

Feasts/Memorials

May		
Monday	21	St Christopher Magallanes, Priest & Companions, Martyrs Anniversary of the Installation of Most Rev Vincent Nichols 11 th Archbishop of Westminster (2009).
Tuesday	22	St Joachina Vedruna de Mas (Carmelite)/ St Rita of Cascia, Religious
Friday	25	St Mary Magdalen de' Pazzi, Virgin, Carmelite/ St Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor
Saturday	26	St Philip Neri, Priest

Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Archbishop Vincent Nichols will lead the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from **7-15 November 2012**. During the pilgrimage you will stay in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Galilee. The cost is **£1,480** per person for two sharing a room. Places are limited, so please request a booking form a.s.a.p. via Gerald Daly at gerald Daly@rcdow.org.uk

Ordination of Br Alex Ezechukwu

On Saturday 30 June, **Br Alex Ezechukwu will be ordained a Carmelite priest here at Kensington**. You are all invited to the Ordination. *Please keep Br Alex in your prayers as he prepares for his Ordination to the priestly ministry.*

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 (some Latin) 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

Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB
Tel: 020-7937-9866 Fax: 020-7938-1470
Registered Charity No: 253645
Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 20 May 2012 –Ascension of the Lord

Ascension

“I am going to send you what my Father has Promised....”

Two passages from scripture prompt my reflection. The first is from St Luke and the second from St John's Gospel:

“Then he led them out as far as Bethany and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God....” (cf. 24:50-53)

“God is Spirit and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and Truth” (Jn 4:24).

Luke's version might be unfamiliar to some of you. This is a story about the **Ascension** and the effects it had on the early followers of Christ. How many of you expected it to sound like this? Me neither! It struck me too and what I heard made me think differently about the role the Ascension may have played in preparing for the *Coming of the Spirit – Pentecost*. It is more than a departure – if it were not, then we really would have an excuse in feeling abandoned by God.

Scriptural Interpretation:

Luke's version of the Ascension story hides a lot of things that if we miss them we could just not connect with this simple passage. Looking closely at the passage – Bethany is a familiar place for Jesus. It was there he met Martha and Mary and Lazarus. It was a place of friendship. The lifting up of his hands is symbolic. It communicates intercession. Moses did a similar thing on top of the mountain as the Hebrews fought their enemies in the valley below. When his hands were raised, the Hebrews were given the strength to conquer their enemies, but when he lowered them, the enemy began to regain the fight and control the Hebrews. Jesus' Blessing is an action that bestows a divine favour or gift.

with these sorts of insights, perhaps we can have a go at developing it slightly. We can say then that this **Ascension of Jesus** portrays him as giving his followers a gift/favour from himself that would help them conquer their enemies as he would intercede for them, such is the extent of his friendship. Can we say an affect experienced, that brought them joy and helped them to attend the Temple worship, was the Ascension's favour, gift? St Luke describes this Ascension experience as prompting a reaction that was unexpected – they “worshipped”. This action happened after he had withdrawn from them. I would have bypassed this initial effect and would have said the first reaction to the Ascension experience was to leave the place and start praying for the Promise to come! But in this passage we are given to believe they linger a little more after He is taken from them. Could the gift given at the Ascension – that of worship – be a way to prepare for the outpouring of the Spirit?

(Fr Prior)

‘Spirit in the City’ Festival, 7-9 June

The annual **Catholic Festival in London's West End** is with us again and invites us to come together and welcome people of all faiths, ages and walks of life. An opportunity to raise deeper questions about life and search for new ways to connect with God and others around us. This year's programme runs from **Thursday afternoon 7 June until the evening of Saturday 9 June**. The Opening Ceremony on Thursday will take place at St Patrick's Church, Soho Square, beginning with Prayers at 12 Noon, followed by Opening Mass at 12.45pm and a full programme for the remainder of the day, with an inspiring evening programme at Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory, Warwick St. at 19.00, and at 20.00 a Marian Street Procession to Notre Dame de France Leicester Place. See leaflet with full details on our Church notice-boards. Website: www.spiritinthecity.org/Programme.html

Children's First Holy Communion

On Sunday 10 June, Feast of Corpus Christi, and Sunday 17 June, at the 10.00am Mass, a group of children from this Parish will receive **First Holy Communion** in our Church. You are all invited to be present at the Mass and we ask you please to pray for these children on this special day in their lives, and to pray also for their families and Catechists.

11am Sunday Liturgy in our Church

As a community, we are more than aware of the delicacy associated with liturgy as much as the integral nature of music within the liturgy. Of late, certain temporary arrangements have been set in place for the **11am Sunday Liturgy**. Whilst not ideal, it is sufficient as it helps sustain Latin sung at this Mass – an overall aim that we have in mind to keep. Meanwhile, the Community and I are actively seeking to discern how best to identify and move forward where possible, to make improvements that would certainly look to restore the revered tradition of our long-standing music at the 11 am Sunday Mass. Be assured that the Carmelite Community and I perceive the current situation as temporary. We ask for your prayers and patience as a process unfolds. (Fr Prior)

* * * * *

World Communications Day

Today Sunday 20 May is **World Communications Day**. We are asked to keep those who work in the media in our prayers. There will be a **Special Collection** for the Catholic Communications Network (CCN) – the media office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The CCN provides support for the bishops of England and Wales and the Church more widely in promoting the Gospel through the media on current issues. It is the central point for media enquiries, and it plays a key role in developing the public profile of the Church. Your kind generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Solemnities in May/June

The following are Solemnities celebrated on four consecutive Sundays in May/June as follows: Today Sunday 20 May: Ascension of the Lord; Sunday next 27 May: Pentecost Sunday; Sunday 3 June: Most Holy Trinity, and Sunday 10 June: Corpus Christi, Most Holy Body & Blood of the Lord. Following these, on Friday 29 June, we will have the *Solemnity of SS Peter & Paul*.

Notices

- * After the 10am Mass today, all are invited downstairs to the Parish Centre for tea/coffee and to socialise with your friends.