

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

3 February 2008 – Fourth Sunday of the Year

Feasts/Memorials

Tuesday	5	St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
Wednesday	6	Ash Wednesday
Friday	8	St Jerome Emiliani/ St Josephine Bakhita

Easter Sunday Children's Party

A very special event for children: On Easter Sunday 23 March there will be a special celebration for children after the 10 o'clock Mass. Like last year, there will be lots of fun and surprises, details will be announced nearer the time, but children please make a note of this event on Easter Sunday and be sure to come!

Volunteers needed by The London Irish Centre

The London Irish Centre is recruiting volunteers with basic D.I.Y. skills to carry out small repairs for vulnerable Irish people in their homes, e.g. small leak/broken light/worn carpet etc. Expenses will be reimbursed. Commitment would be for a few hours a month. Please contact Mary Leyne on 020-7328-9426 or e-mail: volunteerorganiser@btconnect.com

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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

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Lent

This week we begin the season of Lent. We begin on **Ash Wednesday** with ashes put on foreheads. This is a powerfully symbolic gesture to remind us of who we are, of our vulnerability and our end. Ashes are dead, useless, worthless and we throw them out. For us Christians they are a reminder of our total dependence on God.

We begin Lent with this humble reminder of who we are and we embark on a journey of faith, a journey that will lead us to the great celebration of who we become, through the death and Resurrection of Jesus. St. Paul, writing to the Christians in Corinth in our second reading today, reminds us of how Jesus has transformed our lives: *'The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom'*.

When the priest places the ashes on our foreheads during the Ash Wednesday Mass he says one of the following phrases:

(a) Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. To sin is to be on the wrong road, to have misunderstood how life should be lived, to be living life in a way not intended by the Creator. These words make it clear to us that we have a choice, we can change direction, we can do something radical to make our lives better. To understand sin perhaps we could look at the four words St. Paul uses in the line quoted above: We sin when we live by a *wisdom*, system or belief that does not come from God. We sin when we do not seek to live by Christian *virtues*. We sin when we are not striving to grow in *holiness*. We sin when we allow ourselves to become slaves to greed, self-interest, addictions or vices and so are not living lives of *freedom*.

(b) Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return. These words are a stark reminder of who we are, of our vulnerability and powerlessness. These words are a powerful incentive to seek to live our Christian lives better and to enter more deeply into the spirit of the season of Lent which we are beginning.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Lenten Alms

Each year we collect **Lenten Alms** for those both “at home” and “abroad” who are most in need. ***Within the Diocese*** the money collected this year will be for newly-arrived migrants in the diocese. Most especially the diocese will be supporting the work of *the Brothers of St John of God in Euston*, and the work of *the Sisters of Mercy in ‘The Women at the Well’ House in Kings Cross*, working with trafficked women.

Outside the Diocese our Lenten Alms will be for the relief of *the poor in Zimbabwe and for a particular project in South Africa*. Please be as generous as you can.

Who is my Neighbour?

If you have not already done so, please take a copy of this booklet. It is an excellent aid to prayer and reflection. It is designed to be used both individually and in groups, and it would make a particularly good form of family prayer and reflection for **Lent**.

Lenten Retreat

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the Wilderness....”

On Saturday next 9 February, there will be a Day Retreat at Maria Assumpta, 23 Kensington Square. The day will begin at 10am and will finish by 4pm. The Retreat is aimed especially at busy students or working people and will include prayer, quiet, sharing and a talk by Fr Iain. A simple lunch will be provided, with a suggested donation of £5 to cover costs. For further information and to reserve a place, contact Lucy on lmalenczuk@gmail.com or phone Sr. Cathy on 020-7361-4700.

150th Anniversary of Apparitions in Lourdes

To mark this very important 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. All are welcome.

Parish Mass for Sick and Elderly

We will have our own Mass for the sick and elderly at 12.15pm on Saturday next 9 February. 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.

Santo Niño

Once more this year's celebration was a great success. It is estimated that there were more than 1,000 people present – thank you all for coming. A special thanks to all who helped organise the day: the Santo Niño Group, the choir, altar servers, children and all who prepared and provided the food, and everyone else who helped and contributed.

Talks on the Gospel of St Matthew

This year almost all our Sunday Gospel Readings are from the Gospel according to **St Matthew**. You are all invited to two talks in the Priory introducing this Gospel on the following dates:

Tuesday next 5 February and Tuesday 12 February from 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.

Parents' Meeting

On Sunday next 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.

Tea/Coffee Morning for Senior Parishioners

On Sunday 17 February we invite all our senior parishioners to tea/coffee and biscuits, hosted by the pre-Communion and post-Communion children. This will take place in the Refectory immediately after the 10am Mass, at the same time as the Parish Gathering. Invitations will be issued shortly. The children are so looking forward to welcoming you.

Notices

- * **Wednesday next 6 February is Ash Wednesday.** It is a day of Fast and Abstinence. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.
- * Monday 11 February, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, is **World Day of prayer for the Sick**
- * Fr Iain will hold a **Readers' Meeting** on Sunday 17 February at 3pm. All readers are invited.