



Newsletter

**A PRAYING
COMMUNITY IN
LONDON SERVING
GOD'S PEOPLE**

www.carmelite.org

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Editor: Kim Insley kim@shawfields.com

**Shawfields, 152 Cudham Lane North, Cudham,
Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 7QT**

24 September 2013

Dear friends

At our meeting last month we welcomed Aidan O'Neill Q.C., a leading human rights lawyer, to help us understand the 2nd Vatican Council document on Religious Freedom, *Dignitatis Humanae*. Many thanks to Kim for her notes which I have edited below.

The document was very forward thinking and controversial as it proclaimed that all religions should be free of state interference. It is now central to our ideas of the relationship between Church and state; it recognises the equality of citizens before the law as a 'common good', reversing earlier Church teaching, that 'error has no rights'. The focus throughout is on human dignity and freedom of conscience: 'man is bound to follow his conscience, especially in matters religious'.

A lively discussion followed Aidan's talk as he explained how his work challenges some strongly held views on freedom of thought, conscience and religion. For example, is the Church's strength now its weakness? Has the Church been obliged to admit that we need a more humble approach? How do we read the sign of the times?

Evangelisation is about this grass roots discussion and talking. Does our faith and Church teaching inform or challenge our work? It is about trying to see that justice is done. There isn't a right answer; we just have to keep working at it.

As I mentioned last month, the **General Chapter of the Order of Carmelites** took place in Rome over the past 3 weeks. If you have been able to follow the General Chapter on the website: <http://ocarm.org/capitulumgenerale2013/> you might have read the daily summary of the work and seen the photos of the participants. I'm sure that you recognised some of them! It was a great privilege to be invited to participate in the days for the Carmelite family and especially to meet friars, sisters and nuns from many other countries, especially from the Philippines Indonesia and India as well as America- north and south, Australia and other parts of Europe. They were all very interested in hearing about Carmel in the City and to hear news of how the commitment to Carmel is lived in the UK. I have been able to make email contact with many of them and hope to arrange to exchange newsletters so those of you from those countries can stay in touch.

There was especial interest at the Chapter in our ecumenical activity and links with other local Christians. This reminds me that our next meeting on 5th October begins at Jewin Welsh Church as you will see overleaf. We will return to St Joseph's for midday prayer and Br. Paul Jenkins' talk in the afternoon. This is our final talk in the series on Vatican 2.

I look forward to seeing you then.
All good wishes,

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Sylvia e-mail: carmelinthecity@laycarmel.org

tel 07889 436165

Diary Dates

Forthcoming Feast Days

1st October

St. Therese of the Child Jesus

15th October

St Teresa of Jesus

18th October

St. Luke

28th October

St. Simon and St Jude

Please pray:

- for the work of the United Nations as they seek to help leaders and governments find agreement so that all the people of the world can live in peace; for those who are suffering as a result of war or violence, especially in Syria and Kenya

Details of forthcoming events

29th September Little Flower Society. St Therese Pilgrimage, Aylesford Priory. 12noon Gathering Service, 2.30 Blessing of Roses followed by Mass

4th October CAFOD Harvest Fast Day- who will you invite to a place at your table?

18th October Day of prayer day for victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation

18th October 7.30pm. CAFOD. Pope Paul VI Memorial Lecture. A billion reasons to believe in Africa. Fr Orobator SJ. Greenwood Theatre, King's College, London Bridge SE1 3RA

26th-28th October St Jude's Feast weekend at Faversham

Carmel in the City Meetings

Please note change of time

5th October 2013 10.00 for 10.30

Jewin Welsh Church, 70 Fann Street, EC1Y 0SA. ALL ARE WELCOME.

12 noon - Midday Prayer at St. Joseph's.

3.00 p.m. The 2nd Vatican Council

- Moving on: Vatican 2 or Vatican 3?

Br. Paul Jenkins O.Carm. Aylesford Priory.

2nd November 2013 All Souls.

11.30am Mass.Fr Francis Kemsley O.Carm.

7th December. Advent Penitential Service.

Details to follow



Pope Francis greeting our Prior General, Fr Fernando and Vice General, Fr Christian, at the General Audience outside St Peter's, Rome on 18th September 2013

For the sick

Bill Lucas, Mary Moss, Agnes Maguire, Ron Aldridge and all in our families in any kind of need, that God will bless them and restore them to health and happiness.

Thought for the Month

Vatican II was a re-reading of the Gospel in the light of contemporary culture. Vatican II produced a renewal movement that simply comes from the same Gospel. Its fruits are enormous. Just recall the liturgy. The work of liturgical reform has been a service to the people as a re-reading of the Gospel from a concrete historical situation...one thing is clear: the dynamic of reading the Gospel, actualizing its message for today- which was typical of Vatican II- is absolutely irreversible.

A Big Heart Open to God. Interview with Pope Francis. Antonio Spadaro S.J.