

# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

## Parish Newsletter

Sunday 8 June 2008 – Tenth Sunday of the Year

<u>June</u>		<b><i>Feasts/Memorials</i></b>
Monday	9	St Columba, Abbot/ St Ephraem, Deacon & Doctor
Wednesday	11	St Barnabas, Apostle
Friday	13	St Anthony of Padua Second Anniversary of the death of Fr Ronan R.I.P.

### ***Bible Studies at Nazareth House***

Bible Studios will continue with Fr Peter Burrows in the Prayer Centre, Nazareth House, on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm. All are welcome – no previous knowledge of the Bible necessary. For more details contact Ausra Karaliute at [ausrakaraliute@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ausrakaraliute@rcdow.org.uk) or telephone 020-8959-1971.

### ***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](http://www.carmelitechurch.org)

Weekday Masses:	8am, 12.15pm, 6pm
Saturday Masses:	8am, 12.15pm, 6pm ( <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i> )
Sunday Masses:	8.30am, 10am, 11am <i>Sung/Latin</i> 12.15pm, 6pm <i>Young Adults Choir</i>
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

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**Registered Charity No: 253645.**

### ***Do we need God?***

*“I know God, I know what he thinks. I know what God wants from me and how to please God. I know who is close to God and who is not”.* This is one of the great illusions that people of faith can find themselves in. In addition it can be rather disturbing and painful to discover we are wrong. This is what happens to the Pharisees in our Gospel today, their thinking goes something like this: *Surely Jesus, the son of God, will want to eat with us, we are the religious leaders, we know the scriptures, we live good lives. We will be able to help and advise Jesus. We (and Jesus!!) must stay far away from those tax collectors and other sinners, they are bad people, God wants nothing to do with them”.*

Jesus has come into this world to show us by word and deed who God is. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that Jesus has come into this world to surprise us, shock us, confuse us and challenge us about who God is. That is what Jesus is doing in our Gospel today. He is at the house of Matthew, the tax collector. He is dining with the tax collectors and sinners (people he should be staying far away from) and ignoring the Pharisees (the people he has most in common with).

The response of Jesus gives us much to reflect upon: **It is not the healthy who need the doctor but the sick.** Jesus is with those who are sick. There is no evidence that those at table are physically ill; they are spiritually, socially and morally ill. These are the people Jesus wants to be with, these are the people who most want to be with Jesus and it is among these people that we discover the truth of who Jesus (God) is. So what provocative, challenging and surprising conclusions can we draw?

- \* Wherever there is a need for healing, God is to be found.
- \* When we sit and eat with those who need healing, we are sitting and eating with God.
- \* “Religious” people suffer from a blindness they find very difficult to see or acknowledge.
- \* We need to spend time with those who are not “religious” in order to discover God.
- \* The Pharisees felt excluded and confused, this was their opportunity also. When we feel excluded and confused, let us remember that this is an opportunity to discover something new and deeper.

\* When we recognise our own “sickness” then we are open to God. Finally, God is with those who need Him most rather than with those who think they deserve Him. Sin, pain, isolation, powerlessness, vulnerability and so many other conditions we consider negative are reminders to us of our need for God. Whatever reminds us that we need God is a grace and a blessing. The Pharisees knew God so well they no longer needed Him and as a consequence they were no longer open to being surprised by Him.

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

### ***Crossroads in Britain***

Before the Final Reading of the **Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill** currently before Parliament, there is still value in writing to or telephoning MPs. Even if you have already done so, please do so again. ([www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com) is a convenient way of reaching your MP's desk). This would be a way of affirming: that fatherhood is important for our society; that the child in the womb deserves more, not less, protection; that human dignity is for real and would be compromised by the creation of human-animal hybrids; that, anyway, the scientific dividends promised by such hybrids are mythical, and other avenues have proved to be effective; and that the way that decisions about embryology are made in Britain deserve a more ethical framework. *These are issues of vital concern to people who care about people.* *Fr Iain*

### ***The Year of St Paul - June 2008-June 2009***

Over the course of the next year, **dedicated by Pope Benedict XVI to St Paul**, a number of events and programmes are being organised. Among the list of events for this month is: Saturday 28 June at 3.30pm, a Votive Mass at Westminster Cathedral organised by St Paul's Bookshop to open the **Pauline Year**. All are welcome. Other events will be published later.

### ***Sponsored Walk***

On Saturday 21 June, some young people, recently confirmed, from our parish, and others, will do a sponsored walk in aid of those suffering as a result of the **Earthquake in China**. The route: Priory to Tyburn, Tyburn to Tower of London, Tower back to Westminster Cathedral. (In the steps of the Martyrs). Proceeds will go to **Caritas Internationalis China Earthquake Response**. A sponsorship form is available at Reception Desk for all who would like to sponsor our young people who are doing this walk with great enthusiasm.

### ***First Holy Communion***

On Sunday next 15 June at the 10 o'clock Mass, 18 young children from this Parish will receive **First Holy Communion**. We ask you please to remember the following in your prayers: *Antonio, Arelene, Benjie, Carolina, Cecilia, Daniel, Ebuade, Eléonore, Eugenia, Gaspard, Giulia, Ines, Jumarie, Lucas, Ludovica, Maximilian, Teresa and Thomas* Also their Catechists: *Annegrid, Elizabetta, Oredola and Georgina*. You are all invited to be present at the Mass.

### ***Our Monday Group***

All young adults are invited to join our Monday Group tomorrow evening at 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, as they continue the series '*Believe – Reflections on the Creed*', presented by David Payne, Director of CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration). This week's session is entitled '*The Almighty Father*' on which a 35-minute DVD will be shown. There will be an opportunity afterwards for discussion and prayerful reflection.

### ***Notices***

- \* The 11 o'clock Mass this morning is being offered for **Fr Ronan R.I.P.** on the Second Anniversary of his death.
- \* Our next *Parish Gathering* will take place on Sunday 22 June after the 10 o'clock Mass. You are all invited to come downstairs for tea and to socialise.
- \* Our *Parish Advisory Group* meeting will take place on Sunday 29 June at 7pm in the Priory. Any suggestions or comments you wish to put forward for attention may be handed in at Reception.
- \* On Sunday 6 July we will have our **Parish Picnic in the Park**. Please put this date in your diary - more details will follow soon.

### ***🎵 Concert in aid of 'DREAM' Project in Africa 🎵***

***Please don't Forget!! This evening at 7.00pm***, (after the 6.00pm Mass), we will have a group of professional musicians giving a performance of classical favourites, assisted by our own 6.00pm Sunday Choir. There is no entrance fee but there will be a collection after the Concert in aid of the **'DREAM' Project in Africa** (*Drug Resource Enhancement against AIDS and Malnutrition*). We do hope you will make every effort to join us and support this very worthy cause.