

# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

## Parish Newsletter

13 July 2008 – Fifteenth Sunday of the Year

### July

### *Feasts/Memorials*

Monday	14	St Camillus de Lellis, Priest
Tuesday	15	St Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor
Wednesday	16	Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Titular & Patron of the whole Carmelite Order
Thursday	17	Bl. Teresa & Companions, Virgin Martyrs, Carmelites

### ***Readers Required***

Readers urgently required for our weekday 12.15pm Mass and Sunday Masses. If you would like to be considered for this very important ministry in the Mass, please contact Rita on: 020-7727-6554.

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*Babies and Toddlers Playgroup* has now closed for the summer break and will return on Friday 5 September at the new time of 3.45pm instead of 3.30pm. New children welcome - contact Segolene on 020-3062-2978

### ***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
<b>Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB</b>	
<b>Tel: 020-7937-9866 Fax: 020-7938-1470</b>	
<b>Registered Charity No: 253645.</b>	

### ***Jesus teaches in Parables***

*Why do you talk to them in parables?* The disciples put this question to Jesus in today's Gospel. Jesus is a teacher. All good teachers use stories, parables, examples and images to illustrate their teaching.

However, when Jesus is asked the question, he gives a much more complex answer, an answer that does not really answer the question at all. Perhaps we need to look at the parables a little differently. Their first purpose is to convey the nature of God's word rather than the meaning.

**God's word is a mystery:** Human beings are fascinated by a good story. A story takes us beyond ourselves, into another world, another reality. The word of God is not something human and therefore it always remains beyond our grasp and comprehension. No matter how much thinking or studying of the parables that we do, we will never fully understand them.

**The word is living:** The parables take us beyond ideas, words and theories. In stories we can experience feelings, emotions, atmosphere and so much more that words cannot convey. The difference is like the difference between knowing someone by reading about them and knowing someone by spending time in their presence.

**The word requires prayer and reflection:** God's word is not like the instruction manual for an item of equipment – if we read the instructions correctly, we will understand. We must spend time with God's word, study it, reflect on it, return to it over and over again. Its meaning is only gradually opened up to us.

**The word is hidden in the familiar:** Jesus uses familiar images like, seed, planting, crops, meals, human relationships, every day life situations and the structures of life and society both to illustrate his message and to show how close the word of God is to us. Often in life what is most familiar is least understood – human relationships, love, nature etc.

**The word must be heard:** Jesus tells us, "*the reason I speak to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding*". This is an interesting statement and he backs it up with a long quotation from the prophet Isaiah. Each person must listen to and receive the word in the way that is right and appropriate for them and when the truth is seen, they must act upon it. The parables make it possible for each person to hear the word as they personally are meant to hear it.

**The word is effective without us knowing it:** We do not see seeds growing or understand many aspects of human life but we know the reality of food production and human life. We do not need to understand everything in order to know God. We can love and appreciate a story without fully understanding it, so it must also be with us and God.

**We must accept the mystery:** We must accept the word and begin to live by it before we can begin to understand it. We must not evaluate or judge the word by the results we see or experience. The word is powerful and effective even when the power and effectiveness is hidden from our eyes.

Let us conclude with the beautiful words of the prophet Isaiah from our first reading today: *Thus says the Lord: "As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do".*

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

### ***Our Lady of Mount Carmel***

#### ***Come and Honour our Patroness on her Feast Day***

Wednesday next 16 July is the **Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel**, and in preparation for this, on **Tuesday 15 July** we will have Mass at 6.00pm, followed by a **Celebration Vigil** from 6.30pm-7.15pm. There will be prayer, music, sermon and crowning of the Statue of Our Lady.

On **Wednesday 16 July** at 6.00pm there will be Mass in Honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, presided over by Fr Michael McGoldrick, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament till 8.00pm. All are warmly invited.

### ***Preparation for Marriage Course***

The Parish of St Charles Borromeo, Ogle St., London W1, will begin a **Preparation for Marriage Course** starting on Monday 1 September. The sessions will last about one hour on the five Mondays of September, and will take place in the crypt room at 8.00pm. The course will be given by two married couples and the Parish Priest. Engaged couples will also be very welcome. There is no registration and no fee. For further details, telephone 020-7636-2883 or email: [oglestreet@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:oglestreet@rcdow.org.uk)

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There will be **A Day with Mary** on Saturday next 19 July at the Church of Mary, Mother of God, Ponders End – all are welcome.

### ***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 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.

#### ***Praying the Year of St Paul***

*Heavenly Father*, open our minds and hearts to the working of your Holy Spirit. Enlightened by Truth and emboldened through Grace, may Faith overcome doubt, Love conquer hatred, Hope shine through suffering and zeal mark our proclamation of the Good News that St Paul preached to the peoples of all nations. We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever, Amen

### ***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](mailto:matthewblake@rcdow.org.uk)

### ***Notices***

- \* On Sunday next 20 July we will have our monthly *Parish Gathering* after the 10 o'clock Mass, when you are all invited downstairs to the Parish Centre for tea and chat.
- \* Our next *Parish Advisory Group* meeting will take place on Sunday 7 September at 7.00pm in the Priory.
- \* We thank you for your contributions to the collection for **Day for Life** on Sunday last – the amount collected was **£772.93**.

### ***Sea Sunday***

Today is **Sea Sunday**. There will be a Special Collection after all Masses in aid of the **Apostleship of the Sea**, the Catholic Church's outreach to international seafarers. We ask you please to be as generous as you can.