



# Newsletter

A PRAYING COMMUNITY IN LONDON SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

## Easter Season

May - June 2019

Dear Friends,

### Christ is risen! Alleluia!!

There is only one day of April left but there is a lot to share before we meet next Saturday, 4th May, for our monthly Carmel in the City meeting. I look forward to seeing you!

First, though, I hope you were able to join in the services and ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter day and that it was a blessed time for you and your families. It always surprises me how words that we have heard many times can suddenly take on a new significance. The familiar liturgies always have surprises! This year, for me, it was the words of the priest during the blessing of the Paschal candle: 'Christ, yesterday and today... the beginning and the end...Alpha and Omega...All time belongs to him...and all ages.' Words I have listened to many times and yet, this year, I seemed to hear for the first time! And perhaps I understood just a little more, that God's time is not the same as our time.

As it happened, I needed to travel on Easter Sunday morning to go to an important family occasion so was unable to be at Mass again. Somehow Easter seemed incomplete without it but then, at Mass during the week, the priest reminded us that the whole week, all 8 days of the Octave, is one great Easter day!

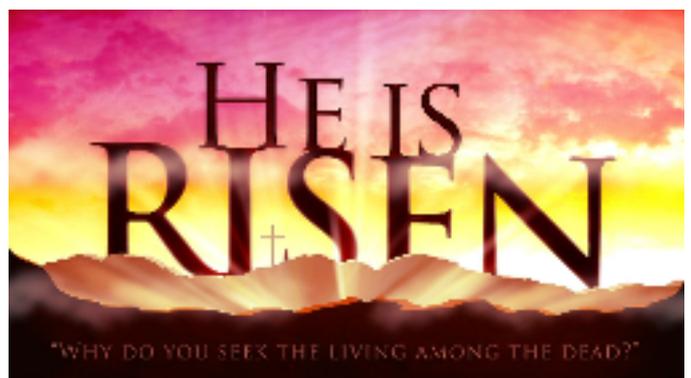
Perhaps you know the beautiful poem, Easter by George Herbert? You can find the complete poem in the Daily Prayer from the Divine Office and it makes a beautiful alternative occasionally to the hymn before Morning or Evening Prayer. The poem ends with the following words:

*"Can there be any day but this,  
Though many suns to shine endeavour?  
We count three hundred, but we miss:  
There is but one, and that one ever.  
God's time is not the same as ours!"*

You will remember that we agreed to use the responses to our listening exercise in February to plan our programme for the year ahead. I have collated these responses for us to look at on 4th May. One issue which was raised is that of the future of our planet and the environment; it is particularly topical, as those of us who live or work in London have been reminded recently. Alessandra kindly offered to prepare some material for discussion at our next meeting based on ***Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home***, Pope Francis' very important encyclical letter. Perhaps you can find a copy to read before we meet or look it up on line. As we are almost into the month of May, Mary's month, perhaps we might dedicate our efforts to Her, using some of Pope Francis' words from his encyclical- over the page?

All good wishes and blessings.

Sylvia



## Details of Forthcoming Meetings/Events Carmel in the City.

**4th May.** Formation group meets **10.30** for discussion and liturgy preparation. **11.30** Quiet prayer. **12noon** Mass with Fr Kevin Prince. Bring and share lunch. Afternoon session: ***Carmel and Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*** with Alessandra Menendez. Ending at **15.30** with Lectio Divina.

**1st June. 11.30** Quiet prayer followed by Mass at 12noon with Fr Kevin Prince. Afternoon session with Luigi Gioia: ***Touched by God: the way to contemplative prayer.***

**Saturday 22nd June. Carmelite Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.**

**11am.** Talk by Fr Matt Blake OCD in the Chapel of Reconciliation followed by Mass. Picnic lunch in grounds of the shrine, afternoon procession and Benediction. **16:00pm** depart.

A coach has been arranged from King's Lynn station to meet 07.42am train from King's Cross and will return in time for 17.44 back to London. Fare £10. Please see poster for further details.

**\*\*\*\*\*NO CARMEL IN THE CITY MEETING IN JULY\*\*\*\*\***

**13th / 14th July. Golden Jubilee of the Province Celebration at Aylesford Priory- please see previous newsletter for details.**

**Your prayers are asked for:** all our sick and distance members especially Pat McManus, Fr Wilfrid McGreal; for all whose lives are affected by climate change and for those who work to restore and bring healing to our planet.

For the Order of Carmelites, including all lay Carmelites especially for those attached to the Monastery of Vetralla, Italy. (A Carmelite sister from the monastery has asked us to pray for their Lay Fraternity, as it is known, as it seeks to become more organised and part of the Order).



*Little by little we are able to hear the still small voice in the hurricane, the earthquake, or the fire.*

*God is hidden in difficulties. If we can find him in there, we will never lose him. Without difficulties, we do not know the power of God's mercy and the incredible destiny he has for each of us. We must be patient with our failures. There is always another opportunity unless we go ashore and stay there. A No-risk situation is the biggest danger there is.*

*To encounter the winds and the waves is not a sign of defeat. It is training in the art of living, which is the art of yielding to God's action and believing in his love no matter what happens.*

**Fr. Thomas Keating.**



From Laudato Si' 241..

*Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world. Just as her pierced heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of this world laid waste by human power.....She treasures the entire life of Jesus in her heart (cf, Lk 2. 19.51), and now understands the meaning of all things. Hence, we can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom. (from Laudato Si' 241)*

*Mary, Queen of all Creation, pray for us.*

### Contacts

Convenor: Sylvia Lucas  
sylvia@carmelinthecity.org.uk  
[www.carmelinthecity.org.uk](http://www.carmelinthecity.org.uk)

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