

**Feasts/Memorials**  
 Tuesday 20 St Bernardine of Siena, Priest  
 Wednesday 21 St Christopher Magallanes & Companions, Martyrs  
 Thursday 22 St Rita of Cascia, Religious

***The Story of St Paul - A Public Lecture***  
***by Fr Jerome Murphy-O'Connor OP***

**Fr Jerome Murphy-O'Connor OP**, a renowned scholar on the Letters of St Paul, will give a talk entitled '*The Story of St Paul*' on Thursday 19 June at 7.30pm at Westminster Cathedral Hall, Victoria Street. The Cardinal will give an introduction, and there will be time for questions. To reserve your free place, contact Ausrá Karaliute [ausrakaraliute@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ausrakaraliute@rcdow.org.uk) or telephone 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

**Our Parish Newsletter on the Web:** [www.carmelitechurch.org](http://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

Sunday 18 May 2008 – Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

### *God as Trinity*

In the Bible God tells us who he is. That telling takes many centuries, happens through countless human experiences and is always by God's initiative and in God's way. When human beings respond as they should, the result is a deeper relationship with God. That is what we find in our first reading today and it is one of countless examples throughout the scriptures. We marvel at the openness and humility of Moses and the words he speaks tell us how deeply he understood the meaning and implications of what was taking place.

We can contrast that with Nicodemus in the Gospel; though we are not given the whole conversation, we can see what is being said. Jesus is telling Nicodemus **who He is** and Nicodemus is replying to Jesus something like this: *I need to understand, this must make sense to me, before I can say yes – I will not believe unless it is all logical, reasonable and useful to me.* Jesus keeps saying to him: 'This is who *I AM*, this is who *GOD IS*, you must believe first, then you will see the truth.

Nicodemus is each one of us - *How can God be three and one?* We cannot be expected to understand this complex teaching about the Trinity! Our brains cannot cope with this but our hearts can. Unlike Nicodemus, if we can say yes to God, to the relationship of love he is holding out to us without reservations or conditions, then we can see and understand, then it will all seem reasonable, logical and it will make perfect sense.

When we celebrate the Trinity, we are not celebrating God as some complex mathematical formula. We are celebrating God as the love of our lives, we are celebrating the God we know in our hearts rather than the one we know in our brains.

Today we are celebrating what God has said to each one of us in our hearts and we are celebrating that little voice within our hearts that says to us: believe, despite whatever your mind might say or what the reasoned and logical arguments of others might say.

If we are prepared to live our Christianity by what our hearts tell us, rather than by our minds, or by the customs, attitudes or expectations of others, then we will come to know the truth of **the Trinity**.

/Continued.....

I would like to finish by quoting someone who did just what I am speaking about, and her testimony can prove to us the truth of this. **St Teresa of Avila** is writing after many years of faithful commitment to this:

*“Our good God now desires to remove the scales from the soul’s eyes and let it see and understand, although in a strange way, something of the favour He grants it. When the soul is brought into that place, the Most Blessed Trinity, all three Persons, through an intellectual vision, is revealed to it through a certain representation of the truth. First there comes an enkindling in the spirit in the manner of a cloud of magnificent splendour; all three Persons are distinct, and through an admirable knowledge the soul understands as a most profound truth that all three Persons are one substance, and one power and one knowledge and one God alone. It knows in such a way that what we hold by faith, it understands, we can say through sight – although the sight is not with the bodily eyes nor with the eyes of the soul because we are not dealing with an imaginative vision. Here all three persons communicate themselves to it, speak to it and explain those words of the Lord in the Gospel: that He and the Father and the Holy Spirit will come to dwell with the soul that loves Him and keeps his commandments”.*

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

### **Confirmation**

On Saturday next 24 May at the 6pm Mass, nine 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, Elvira, Giulia, India, Maria, Matt, Teddy, Vittoria*, and also their Catechists, *Alison and Zdenka*. You are all invited to come to the Mass.

### **Quarantore (40 Hours Adoration)**

Westminster Cathedral has announced that, due to building works being carried out in the Cathedral, **Quarant’Ore (22-24 May)** has been cancelled. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the afternoon of Saturday 24 May after the 12.30 Mass until Vespers, and there will be a procession following the 6.00pm Mass.

### **Mass in Honour of the Infant Jesus of Prague**

There will be a Concelebrated Mass in Honour of the **Infant Jesus of Prague (Sto Niño)** at St Augustine’s Church, Hammersmith, at 3.00pm today. All are welcome.

### **♪ A Musical Event in our Church on Sunday 8 June ♪**

*A date for your Diaries!* On Sunday 8 June, at 7.00pm, (after the 6.00pm Mass) there will be a very special musical event in our Church, organised by Daniela and our 6pm Sunday Choir. We will have a group of professional musicians giving a performance of popular classical favourites, assisted by our own regular singers. You are all invited to what promises to be a very entertaining evening. There is no entrance fee but all donations will go to benefit **HIV & AIDS victims in Africa**. We do hope you will all make every effort to join us.

### **St Patrick’s, Soho Corpus Christi International Mass & Procession**

On Sunday next, the **Feast of Corpus Christi**, at St Patrick’s Church Soho there will be an International Mass at 6pm at which the Brazilian, Spanish, Chinese and English communities will all participate. Immediately following the Mass, there will be a procession of the Church with the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of Soho to St Giles. All are welcome.

### **First Holy Communion**

On Sunday 15 June at the 10 o’clock Mass, 20 young children from this Parish will receive First Holy Communion. We ask you please to remember them in your prayers and also their Catechists. You are all very welcome to be present at the Mass.

### **Notices**

- \* Our *Monday Group* will meet tomorrow at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. The discussion will be focused on **The Trinity**; the evening will include music, prayer and reflection on Scripture. All young adults from the Parish are warmly invited to come along.
- \* Our *Parish Gathering* takes place this morning after the 10 o’clock Mass. You are all invited to join us downstairs for tea and chat.
- \* On Tuesday next 20 May at 7.30pm there will be a meeting in the Priory for our **young married people** from the parish. Fr Iain invites all newly-weds to come along.

On Sunday next we celebrate the **Feast of Corpus Christi,  
Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord.**