best I could what it was all about. I eventually found a Catholic Church and, there, I found a little book called the Little Way which I took away to read. It was St Therese of Lisieux's Little Way which I thought would tell me how to be a Catholic. Many years later I met a priest and told him the story. He said that I wasn't yet a Catholic- but I was a Carmelite and he received me into the Church, there and then! St Therese has been a very special friend ever since.

We all have interesting stories about our journey to Carmel and sometimes we share these in our Formation sessions. It can really help us understand what God is doing for us. If you would like to write your story we could add these to our archives.

You will probably have heard of the new legal requirements for holding data- that is, your personal information. We are grateful to Champo for the work he has done to ensure that the newsletter meets the requirements and I can reassure you that any personal information with regards to Third Order membership is kept securely. We will have a new signing in record book at our next meeting and I'll explain more then.

"The Eucharist is at the heart of our Rule, it is the source of spiritual life"

We were delighted to welcome Fr Kevin Alban, our Prior Provincial, in June to celebrate Mass and talk to us about the Eucharist and the Scriptures. The Eucharist is at the heart of our Rule, it is 'the source of spiritual life' (LCW 1.37) and it was right for us to begin our discernment for the way ahead by deepening our knowledge and understanding. As you recall Fr Kevin's words please also think ahead to our next meeting on 7th July when we have our annual Listening Exercise. We will be asking for your



suggestions for our programme for the coming year- September- July 2019, based on what we have heard and read over the past few months. This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and to consider how you might be able to help build up our community of Carmel in the City, remembering that we are part of the Carmelite Family across the UK and worldwide. We have already made a good start on this with our link with our OCDS (Discalced Seculars) friends

and we have an opportunity to meet up with other Lay Carmelites from across the South East at the annual pilgrimage; in honour of **Our Lady of Mount Carmel on 15th July at Aylesford Priory**. Please do try to come- and bring a friend with you, if possible. They will be most welcome. You will be delighted to know that Maureen Sampson will making her final Profession at the pilgrimage. Please pray for Maureen and come along to support her. I have also talked to Fr Francis, the Prior, about how we might help this year and, if you can help, I can give you more details when we meet on 7th July. *All good wishes.*

Sylvia Lucas

Details of Forthcoming Events

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.

Carmel in the City meeting

Our next meeting is on 7th July. "Listening Exercise: Discerning the next stage of the journey".

Formation Group meets at **10.30** for reading and discussion on topic '**Holy women and men of Carmel Part 1 The early Saints**' and Liturgy preparation. All welcome

11.30 Quiet prayer. **12noon** Liturgy of Midday Prayer with Holy Communion followed by bring and share lunch. **13.45** Afternoon Session. **Discerning our direction: Listening exercise** and Lectio Divina; Ending at **15.30**.

Sunday 15th July Aylesford Priory. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Pilgrimage.

11.30 Mass with renewal of Third Order promises, spiritual talk. Rosary procession and Benediction. Scapular enrolment. Come along to meet other Lay Carmelites and friends from across the South East.

Saturday 14th July A quite day looking at the role of the Virgin Mary.

*****NO MEETING DURING AUGUST*****

Saturday 1st September. Times as above. Theme to be decided.

15th- 21st September International Lay Carmelite Congress at Sassone, Rome.

Saturday 29th September St Joseph's Parish Pilgrimage to Aylesford. Places may be available on the coach from the church.

Your prayers are asked for those who are unwell, especially Pat McManus and Fr Wilfrid McGreal O.Carm.; for families and all those who are on holiday that they may have time to relax and enjoy our beautiful world; will return home and to work, rested & refreshed.



Elijah lived his time at Mt. Carmel in prayer and fasting, giving himself over entirely to the Lord. He told the Lord in 1 Kings 19:10, "With zeal I have been zealous for the Lord God of Hosts." The spirit of Mt. Carmel and the legacy of St. Elijah is intended for us all. As sufferings come to each of us in this world, may we allow them to purify us, see them as stepping stones to God, and turn to Him to redeem them. May the zeal of the Prophet Elijah be our inheritance as Catholic Christians in the world!

20TH - JUNE

St. Alban Protomartyr

22ND - JUNE

Saints John Fisher & Thomas More.

24TH - JUNE

The Nativity of St John the Baptist

29TH - JUNE

Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles

3RD - JULY

St Thomas, Apostle

11TH - JULY

St Benedict, Patron of Europe

16TH - JULY

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

25TH - JULY

St James, Apostle

26TH - JULY

Ss Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Virgin Mary

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