July Feasts/Memorials

Wednesday 9 SS Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, & Companions.

Martyrs

Friday 11 St Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe

St Patrick's Evangelisation School

St Patrick's Evangelisation School (SPES) is a 9-month course forming young adults in the Catholic faith. It brings together an international group of students in central London for complete study of the Catechism, community living and practical outreach initiatives while maintaining a common life of prayer. This is a life-changing experience for young adults between the ages of 20-30. There are eight places available, beginning this October 2008. For further information email: spes@stpatricksoho.org or 020-7434-9965, website: www.stpatricksoho.org/spes

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

6 July 2008 - Fourteenth Sunday of the Year

'To Live Spiritually'

What is a spiritual life? What is spirituality? These are very difficult questions to answer. Every human being has a spirit or a spiritual life – in other words every human being is more than just a physical, emotional and psychological living creature. That "something more" is both difficult to define and difficult to relate to. We are speaking about the most profound reality [the deepest centre] of a person, in other words what makes a person who he/she really is and what inspires, drives, motivates and defines that person.

St Paul is trying to answer that question for the Christians of Rome in our second reading today. Belief in Jesus Christ transforms us spiritually – if it does not, then we are not true believers. Let us listen to some of his words: 'the spirit of God has <u>made his home</u> in you… you <u>possess</u> the Spirit of Christ… the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead <u>is living in you…</u>'

The spirit then is the air we breathe, the oxygen that keeps our inner selves living. The spirit is the life force deep within us. The more we come to know ourselves the more in touch we are with our inner spirit. For us Christians, Jesus is the spirit, the air, the oxygen we live by. Jesus is the life that sustains our life and that leads us to the fullness of life. St John of the Cross puts it like this: 'The Spirit of God, insofar as it is hidden in the veins of the soul, is like soft refreshing water that satisfies the thirst of the spirit'.

We note that when Paul speaks about the spirit and the Christian spiritual life, he not only speaks about Jesus but he very specifically speaks about the resurrection. The life that the resurrection of Jesus gives us is not a life that is out in the future, it is a reality now for those who are living as Jesus wants us to live. Paul, in this passage from his 'letter to the Romans', is making a contrast between what it means to live by our spiritual selves and our "unspiritual selves". The difference is between living a life that is true to our identity as Christians and a life that is false, shallow and meaningless.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior



First Holy Communion Catechesis 2008-09

Children aged <u>seven years upwards</u> 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 <u>Early Catechism</u> for younger children (i.e. 5/6 and 6/7 year olds) as well as <u>Post-Communion Catechism classes</u>. 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.

Our Young Adults Monday Group

All young adults who come to our Church are warmly invited to our Monday Group meeting tomorrow evening at 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. They will be resuming 'Believe – Reflections on the Creed', and a very special feature of the evening will be a 35-minute DVD presentation by David Payne (Director of CaFE – Catholic Faith Exploration), featuring interviews with prominent men and women of faith.

Pre-Marriage Procedure

If there are any couples planning to get married within the next year, it is very important they come and see Fr Iain or Fr Matt without delay so that marriage preparation and all the paperwork can be completed well in advance.

Sea Sunday

Sunday next 13 July is Sea Sunday. There will be a Special Collection after all Masses to support the **Apostleship of the Sea.** Seafarers bring us 90% of the goods we use every day, and 150,000 merchant ships visit British ports each year. The Apostleship of the Sea welcomes all seafarers to our shores as brothers and sisters regardless of colour, race or creed, and provides for their practical and pastoral needs. As a Catholic charity, they rely solely on voluntary contributions and our generous support, to continue their mission.

Parish Picnic

You are all invited to our **Parish Picnic** today Sunday. We will meet at **1 o'clock in Kensington Gardens** on the grass in front of the gates of Kensington Palace. Please bring something to share, then we can all enjoy some nice food and have a fun afternoon.

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

This programme is for:

- * Adults who wish to be baptised.
- * Adult Catholics who are baptised but who have not received First Communion and/or Confirmation.
- * Members of other Christian Churches who wish to enter into full Communion with the Catholic Church.

The programme runs from October until Easter. Please pass on the word to anyone you know who may be interested. For further information and to apply, please contact Fr Matt at: matthewblake@rcdow.org.uk

Year of St Paul

For those who are not away in August, Fr Matt will lead an introductory course on **the life, mission and teaching of St Paul,** on Tuesday evenings, 8.00-9.00pm, August 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th. All are welcome.

Recent Fund-raising Events

Concert in Aid of 'DREAM' Project (for AIDS victims in Africa)

Total raised was £1,757.25. Thank you all for your generosity, and special thanks again to the organisers and choir.

Children's Painting Exhibition (in aid of the Catholic Children's Society) Total raised was £451.69. Thank you all for your generous donations, and a special thanks and congratulations to the young artists.

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We thank you for your contributions to the collection for **Peter's Pence** on Sunday last. The amount collected was £1,064.26.

Day for Life 2008

Today we celebrate *Day for Life*, which this year focuses on mental health. The aim of the day is to help raise awareness of the needs of those affected by mental ill-health, their friends and their families. One in four people will be directly affected by mental health difficulties at some stage in their lives. There will be a collection after all Masses today to support *Day for Life*. Proceeds will go to the Linacre Centre for Healthcare Ethics and other liferelated activities supported by the Church. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Tomorrow, Monday 7 July, there will be a Funeral Mass in this Church at 10.30am for **Giovanni Gambardella RIP.**

