



Rejoice, heavenly powers,
Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth in shining splendour,
Radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Weekday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Saturday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (*Vigil for Sunday*)
Sunday Masses: 8.30am, 10.00am **Sung**, 11.00am *Latin Choir*
12.15pm, 6.00pm **Young Adults Choir**
Holy Days: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Bank Holidays: 9.00am, 12.15pm (no 6.00pm Mass)
Weekday Confessions: 5.30-5.50pm - Priest on duty except 12 Noon-3pm
Saturday Confessions: 10.30-11.45am, 3.30-5.50pm
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays from 6.30-8.00pm
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Our Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 4 April 2010 - Easter Sunday

“He Must Rise from the Dead”

At Mass on Easter Sunday morning, we hear in our first reading words of Peter as, many years later, he recalls the events of Jesus' death and resurrection. Let us listen carefully to his words: *“Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name”.*

This is a powerful and carefully put together statement of what we are celebrating at Easter. It is impossible to do it justice in a short article like this - I will have to confine myself to picking out a few elements.

The Resurrection is personal: Peter writes about the resurrection in very personal terms. It is very difficult for us to understand this – we cannot get away from the idea that the resurrection is some vague, magical or extraterrestrial event. The resurrection is the pinnacle of human/personal experience of God and for this reason it is impossible to express it in human words, images or concepts. Yet at the same time there is a deep and unshakeable conviction that it is real and true.

God's work: The resurrection is a revelation of God's work – note how often God is mentioned above and each time God is active: raising, appointing, choosing. It is presented as both an echo of God's work of creation and a completion of that same work.

Jesus is judge: Jesus is now judge of everyone, alive or dead. Everything [every action, attitude, decision, choice etc.] is now subject to Jesus' judgement. The resurrection gives Jesus a stake in each of our lives – Jesus has transformed human life forever and there is no aspect of human life beyond the reach of that transformation.

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Everyone must be told: This is the greatest news humanity has ever received and the natural, normal reaction to the resurrection is to speak about it, share the great news. We have not really heard it if we have not felt the impulse to share it.

Sin is now forgiven: The resurrection and forgiveness of sin are inseparable. Sin is the death of love, relationships, trust, human dignity and life itself. The resurrection is Jesus' definitive victory over sin, and as a result all humanity is set free to live as we are meant to live.

We are witnesses: Perhaps this is the most astounding fact of all. God chooses to make the spreading of the Good News dependent on frail, imperfect human beings. In the story of creation, human beings are given the responsibility to care for the earth, now human beings are being given responsibility for the new life of the resurrection. In doing this, God states so clearly that he has not lost trust or faith in humanity but is willing to trust us more deeply and more fully than ever.

On behalf of all the priests at the Carmelite Church, I wish you all a very happy Easter. I pray that this Easter will be a special time of grace, joy and peace for each of you.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Easter Baptisms and Confirmation

We offer our sincere congratulations to James, Sonali, Patrick, Margaret, Ellina and Christine who received the Sacraments at our Easter Vigil last night. Congratulations also to their families, sponsors, Catechists and all who helped them in any way on their journey of faith.

Gift Aid

As the new **Gift Aid** year commences, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who donate in this way. Being able to claim the tax back – 28p for every £1 that you give – is a great financial help to our Church. Also I would like to invite others to consider donating in this way. All you have to do is complete a simple form, and we will give you a box of numbered envelopes for your weekly donation. Or if you prefer, you can donate by Bankers Order. Paying by either of these two methods will not cost you anything extra. The only requirement is that you are a British Tax Payer. Thank you.

Our next **Carmelite Holy Hour**, in prayer for vocations to religious life, will be on Monday 26 April at 6.30pm.

Care of Children and Vulnerable People

There has been much press coverage recently of the Church's failure to care for children and those who are vulnerable. Many people have raised questions and anxieties around this issue. I would like to invite all of you to two events we are organising as a parish:-

Information Evening: Tuesday 13th April, 7.30pm. This is an opportunity to receive information about these issues and to raise questions and concerns.

Mass for victims of abuse: Thursday 29th April, 7.30pm. This is an opportunity for all of us to pray for those who have suffered grievously from abuse of whatever kind and in any circumstances. Please pass on this information to anyone you feel would be interested. *Fr Matt*

40 Hours Adoration – 18-20 April

During this **Year for Priests**, the Diocese is organising a series of **40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration**. Ours will begin with the Sunday evening Mass on **18 April** [celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes] and end with the 12.15pm Mass on **Tuesday 20 April**. It is essential we have volunteers to pledge their presence at a convenient time throughout these 40 hours Adoration, and in this connection there will be a list at the back of the Church for completion nearer the time.

A Prayer for Our Priests

Heavenly Father,

Grant that our Priests be strengthened and healed by the power of the Eucharist they celebrate. May the Word they proclaim give them courage and wisdom. We pray that all those whom they seek to serve may see in them the love and care of Jesus, Our Eternal High Priest, who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen

Mary, Mother of the Church, look tenderly upon your sons, our Priests.

Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, pray for us all.

Holy Thursday and Good Friday Collections

Grateful thanks for your generous contributions to the *Holy Thursday* and *Good Friday* collections. The amounts collected were: On *Holy Thursday* in aid of *The Homeless*: **£863.04** - this money has been given to **The Passage**. And on *Good Friday* for ***Holy Places throughout the world***, the amount was: **£1,160.89**.