

<u>June</u>		<i>Feasts/Memorials</i>
Monday	23	St Etheldreda, Virgin
Tuesday	24	Nativity of St John the Baptist, Solemnity
Friday	27	St John Southworth, Priest & Martyr
Saturday	28	St Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr

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

**Third series of talks on the Scriptures.** Beginning on Tuesday 1 July at 7.30pm at the Prayer Centre, Nazareth House, Fr Peter Burrows will give three talks on the Scripture: ‘*Suffering and Theodicy*’ on 1 July; ‘*Love in the Bible*’ on 8 July, and ‘*A Study of Ruth*’ on 15 July. All are welcome – no previous study necessary. For further details contact Ausra Karaliute at [ausrakaraliute@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ausrakaraliute@rcdow.org.uk) or telephone 020-7931-6078.

### ***The Passage Annual Garden Party***

The Passage will be holding their annual Garden Party in the College Garden of Westminster Abbey on Wednesday 23 July, from 5.30pm-8.30pm. Tickets at £22 each include wine, soft drinks, a buffet supper and live music, available from The Passage, St Vincent’s Centre, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1NL. Tel: 020-7592-1856. email: [tickets@passage.org.uk](mailto:tickets@passage.org.uk) You are asked to please support the excellent work which The Passage does for homeless people in Central London

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

**Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB**

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**Registered Charity No: 253645.**

## **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**

### **Parish Newsletter**

Sunday 22 June 2008 – Twelfth Sunday of the Year

### ***Letter to the Romans***

Today our second reading is from **St Paul’s letter to the Romans**. If I have counted correctly, we have an extract from this letter for fifteen consecutive Sundays. *Romans* is the longest and most difficult to read of all Paul’s letters. It is considered by many to be the most influential document of the entire New Testament. Almost from the day it was written the Letter to the Romans has coloured and shaped Christian thought and, at the same time, it has been at the centre of some of the great debates and controversies of Christian history.

It is not clear when, or by whom, the Church in Rome was founded. Rome in the first century had a strong Jewish community and almost certainly the majority of early Christians in Rome were Jewish, though it would also have had Gentile members. When Jews and Jewish Christians had to leave Rome because of Claudius’ edict (AD 49), the Gentile Christians would have remained in Rome. After the death of Claudius (AD 54), the new Emperor Nero was more favourable to Jews and many of the Jewish Christians returned to Rome. This is the Church Paul writes to from Corinth in the winter of AD 57-58, a Church which is predominantly a Gentile Church but with a significant Jewish membership and certain tensions between the two groups. To date, Paul has never been to Rome and it is the only letter Paul wrote to a Church he had not been involved in founding. His reasons for writing this letter can be summed up as follows:

- \* His conviction of his own special vocation outlined in the first line of the letter: ‘*From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures*’.
- \* Paul’s plan, outlined in this letter, is to go first to Jerusalem taking a collection from the Greek Churches to the poor Christians in Jerusalem. Then he will visit Rome and spend some time with the Church there on his way to Spain.
- \* This letter is a kind of “Letter of introduction” outlining what he preaches for these Christians who do not know him personally but undoubtedly have heard a lot about him.

/Continued

- \* Paul wants, and has wanted for a long time, to visit Rome; let us listen to his own words:

*'First, I thank God through Jesus Christ for all of you and for the way in which your faith is spoken of all over the world. The God I worship spiritually by preaching the Good News of his Son knows that I never fail to mention you in my prayers and to ask to be allowed at long last the opportunity to visit you, if he so wills. For I am longing to see you either to strengthen you by sharing a spiritual gift with you or, what is better, to find encouragement among you from our common faith. I want you to know, brothers, that I have often planned to visit you – though until now I have always been prevented – in the hope that I might work as fruitfully among you as I have done among the other pagans. I owe a duty to Greeks just as much as to barbarians, to the educated just as much as to the uneducated, and it is this that makes me want to bring the Good News to you too in Rome'.*

(Next week we will look at some of the important themes of this letter).

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

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

June 2008-June 2009 has been declared a **Jubilee Year** by Pope Benedict in celebration of the **2000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of St Paul**. To inaugurate the Jubilee Year there will be a Mass in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday next 28 June at 3.30pm at which Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor will be the principal celebrant. During this Mass the Cardinal will bless the icon of St Paul which is to tour the diocese throughout the Jubilee Year. All are warmly invited to the Mass. St Pauls Bookshops will be making available resources on St Paul, as well as publishing a number of books throughout the coming twelve months.

Sunday next, Feast of St Peter & Paul and the beginning of the **Year of St Paul**, will be a **Special Day of Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI**. The 11.00 o'clock Mass in our Church will be offered for our Holy Father.

Sunday next is also a **Day of Prayer for Vocations**, and the 6.00 o'clock Mass will be offered for Vocations.

**Note to Readers:** Readings at all Masses on Sunday next will be those of the Feast of St Peter & Paul.

### ***First Holy Communion Catechesis 2008-09***

Children aged seven years upwards are welcome to our programme of preparation for **First Holy Communion**, beginning the new catechism year in September/October 2008. Registration forms are now available from the Reception desk. We will also have a programme of Early Catechism for younger children (i.e. 5/6 and 6/7 year olds) as well as Post-Communion Catechism classes. These classes will take place in the Priory on Sunday mornings after the 10 o'clock Mass.

Also young people aged 13 years and over who wish to be prepared to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** next year should pick up an application form from the Reception Desk and complete and return it to Fr Iain.

### ***Sponsored Walk in Aid of the Earthquake in China***

Yesterday, some young people from our parish did a sponsored walk in aid of those suffering as a result of the recent **Earthquake in China**. We congratulate and thank them for doing their walk "*in the steps of the Tyburn Martyrs*" with great energy and enthusiasm. We also thank all those who sponsored them. Proceeds will go to **Caritas Internationalis China Earthquake Response**. Further donations will be gratefully accepted - there is a sponsorship form at Reception Desk.

### ***Notices***

- \* You are all invited to our *Parish Gathering* this morning after the 10 o'clock Mass. Please join us downstairs for tea and chat.
- \* Our *Parish Advisory Group* meeting will take place on Sunday next at 7.00pm in the Priory.
- \* Our Monday Group will meet tomorrow at 7.30pm. One of the items on the agenda will be our Carmelite Youth Day which takes place this year on Saturday 11 October. All young adults from the Parish and outside are asked to please make a note of this date.
- \* 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.
- \* There will be a *Readers' Meeting* in the Priory on Sunday 20 July, at 4.00pm, chaired by Fr Michael. All readers are invited.

On Sunday next, Feast of St Peter & Paul, there will be a Collection for **Peter's Pence** – the special charities of our Holy Father the Pope.