



Newsletter

A PRAYING COMMUNITY IN LONDON SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

August - September 2018

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF OUR LADY

Dear Friends,

It is mid- August and perhaps you are still enjoying your summer holiday. It seems that as soon as the great Feast of the Assumption is over, autumn begins to show: the green leaves are losing their freshness and autumn flowers and fruit are appearing. Not that this is so obvious these days when supermarkets have imported produce all year round, but I have been back to the part of the country where I lived as a child and am nostalgic for simpler times! Harvest began during the hot, sunny spell and I was delighted to gather some wheat- for decoration now, but once 'gleaning' was an important activity. It always reminds me of the story of Ruth in the Hebrew Scriptures. Do you know it? St Matthew mentions her in his genealogy at the beginning of his gospel; she was the great grandmother of King David and therefore one of Our Lord's ancestors.

As I write, I am thinking of another Feast of Our Lady, which falls this week and usually gets less attention. It is the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Gospel for the day is St Luke's account of the Annunciation. The Lectio Divina page on the Carmelite website www.ocarm.org/en reminds us that Mary was able to recognise God in the visit of the angel through her knowledge and pondering on the Scriptures. How well do we know the Scriptures? Some people feel that women get little attention in our faith but if we read Scripture carefully and use our imaginations to get behind the stories, it is surprising how much they appear and do, like Mary, quietly and gently. Fr Michael reminded us of this in his very interesting retreat talks for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Celebration at Aylesford in July.

Many thanks to all who came to Aylesford to help and to support Maureen as she made her final Profession during the pilgrimage Mass. Congratulations to Maureen! There was a good attendance this year by Lay Carmelites from across

the South East and we hope for even better next year when we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the British Province at Aylesford on 14th July 2019. Put the date in your diaries now! The Prior, Fr. Francis, and other members of the friar community gave us a great welcome. Look out for more details in the Assumpta newsletter which will be arriving shortly.

Fr Francis told us about the huge bill he has for the repairs to the Shrine. After some discussion, we thought that Carmel in the City might be able to help, especially with the repair of the angel ceramics above the Shrine. You may know these beautiful art works. Next time you visit, have a look! Thanks to your generosity I was able to leave him a cheque for £500 so that the angels will be there for us, and others, to enjoy in the future.

At our July meeting we discussed how we might be involved more closely with St Joseph's parish and with the other local Christians we meet on our ecumenical days. Justice and Peace was mentioned as a possible shared topic and a wonderful opportunity has arisen with the news of the canonisation of Bl. Oscar Romero in October. Some parishioners and CITC members will be attending the canonisation and our meeting on 1st September will be opportunity for us all to celebrate Bl.Oscar. We have invited others from St Joseph's and other local churches to join us. Please do come and share the celebration and help welcome our guests.

As we also discussed, our first joint meeting with the disalced Carmelite seculars (OCDS) will be on Thursday, 13th September at Kensington Church St. See overleaf for details.

I look forward very much to seeing you on 1st September. Meanwhile, enjoy what is left of the holiday season. All good wishes.

Sylvia.

Details of Forthcoming Events

Our next meeting is on 1st September, 2018.

Formation Group meets at **10.30** for reading and discussion on topic '**Holy women and men of Carmel Part 2 The early Saints**' and Liturgy preparation. All welcome.

11.30 Quiet prayer. **12noon** Votive Mass of Blessed Oscar Romero with Fr Chris Vipers followed by bring and share lunch. **13.45** Afternoon session- The Claim: Archbishop Romero, his people and Pope Francis- a new film presenting personal testimonies from several people who were close to Blessed Oscar Romero, introduced by Julian Filochowski, Chair- Archbishop Romero Trust. **11.15** Lectio Divina; Ending at **15.30**.

13th September 6.30 for 6.45pm. Carmelite Priory, Kensington Church St. St Therese of Lisieux: Finding the Path of Love. Talk by Sr. Bernadette Hunston. SCSJA. Sr. Bernadette lectures at Allen Hall Seminary and is a well- known speaker with a great knowledge and love of St. Therese.

14th- 21st September. Carmelite Laity Congress in Sassone, Rome.

29th September. St Joseph's Parish Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory. Places may be available.

6th October. Mary in the Carmelite Constitutions with Fr. Francis Kemsley. O.Carm. Times as above.

14th October. Canonisation of Bl. Oscar Romero. Rome.

Saturday 3rd November- no meeting at St Joseph's - There will be, **12.30**. Mass of Thanksgiving for the Canonisation of St Oscar Romero, St George's Cathedral, Southwark followed by reception in Amigo Hall.

Saturday 1st December - Day of Recollection on eve of Advent. Details to be confirmed later.

Prayers - For all in our families and community who are unwell.... Fr Wilfrid, Pat McManus... For children and young people who are returning to schools or colleges, their teachers; for those who are excluded from education, for rough sleepers and the homeless, that God will bless them and move those in power to find ways to restore their dignity and provide for them.

24TH - AUGUST

St. Bartholomew, Apostle

8TH - SEPTEMBER

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

14TH - SEPTEMBER

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

21ST - SEPTEMBER

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

29TH - SEPTEMBER

Saints, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

1ST - OCTOBER

St. Therese of Lisieux

2ND - OCTOBER

Holy Guardian Angels



A thought to ponder- by Archbishop Oscar Romero Nov.19th 1978

It is very pretty to like a piety only of songs and prayers, only of spiritual meditation, only of contemplation. The hour for such things will come in heaven, where there won't be any injustices, where sin will not be a reality that Christians will have to dethrone. Now, Christ said to the contemplative Apostles on Mount Tabor who wanted to stay there forever, let's go down, for we have work to do.

Contacts

Convenor: Sylvia Lucas
sylvia@carmelinthecity.org.uk
www.carmelinthecity.org.uk

Editor: Champo Nkonjela
champdavy@gmail.com
 17 Enfield Close, Erdington. B23 5SE. Birmingham