

<u>July</u>		<i><b>Feasts/Memorials</b></i>
Monday	21	St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor
Tuesday	22	St Mary Magdalen
Wednesday	23	St Brigid of Sweden, Religious, Patron of Europe - Feast
Thursday	24	Bl. Maria Pilar, Teresa and Maria Angeles, Virgins & Martyrs, Carmelites Bl. Maria Mercedes Prat Prat, Virgin & Martyr, Carmelite
Friday	25	St James, Apostle – Feast
Saturday	26	SS Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### ***Mount Carmel – A Review of the Spiritual Life***

Please note the July-September issue of the publication 'Mount Carmel' is now available from Reception. This issue entitled, '**Pillars of Carmel: Mary & Joseph**', is a fascinating and beautiful read, with contributions from some well-known writers. An ideal book to take away with you on holiday. Price £2.50.

### ***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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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.**

## **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**

### **Parish Newsletter**

20 July 2008 – Sixteenth Sunday of the Year

### ***St Paul – Person of Prayer***

When we read St Paul's letters we are struck by the amount of prayer in them. The letters begin and end in prayer and many times during the letters we find Paul praying, quoting prayers or speaking about prayer. It seems that Paul cannot speak about Jesus or Christian life without breaking into prayer.

We can look at Paul's writings and say that everything written here could only have been written by a person of prayer, a holy person, a mystic. Only a person who knew Jesus intimately and prayed continually could speak in such a profound way.

From the time of his conversion, Paul accepted Christianity with great joy and enthusiasm – we might even add fanaticism, in the most positive sense of that word. As a consequence, and as a pleasant surprise, he discovers prayer in a whole new way. He discovers the new, richer, deeper relationship with God which is possible for a person who is baptised, a person who has received the Holy Spirit. [It would be interesting to ask Paul about his prayer before he became a Christian – all we know is that it is very different since he "met" Jesus].

Baptism, reception of the Holy Spirit, makes possible a deeper, richer and more complete relationship between a human being and God. Now something is possible that was never possible before and this fills Paul with great enthusiasm and joy and he wants all his Christians to know it and experience it.

However, there is a problem: It does not always "feel" like this. The Christian, despite having the gift of the Holy Spirit, often struggles to pray. Paradoxically, the deeper the prayer is the more the person has to struggle - Paul knew this very well from experience. That is the reason for the very helpful advice he gives in our second reading today. He is speaking to Christians who are struggling with their prayer. He wants to encourage and reassure them. The fact that they want to pray is a sure sign that they are praying. Their struggle to pray is a prayer in itself. They must trust in the Holy Spirit who is within them. They are still human and so there will always be a great distance between human knowledge and the power of God working in a hidden way within them. Paul's advice is this:

*‘The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God’.*

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

#### ***Young Adults Monday Group***

All young adults from the Parish are invited to come along to our Monday Group meeting tomorrow evening at 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, when the special guest speaker will be Fr Michael McGoldrick. His topic will be *“The Spirituality of Imperfection”*. Do please come, and bring a friend.

On the following Monday, 28 July, the group will celebrate *‘End of Term’* with quiet reflection, prayer, music, and thanksgiving to God for all the blessings he has given to our community over the past year. This will end with a small party.

#### ***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.

#### ***Readers’ Meeting***

Fr Michael is holding a **Readers’ meeting at 4.00pm** in the Priory today. All readers are invited.

We thank you for your contributions to the collection for **The Apostleship of the Sea** on Sunday last – the amount collected was **£575.64**.

#### ***World Youth Day***

***Something worth singing about ...*** Friday Stations of the Cross in front of the Sydney Opera House; Saturday, Pilgrimage walk across the harbour to Ranwick Race Course; an evening vigil with Pope Benedict and, on Sunday morning, the final Mass with the Holy Father, along with thousands and thousands and thousands of young people: *Carlo, Sinead and Zdenka* are at **World Youth Day** from our parish, with the Westminster Diocese. What a wonderful event! Follow the Westminster Pilgrims on [www.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.rcdow.org.uk) and the Holy Father’s inspiring words on [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)

#### ***Year of St Paul***

A date for your diaries: 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.

#### ***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***

- \* You are all invited to our monthly *Parish Gathering* after the 10 o’clock Mass this morning. Please join us downstairs in 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.

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

On Saturday 21 June 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 Martyrs”* with great energy and enthusiasm. We also thank all those who sponsored them so generously – the amount raised was **£940**. This money has been passed to **Caritas Internationalis China Earthquake Response**.