#### Feasts/Memorials

Monday	21	St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
Tuesday	22	St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr
Thursday	24	St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor
Friday	25	Conversion of St Paul, Apostle
Saturday	26	SS Timothy & Titus, Bishops

## Pre-Marriage Course for Engaged Couples

Holy Apostles Church, Pimlico, is running a pre-marriage Course for Engaged Couples in May. It is a one-hour course over three nights, from 7.00-9.00pm, as follows: Monday 12, Monday 19 and Thursday 22 May. The cost is £30 per couple. Address: Holy Apostles Parish Hall, 47 Cumberland St., Pimlico, SW1. Contact: Canon Pat Browne, Parish Priest. 020-7834-6965. patbrowne@rcdow.org.uk Early booking recommended.

#### 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 after the 6pm Mass till 8pm.

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**

20 January 2008 - Second Sunday of the Year

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.** It was an American Episcopalian Priest, Fr Paul Wattson, who first introduced this week of prayer and it was first celebrated on 18-25 January 1908. It is an opportunity for us to reflect and thank God for all that has been achieved over the past 100 years and to acknowledge the work and prayer of so many people both living and dead.

The desire for unity among all who believe in Jesus did not begin 100 years ago, it goes right back to Jesus himself: Jesus prayed at the Last Supper: "I pray not only for these, but for those also who through their words will believe in me. May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me".

Unity among believers is not just a desire that Jesus had, he saw it as essential for his mission: that the world may believe.

Disunity among Christians is something that began very early in Christianity. These words from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians speak of how serious a problem it was and of Paul's disappointment and frustration: 'I do appeal to you for the sake of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, be united again in your belief and practice... It is clear that there are serious differences among you'.

The emphasis this week is upon **prayer.** Prayer is the first duty of everyone who believes in Jesus Christ, it is the deeper relationship with Jesus that comes through prayer that draws us together and it is only prayer that can bring about the change of hearts and minds that unity requires.

#### **Peace Sunday**

This Sunday is Peace Sunday. You will remember the excellent talk Sr Mary Ann from the Assumption Convent gave us at all Masses this Sunday last year – she spoke particularly about the work of Pax Christi, the agency of the Catholic Church that works for peace. There is an obvious connection between the work for peace and the work for Christian unity. Let us be reminded of the words of Jesus: Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

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May that peace that Jesus gives be in our hearts and may we have the courage and generosity to share it with others.

**Education Sunday:** Today we are reminded of the great work done by all who educate our young – parents, grandparents, guardians, teachers, catechists, youth leaders and so many others who teach, help and influence the young in our families, Church and society. Jesus commanded his disciples to 'Go and teach all Nations'.

Praying and working for Christian Unity, peacemaking and education are all essential dimensions of the work of the Church. May our reflection on these be a reminder to us all that being a Christian carries responsibility for the good and welfare of all society and the whole world. May we be inspired this week by these words from St Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians: 'We appeal to you brothers and sisters; be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient to all. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you'.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Apparitions in Lourdes

To mark this very special anniversary Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor will celebrate a special Mass for the sick on Saturday 16 February at 3.00pm in the Cathedral. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass.

## Parish Mass for Sick and Elderly

We will have our own Mass for the sick and elderly on Saturday 9 February at 12.15pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during this Mass. Please encourage all who are sick and/or elderly to come to this Mass.

## Feast of Santo Niño

The Santo Niño Group of the Carmelite Church, Kensington, invites you to a Concelebrated Mass in celebration of the **Feast of the Santo Niño** (Divine Infant of Prague) on **Sunday next 27 January at 2pm** in this Church. There will be a reception in the Parish Centre after the Mass.

Today is Education Sunday. There will be a special collection after all Masses for the **Catholic Education Services**.

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

From 18-25 January we celebrate the **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the week of Christian Unity.** We ask you to pray especially for Christian unity during this week. Our Church will be hosting a special event of prayer and celebration on Thursday next 24 January at 7.00pm. I hope as many people as possible can come to support this event and to welcome the members of the other Christian Churches in Kensington who will be joining us. It promises to be a very prayerful and inspiring evening, and our choir, led by our organist Bruce Ogston, are preparing a very special musical treat.

## Talks on the Gospel of St Matthew

This year almost all our Sunday Gospel Readings are from the Gospel according to **St Matthew.** There will be two talks introducing this Gospel on the following dates:

Tuesday 5 February and Tuesday 12 February

Time: 7.30-9.00pm. These talks will be led by Fr Matt.

There will be two further talks in March led by Fr Iain, dates and theme to be announced later.

## Human Fertilisation & Embryology Bill

On Wednesday next 23 January at 8.00pm you are invited to a one-hour meeting at the Priory, chaired by Fr Iain, on the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Bill. The point of the meeting is to become aware of the implications of the Bill. iainmatthew@yahoo.com Tel: 07776 457 392

## Parents' Meeting

On Sunday 10 February, after the 10 o'clock Mass, we are having a **Parents' Meeting** for all those who have children presently enrolled in pre-Communion, post-Communion, First Communion and pre-Confirmation classes. It is an overview of our Religious Education Programme being carried out in our Church. It will be hosted by Fr Iain and will take place downstairs in the Parish Centre whilst the children are in class. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits, and parents can collect the children from class afterwards.

On Thursday next 24 January there will be a Funeral Mass at 12.15pm for **Estelle Barnes R.I.P.** 

