

# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

## Parish Newsletter

Sunday 30 October 2011 – 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Year

### Family Prayer

There is a story of a person who climbs a mountain. He gets into difficulty and somehow manages to cling on to a root of a tree protruding through the rock face. As he dangles, clinging to this root, he starts to shout for help at the top of his voice. He hears a voice say “It’s OK! I am here to help you!” “Who are you?” called the climber. “God” came the response. “Really! Oh, thank you! Help me please”, says the climber. “OK” says God. “Now I want you to do one thing for me”. “Anything!” cries out the climber, beginning to lose his grip. “Let go!” Silence. “Is there anybody else up there?” cries out the climber!!

I wonder if this story reflects a certain attitude towards prayer affecting how families pray together? Sometimes, because of life’s disappointments, introducing the confidence of prayer to our children has become a little tempered, if not difficult, for one parent to do with them. Perhaps it is left to one member of the family to do the “prayer” thing while the other still grapples with their understanding of prayers’ relevance to their lived situation.

Often times such relevance happens when certain criteria, certain securities, become exhausted, unable to answer a lived situation. Prayer is often confronted in moments like this with feelings of despair. And despair is the opposite of faith. So, in effect, we truly are involved in what the catechism calls “a battle”. Prayer is not easy at the best of times when taken seriously, e.g. the ability of making time amid busy schedules of school drop-offs and pick-ups is “nigh” impossible. But when it’s the worst of times, it’s easy to perceive why the Church states “prayer is a battle”. Our image of God is thrown into turmoil; wrong notions of who God is can emerge and challenge our confidence.

Towards the end of her life when all her physical securities were gradually stripped away, the death of her father (her ideal image of God), and the onset of tuberculosis taking her health from her, **Thérèse of Lisieux** entered a spirit that wrestled with the depth of despairs’ mocking voices.

<u>November</u>		<i>Feasts/Memorials</i>
Tuesday	1	Solemnity of All Saints (Holy Day of Obligation)
Wednesday	2	Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)
Thursday	3	St Winefrede, Virgin/ St Martin de Porres, Religious
Friday	4	St Charles Borromeo, Bishop
Saturday	5	Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

#### *Concert in Aid of Westminster Diocesan Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes*

A special concert to raise funds for the **Westminster 2012 Lourdes Pilgrimage** will take place at Our Lady of Victories, Kensington, on Friday 25 November, starting at 7.30pm. Champagne Reception at 9.00pm. University College London Music Society will perform music by Joseph Haydn, including Symphony No 30 ‘Alleluia’ and Mass in Bb ‘Harmoniemesse’. For tickets, ring Zoe Decouto, Tel: 020-7931-6006.

Weekday Masses:	8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Saturday Masses:	8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm ( <i>Vigil for Sunday</i> )
Sunday Masses:	8.30am, 10.00am ( <i>with Choir</i> ) 11.00am <b>Latin Choir</b> 12.15pm, 6.00pm <b>Young Adults Choir</b>
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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She understood the temptation to suicide and wrestled in prayer with faith. She understood the interconnectedness with the way she experienced prayer with how she lived life – an insight the catechism lends “*we pray as we live and live as we pray*”. (2725). Instead of crying for another image of God to replace the one that had been shattered by her experiences (like the climber did, calling out for another kind of help), she leant on faith’s confidence to the point that even though “*I feel no joy in God’s presence, I believe because I want to believe*” she declared. There is lots of evidence to suggest that this did not come out of a vacuum but from the family prayer life.

#### ***Taize Reflects***

At Christmas, let us also have the courage to listen to the word of Jesus: “*Whoever sees me sees the Father*” (John 14.9). As a result, the fear of God, fear which insinuates itself so easily, no longer has grounds for existing. St Peter Chrysologus writes that God became a child so that we might cease to be afraid of him.

Musicians interested in forming a **Taize group**, please contact Fr Tony for further details: [anthonylparsons@aol.com](mailto:anthonylparsons@aol.com)

#### ***Young Adults Monday Group***

Our Monday Group will meet at 7.30 for 8.00pm in the Parish Centre tomorrow Monday evening for their weekly meeting. This week they will concentrate on Week 3 of the Diocese of Westminster’s Faith Sharing booklet ‘**A Foretaste of Heaven**’, *Why do we kneel at Mass? – reflecting on the idea of reverence*. All young adults who come to our Church are very welcome to join them

#### ***Mass for our Departed Relatives and Friends***

During the month of November a Mass will be said in our Church every day in memory of **our departed relatives and friends**. Names and donations will be accepted at Reception Desk. Special forms and envelopes are available at the back of the Church for you to complete.

All are invited to our **Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** for *Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Profession*, from 6.30-7.30pm on Friday next 4 November.

#### ***Collection for the ‘Sick and Retired Priests’ Fund***

There will be a Special Collection after all Masses on Sunday next, 6 November, for the **Sick and Retired Priests Fund**. The number of sick and elderly priests who need our support is growing and we need your help. 50% of the money that you give goes to Westminster Diocese and 50% to the Carmelite Order. We ask you please to be as generous as you can towards this very worthy cause.

#### ***Mass and Reception for our Adult & Senior Parishioners***

We thank all who came to our 12.15 *Mass and Reception for Adult & Senior Parishioners* on Saturday last. The large number who supported the event was a delight to see. We would really like to have another such event, with some students from the LSE on hand to help out and entertain you, say, on Saturday 26 November ? - starting with 12.15 Mass, followed by a Reception. It will be a nice opportunity to spend a little pre-Christmas time with your friends. Please spread the word. *Fr Iain*

#### ***The Passage – Fundraising Concert***

**The Passage – helping homeless people** – will be holding “**A Night under the Stars**”, its largest fundraising event of the year, at the Royal Festival Hall on Thursday 10 November at 7.30pm. This year the programme features some well known Russian favourite music – Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov etc. Tickets range from £22-£50. To book, call the Southbank Centre: 0844-847 9910. See poster on notice-board.

#### ***Solemnity of All Saints***

and

#### ***Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed***

Tuesday next 1 November, is the **Solemnity of All Saints** (All Saints Day) and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be as follows: Vigil at 6.00pm on Monday 31 October, and 8.00am, 12.15 and 6.00pm on Tuesday 1 November.

Wednesday 2 November is the **Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed** (All Souls Day). Masses will be at: 8.00am, 12.15 and 6.00pm.