

CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 29 January 2012 – Fourth Sunday of the Year

Teresa of Avila

In October of this year the Church will declare a **Year of Faith** in and through which people will be encouraged to penetrate the richness of their Christian heritage in a more personal and reflective manner. Similarly, my own Religious Order is tentatively making plans to petition the Pope to declare **2015 a Year of Prayer**. This will coincide with the Celebration of the **5th Centenary of St Teresa of Avila's birth**.

As an Order, we wish to mark this event because Teresa, a Doctor of the Church, remains our constant inspiration and guide to identifying our role within the Church and the world. Her message needs to be shared because, as Doctor of the Church, her message was proclaimed accessible to all. This was a declared title in recognition of Teresa's personal encounter with prayer. The Church understood she had insights to the interior life that were unique yet profoundly helpful in assisting anyone serious about developing a prayer life. Teresa's influence over the Church lies in her charism of prayer which remains tied to friendship with Christ that even today remains a source of renewal for anyone who desires to discover the reality of God in their lives.

Here is an example of her initial insights to an essential characteristic in any prayer life:-

Since vocal prayer is prayer, it must be accompanied by reflection. A prayer in which a person is not aware of whom he is speaking to, what he is asking, who it is who is asking and of whom, I do not call prayer, however much the lips move. Sometimes it will be so without this reflection, provided that the soul has these reflections at other times. Nonetheless, anyone who has the *habit* of speaking before God's majesty as though he were speaking to a slave, without being careful to see how he is speaking, but saying whatever comes to his head and whatever he has learned from saying at other times, in my opinion is not praying. Please God, may no Christian pray in this way. (Interior Castle 1:1)

<u>January 2012</u>		<i>Feasts/Memorials</i>
Tuesday	31	St John Bosco, Priest
<u>February</u>		
Thursday	2	Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas Day - Feast
Friday	3	SS Lawrence, Dunstan & Theodore, Bishops/ St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr
Saturday	4	Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Parish Pastoral Lay Assistant required at St Anselm's Parish, Southall

A full-time **Pastoral Lay Assistant** is required at St Anselm's Parish, Southall, for a 3-year fixed term post. You will be required to work on the following areas: Education and parish catechesis; Development of social justice projects; Ecumenical relations and co-operation with Christian Churches; Developing positive relations with other faith communities; Formation of competent and compassionate lay leaders. Salary: £22-25K per annum. Closing date: 17 February; interview date: 23 February 2012. For job description and application form, please visit job section of website: www.rcdow.org.uk or email: juliedauncey@rcdow.org.uk

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 (*with Choir*) 11.00am ***Latin Choir***
 12.15pm, 6.00pm ***Young Adults Choir***
 Holy Day Masses 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
 Bank Holiday Masses: 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: Fridays 6.30.7.30pm – for Vocations
 to the Priesthood and Religious Profession.

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Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

So many of us are trying to etch out little moments throughout the day to hear God; on the tube people reading little bibles; apps with spiritual reading from spiritual guides like Teresa; with the intent to ponder what's being read, listened to, yet amid so much distractions of people going about their business, perhaps we do not have the chance to reflect there and then. Teresa would say that is OK but do not forget to find the time later on to catch up! Mary pondered in her heart all that was being said and done to her. She reflected – let's not forget about this other side of prayer when next we move our lips fast or slow!

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Bible Studies

The Bible is Not Just any Story – It is Your Story - Discover How to Read it.

Discover God's plan for your life as you discover his amazing story in *A Quick Journey Through The Bible*. In this study you will discover the "big picture" of the biblical story as it is presented in specific books of the Bible. Join us and learn the major people, places, events and themes of the Bible. Perhaps for the first time in your life you will understand the overview of the Bible story. This then makes your Bible reading and even the Sunday Mass Readings come alive like never before. This **Bible Study** will be offered in the Carmelite Priory, Kensington, hopefully during Lent. To learn more, please call 020-7937-9866, leaving your contact details with the Receptionist.

Young Adults Monday Group

Our *Young Adults Monday Group* will meet in the Parish Centre at 7.30 for 8.00pm, tomorrow, Monday 30 January. The speaker this week will be Fr Tony who will give a talk on **Mary**. This promises to be a very stimulating evening, and all young adults who come to our Church are invited, and please bring a friend! Entrance to the Parish Centre via Pitt Street.

All are invited to our **Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** for *Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Profession* on Friday next 3 February from 6.30-7.30pm.

Women Discerning a Call to Religious Life

"Come and See" - a chance for women (aged 20-40) to learn more about consecrated life and to meet a variety of religious and others who are discerning this vocation, on Saturday next 4 February, from 10.00am-5.00pm at our Carmelite Priory. There will also be time set aside for prayer, with **Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**. If anyone is interested in attending, and to register, please contact **Fr Richard Nesbitt** at richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk

Working with Young People

'Approaches to Youth Ministry' – a workshop for people who are working with young people or those interested in finding out more about this ministry in the Church, will take place on Saturday next 4 February at Vaughan House, 46 Francis St., SW1P 1QN. For more information and to book a place, please contact Sr Emma on emmanolan@rcdow.org.uk

Notices

- * All are invited to the Concelebrated Mass in celebration of the **Feast of Sto Niño** in our Church today at 2.00pm. There will be a Reception in the Parish Centre after the Mass, to which all are welcome.
- * Thursday next, 2 February, is the *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas Day*. There will be the Blessing of Candles at all Masses.
- * On Friday next 3 February, we celebrate the *Feast of St Blaise*. The customary *Blessing of Throats* will take place at all Masses.
- * Sunday next 5 February is **Education Day**. There will be a Special Collection after all Masses for the *Catholic Education Service*.
- * *Mothers & Babies Group* meet tomorrow Monday from 10.30-12.30pm in the Priory. New children welcome. Contact: Helena at: carmelitesbabygrou@gmail.com

The Crib: We thank you for your generous contributions to our Crib this Christmas Season. Your donations totalled _____ and this has been passed to the **Catholic Children's Society** which does such wonderful work with needy families and children.