

Catholic Deaf Awareness Week 11-18 May

During Deaf Awareness Week, 11-18 May, Westminster Cathedral will hold a Deaf Awareness Day on Thursday 15 May, in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace. This is an opportunity for all those interested in finding out more about the Deaf Community to learn some liturgical signs and find out the experiences of some of the deaf community in Westminster, and take part in a guided reflection led by Fr Paul Fletcher SJ. For further details contact Shell Roca on 020-8202-3611 or: shellroca@rcdow.org.uk

Further your Understanding of the Scriptures

On Tuesday next 6 May at 7.30pm at the Prayer Centre, Nazareth House, Hammersmith Rd, Fr John Hemer will give the third of three Talks on Scripture, entitled *Keeping the plot – how the Bible helps us stay human and holy*. All are welcome. For further information contact Ausra Karaliute on 020-7931-6078.

The Sick, Elderly & Housebound

If you know of any sick, elderly or housebound parishioner who would like a visit from a priest, please tell **Fr. Iain** at the Priory. He will be very pleased to pay a visit.

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Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays from 6.30-8.00pm.

Our Parish Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

Weekday Masses: 8am, 12.15pm, 6pm
Saturday Masses: 8am, 12.15pm, 6pm (*Vigil Mass for Sunday*)
Sunday Masses: 8.30am, 10am, 11am *Sung/Latin*
12.15pm, 6pm *Young Adults Choir*
Holy Days: 8am, 12.15pm, 6pm
Bank Holidays: 9am, 12.15pm (no 6pm Mass)
Weekday Confessions: 5.30-5.50pm (Priest on duty except between
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.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

4 May 2008 – Ascension of the Lord

Seeing and Hearing God

Our Gospel today is the conclusion of *The Gospel according to St Matthew*. He is writing for Jewish converts to Christianity and so, to understand what is being said, we need to know something of the scriptures and Jewish traditions, customs and history. The author wants to show that the whole story of Jesus is faithful to the traditions they have grown up with, but also goes beyond those traditions.

This story is written in the style, language and symbolism of a **theophany** – that is a visible and/or audible manifestation of God to a human being. Many theophanys take place throughout the old testament and in each one God reveals something more of himself. For Matthew, the life of Jesus is one great theophany and this conclusion draws it all together.

So let us re-write this story so as to understand it as the Christians in Matthew's Church would have heard it: *Finally these eleven, the ones who have been faithful to Jesus throughout the very difficult times and believe in the resurrection, set out on a new journey. Jesus arranges to meet them on a mountain, that is a sacred place but not a named sacred place like in the scriptures but anywhere, everywhere – wherever a faithful disciple of Jesus is, there Jesus is, that is a place of meeting with God. Overcoming their hesitation, fears and weakness, the disciples worship Jesus; they have learned that worship is the correct human reaction to Jesus [remember the Magi who came to visit Jesus when he was born and the women who met him after the Resurrection!]*

Jesus comes to them and speaks, that is what God always did in the scriptures. He says: "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me, I am teacher, ruler and judge over all humanity, you have witnessed this as you travelled around with me and listened to my teaching. Now I am giving you as my disciples, my Church, my witnesses, the same authority. You are to share with the whole world everything you have learned from me. Furthermore you are to make them disciples, just like you are. Everyone who is baptised is a disciple of mine and they are to do everything that you do. I am Emmanuel [God with us] and I am with you now and in the future. Wherever you may be, whatever situation you find yourselves in, whatever difficulties or challenges there may be – never forget that I am with you".

There are three things that the disciples do in this story. Firstly, they **obey** – they go to the place Jesus tells them to go to, now he tells them to go to all nations.

Secondly, they **worship** Him. He is God and it is in His presence that they live their lives. He is with them always, therefore the life of a disciple is one long act of worship.

Thirdly, they **listen**. No disciple speaks in this passage. From now on they will speak in His name, it will be He who will be speaking through them.

This story is really a beginning, it is the beginning of the life of the disciples, the beginning of the Church. The theophany does not end when the Gospel story ends, it goes on in the Church, in the lives of His disciples everywhere, until the end of time.

This conclusion reminds us what it really means to be disciples: people who are in constant direct contact with Jesus, people who obey, worship and listen to Jesus and people who are his voice in the world of today.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

World Communications Sunday

Today is World Communications Sunday. There will be a special collection after all Masses for the **Catholic Communications Network**. The CCN provides support for the bishops of England & Wales in promoting the gospel in the media. *Your kind generosity will be greatly appreciated.*

Communications Sunday Prayer

*O God, whose word is truth and in whose light we see light,
guide those who tell the story of our times through word and image.
Make them seekers after truth and advocates of human dignity.
Grant discernment to all who rely on their labours and, as we
confront the pain and promise of this world, awaken in us a sense
of wonder at your presence and of longing for your peace.*

Notices

- * There will be no meeting of our *Monday Group* tomorrow because of the Bank Holiday. They will resume on Monday 12 May when the theme will be “*The Holy Spirit and the Church*”. All young adults are welcome.
- * Our next *Parish Gathering* will be on Sunday 18 May after the 10 o’clock Mass. All are invited downstairs for tea and to socialise.

Sr Majella Maria and Sr Alice Ignatius R.I.P.

The Sisters of the Assumption, St Catherine’s Community, of Kensington Square, ask for your prayers for the repose of the souls of two of their Sisters: **Sister Majella Maria de Jesus Crucifié** who died on 20 April. She was in her 103rd year and 81st year of religious profession. And **Sister Alice Ignatius of the Lamb of God**, who died on 22 April. She was in her 98th year, and 76th year of religious profession. Their Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Main Chapel 23 Kensington Square at 12 Noon on Wednesday next 7 May, followed by interment at Gunnersbury Cemetery. All are welcome to attend.

Confirmation

On Saturday 24 May at the 6pm Mass, ten young people from this parish will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** from Bishop Alan Hopes. We ask you please to remember in your prayers: *Blanca, Constance, Eliza, Elvira, Giulia, India, Maria, Matt, Teddy, Vittoria*, and also their Catechists, *Alison and Zdenka*. You are all invited to come to the Mass.

Farewell to Sister Rya

Sr Rya of the Carmelite Missionary Sisters who has been with us for almost three years, is leaving us and returning to the Philippines. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all the help she has given us and particularly the part she played in supporting our Monday Group. We wish her many blessings and great happiness for the future. We would also like to express our appreciation for the help the Carmelite Missionary Sisters continue to give us in many ways, and we extend a warm welcome to **Sr Crista**, Sr Rya’s successor.

Solemnities this Month

Today, **The Ascension of the Lord**, is the first of four important Solemnities in the month of May:- Sunday next 11 May is **Pentecost Sunday**; on Sunday 18 May we celebrate the **Feast of the Most Holy Trinity**, and on Sunday 25 May we celebrate the **Feast of Corpus Christi**.

Tomorrow Monday is a **Bank Holiday**. Masses will be at 9.00am and 12.15pm. The Church closes at 1.00pm. There will be no 6.00pm Mass.