

WHITEFRIAR STREET CHURCH

The Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Shrine of Saint Valentine

May 3, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Easter

SACRAMENTS

Masses

Mass is not celebrated publicly in our church at this time.

Mass will be available live through our website each day as follows:

Monday to Saturday:

8.00am, 10.00am,

3.00pm

Sunday:

8.00am, 10.00am,

4.00pm

Those whose names were enrolled for Mass will still be remembered on the day, though not at the time originally intended. Names may still be added.

St Jude Novena

This continues to be celebrated on Tuesdays at 8.00pm and will be livestreamed in our website. Petitions can still be sent in by post or email. The blessing with the Relics of St Jude and of St Thérèse of Lisieux will take place.

Baptisms & Weddings *Contact the parish office.*

Join us for liturgy through our webcam.



I am the gate of the sheepfold...

In the gospel passage from St John, we have the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The Lord used the image of sheep and shepherd as it was an image the people would have understood. He tells them that he is the true shepherd who looks after the sheep but, rather than drive the sheep, he leads and they follow. He also described himself as the gate to the sheepfold. The people would have understood that the sheep would properly enter the enclosure through the gate and that those who took the sheep by a different access point were thieves. We can see in this a warning that there will be those who will come with a teaching which may sound nice and encourage us to live life as we want, but this teaching will not lead to eternal life but will cause difficulties for us. The teaching of Jesus and his sufferings for our sake are the only things that can lead us to the true and eternal life in the Kingdom, and that is what we must listen to and live by. There are many messages and teachings to be heard in the world today but only one of them can lead us to true fulfilment in this life and in the next. The Lord didn't say that he was 'a' gate to the sheepfold but 'the' gate, and so there is no other way. Twice in the passage the Lord used the phrase 'I am' which reminds us of the conversation between God and Moses at the burning bush in which God revealed himself as 'I am', and so we see the connection and union between God the Father and God the Son.

Today is also designated as the Day of Prayer for Vocations. We must remember, though, that the word 'vocation' means more than just a call to serve the Lord in the ministerial priesthood or vowed religious life. By our very baptism we are all called to serve the Lord in whatever way we can. While we certainly pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, we also pray that we may all have the strength to live out our Christian vocation in the married or celibate state, as parents and teachers, and simply as Christians.

THIS WEEK'S LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Sunday 3: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Monday 4: Fourth Week of Easter

Tuesday 5: St Angelus, Carmelite Priest

Wednesday 6: Fourth Week of Easter

Thursday 7: Fourth Week of Easter

Friday 8: Fourth Week of Easter

Saturday 9: St George Preca, Third Order

A SAINT OR TWO THIS WEEK...

ST GEORGE PRECA, THIRD ORDER CARMELITE

Georg Preca was born in Valletta, Malta, and was ordained priest in 1906. The Carmelite Family and spirituality had always been close to his heart and he became a Carmelite Tertiary in 1918, referring to himself as a Carmelite on many occasions. From 1907 he gathered around him many young men in their twenties and taught them an awareness of God's love for humankind and encouraged them to work for the spread of the faith. This *Society of the MUSEUM* is to be found in many places across the world. In 1957 he created the 'Mysteries of Light' which were formally incorporated into the Rosary by Pope John Paul II in 2004. Fr George died in 1962 at the age of 82 and was canonized on June 3, 2007.



CHURCH SHOP, MASS OFFICE &

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

The Mass Office will remain closed until restrictions are eased. While the Mass Office is closed, Mass cards can be ordered by telephoning 01 472 0927 and they will be sent out by post.

Other enquiries:

2 01 475 8821

Email: shop@whitefriarstreetchurch.ie

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Members meet each Monday evening to consider requests. For those living within our parish, requests can be made by text to 085 789 8699. For those outside the parish, please ring 01 855 0022.

Covid-19 and Re-opening the Church

We very much wish to have our church open as we had only a few months ago and that our congregations can come and pray and be strengthened by the sacraments as before. However, there will not be a quick return to normality which means that we will have to do things differently within the building and at the Sacraments. Social distancing recommendations will continue for some time and that will impact on the numbers of people who can be in the church at any one time, where they can sit, coming forward for Holy Communion, praying at the shrines, being in our Mass Office, Shop and Coffee Shop and more.

Information signs will be in place whenever we reopen and we ask everyone to familiarise themselves with them, and to follow the advice and whatever new procedures will need to be put in place to keep everyone – visitors, staff and Carmelites – safe. We ask everyone to cooperate with our staff at all times.

Funerals will also be very different as there will be restrictions on the number of people attending. Yet that won't take from the dignity of a funeral in our church and those who cannot attend will be able to participate through our webcam.

Donations for our church

We thank all those who have continued to support our church during these difficult weeks for all of us. Be assured of our gratitude and our prayers.

When something painful or disagreeable happens to me, instead of a melancholy look, I answer by a smile. At first I did not always succeed, but now it has become a habit which I am glad to have acquired.

Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Carmelite Nun, Doctor of the Church 1873 – 1897

PARISH OFFICE

For certificates of Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage, or to book a baptism or a wedding.

2 01 475 8821

Email: parish@whitefriarstreetchurch.ie

CARMELITE COMMUNITY CENTRE

2 01 475 4673

Email: info@carmelitecommunitycentre.com