

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 5 February 2012 – Fifth Sunday of the Year

Lenten Retreat ?

Pinned on a notice-board at the back of the Church is the Retreat Programme from our Oxford Community. It made me want to ask the question: When was the last time you thought of treating yourself to a **Retreat?**

Lent as a spiritual moment in the Church's calendar, invites self-examination in the light of salvation history. This is so we do not wallow in our sinfulness and perhaps cripple ourselves from actually changing for the better. Lenten encounters with God's word reveal that without the assistance of God's grace we could centre too much on how bad we are rather than what God wants us to be! That's right – a Retreat enables us to discover the road we are on and discover the road we ought to be on!

Why take a retreat? Apart from the above reason, one word could be reason enough for most of us – **freedom!** Freeing ourselves *within* to be free *without*! In other words, "**Love God and do as you will**" is something of the nature of the freedom expected in a Christian retreat. Imagine - doing as we want when rooted in God is the aim of transformation (aka change!). A retreat is to gently guide us towards wanting what God wants in our lives and enabling us to do it!

Through the assistance of an experienced Carmelite and other members of the retreat team, our Oxford Priory provides the opportunity amid pleasant surrounds to really get to grips with who is in the driving seat of our lives. Barry Ulanov once wrote:

"...who or what we are speaks out of us whether we know it or not. Our movements, our stillness, the expressions on our faces, our tone of voices, our actions, what we dream and daydream, as well as what we actually put into words, say who and what we are... to pray is to listen to and hear the self who is speaking...."

Why not take a look at the programme and think about booking a moment to review and renew the person who is speaking in more ways than words right now....

February 2012		Feasts/Memorials
Monday	6	SS Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs
Wednesday	8	St Jerome Emiliani/ St Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
Friday	10	St Scholastica, Virgin
Saturday	11	Our Lady of Lourdes/World Day for the Sick

Notices

We need more readers for our **Weekday Masses**, particularly 12.15 and 6.00pm, also **Sunday Masses**. If you would like to be considered for this very important ministry in the Mass, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554, or leave your details at Reception and we will get back to you.

* *Mothers & Babies Group* meet tomorrow Monday from 10.30-12.30pm in the Priory. New children welcome. Contact: Helena at: carmelitesbabygrou@gmail.com

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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Dublin Eucharistic Congress – 10-17 June 2012

Archbishop Vincent Nichols will be leading a Pilgrimage from Westminster diocese to the **International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin** from **Wednesday 13 June till Sunday 17 (flying back on Monday 18 June)**. 60 places have been booked on this Pilgrimage. As well as the daily celebration of Mass, there will be talks each day by internationally known speakers, and a great variety of workshops on themes connected with the Eucharist. Details can be found on a flyer which is available at the back of the Church. If you wish to apply for a place on this Pilgrimage with the Archbishop, please contact Gerald Daly at: geraldaly@rcdow.org.uk or telephone: 020-7798-9173. You can also make your own arrangements independently and join the delegation as and when you can. You can book through the Conference website: www.iec2012.ie for a single, 3-day period or the whole week.

Carmelite Monday Group

Our *Carmelite Monday Group* will meet in the Parish Centre at 7.30 for 8.00pm, tomorrow, Monday 6 February. The theme for the evening is: **“Jesus, Friend of Outcasts”**, with reflection and faith-sharing on next Sunday’s Gospel. All young adults who come to our Church are invited. Entrance to the Parish Centre via Pitt Street.

Faith Matters

Faith Matters - the Catholic Lecture Series - returns on Tuesday evenings in Lent, to Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Ave., SW1. The opening lecture on Tuesday 28 February, will be chaired by **John Morrill**, Professor of British & Irish History at Cambridge, and a permanent deacon in the Diocese of East Anglia. He will focus on *Faith of our Fathers: Legacies of English Catholic History*. Other Lectures follow on Tuesday 6 March, 20 March, and finally on 27 March. These are public lectures to which all are welcome – each starts at 7.00pm. Suggested donation is £5.00 to cover costs. To guarantee a place, please register at : www.rcdow.org.uk/faithmatters or Tel: 020-7931-6078.

Today Sunday is **Education Day**. There will be a Special Collection after all Masses for the *Catholic Education Service*.

Celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes

with Anointing of the Sick

On Saturday next 11 February the annual **Mass in Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes** will take place at Westminster Cathedral at 2.00pm, with Archbishop Vincent Nichols as Chief Celebrant. **The Sacrament of the Sick** will be administered during the Mass by the Archbishop, Auxiliary Bishops and Priests, who will be concelebrating. All who are sick and infirm are invited, and in order to ensure they are given priority and special places in the Cathedral, it is requested that you send details immediately to: Mrs Catherine MacGillivray at Vaughan House, 46 Francis St., London SW1P 1QN. Hospital Chaplains and those who work in health care are also invited – they will be joined by Westminster diocesan Pilgrims and all who have a devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Feast of Santo Niño (Divine Infant of Prague)

Grateful thanks to all who supported the **Feast of Santo Niño** here in our Church on Sunday last 29 January. Thanks to the Carmelite Filipino Choir for their excellent arrangements, and all who contributed to the Mass or who helped in any way in making the Celebration such a prayerful and happy occasion.

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The Westminster Record

Please note the February edition of the **“Westminster Record”** is now available at the back of the Church. This monthly publication, distributed by Westminster Cathedral to every parish in the Diocese, covers a wide range of features, lectures, regular news on Vocations, CAFOD, and subjects for our Young Adults etc. It is edited by Bishop John Arnold with contributions from a multitude of reliable sources. It’s an excellent newspaper and essential reading for every Catholic household, and I urge our parishioners to pick up a copy as you leave after Mass - *at 20p, it is incredible value for money!* (Fr Tony)

All are invited to our **Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** for *Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Profession* on Friday next 10 February from 6.30-7.30pm.