

<i>Feasts/Memorials</i>		
Monday	11	Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
Thursday	14	SS Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe

Readers Required

We need more Readers for our 8.00am and 12.15 weekday Masses. If you would like to be considered for this very important ministry in the Mass, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554.

What do you do for Lent...?

Take five stops to Easter: Come along to 'Mind the Gap' – a series of Lenten talks starting on 12 February at 7pm, for five consecutive Tuesdays, at Corpus Christi Church, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden. For further details e-mail: info@spiritinthecity.org Tel: 020-7025-1596

The Beginning Experience

The Beginning Experience, London Team, is holding a weekend for those who find themselves alone again through divorce, separation or bereavement. This will take place from 4th – 6th April at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham. For details telephone Eileen on 020-8992-0822.

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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 (<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

10 February 2008 – First Sunday of Lent

Jesus in the Wilderness

Let's look at the first sentence and the last sentence of our Gospel today:

- * Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- * Then the devil left him, and the Angels appeared and looked after him.

Reading these two sentences it would appear to us that God takes Jesus out into the wilderness and abandons him into the hands of the devil for a while and then returns later when the devil has left and looks after Jesus again. Is this how we are meant to understand it? Looks like it!

What we forget is that Jesus is not just physically human, he also has a human inner world and a human spiritual life. The scenario above is very familiar to us. When we most need God he is most absent. Where is he when big decisions have to be taken? Why does he not just tell me the right things to do? Why will he not help with these inner struggles? Why do I keep making the same mistakes? Why do I not make progress in overcoming these weaknesses?

We could create an endless list of these types of questions. They are the questions that confront us when we stop and reflect on our lives. We each have an inner world that we struggle with and, for the most part, fail to understand, control or change. When life confronts us with difficult questions or decisions we feel very much alone, other people do not understand and God seems distant and unhelpful.

In biblical language "*forty days and forty nights*" means a life time, Jesus had to live his human life struggling with the inner questions, turmoil and temptations that confront every human being. In other words Jesus experienced in a very full and complete way the inner hunger of humanity.

Jesus does not leave the wilderness with "answers" but he leaves with great strength, the strength that will take him through the rest of his life and ministry. It is a strength that comes from doing the right thing, taking the right decisions and being true to oneself. We are given an insight into Jesus' inner world through this Gospel and particularly in the responses he makes:

1. 'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'. Jesus is not prepared to live by answers, solutions and lifestyles that seem to satisfy but in the long term do not. Only life lived as God created it to be lived really satisfies a human being.

2. 'You must not put the Lord your God to the test'. Jesus is going to live life according to the will of God the Father. He will not deviate from or question that but in order to live it he must really know himself, he must be secure in his own identity. Self knowledge is essential to living the will of God.

3. 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone'. Life will always confront us with other possibilities that look more attractive. We all get carried away by what feeds and inflates our ego and pride. We easily turn ourselves, our position or some other cause or "kingdom" into a false God. When we know the truth of ourselves then we will also get to know the true God. That ultimately is the lesson Jesus had to learn in the desert, he had to confront his own weakness in order to know God and to carry out God's will in his life.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Rite of Election

This afternoon adults preparing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist this Easter, and those preparing to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church, are gathering at Westminster Cathedral to celebrate the **Rite of Election**. Everyone is asked to pray for the candidates. The following prayer is being used throughout the Diocese this year:-

God of love and power, it is your will to establish everything in Christ and to draw us into his all-embracing love. Guide these chosen brothers and sisters of ours, strengthen them in their vocation, build them into the kingdom of your Son, and seal them with the Spirit of your promise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

150th Anniversary of Apparitions in Lourdes

To mark the 150th Anniversary of Apparitions in Lourdes, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor will celebrate a special Mass for the sick on Saturday next 16 February at 3.00pm in the Cathedral. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass. All are welcome.

Who is My Neighbour? – Lenten Programme

Our **Daily Meditations** contained in this booklet starts today Sunday, for you to follow privately at home, and starting on Tuesday next 12 February at 11.15am we begin our series of weekly **Lenten Group Reflections** in the Priory. For those who don't yet have the booklet, there are still a few available from the back of the Church.

Our **Monday Group** will also be following this Lenten programme for the next six weeks, with meditation and group reflection.

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 the second of two talks on this Gospel given by Fr Matt on Tuesday next 12 February from 7.30-9.00pm. There will be two further talks in March led by Fr Iain, dates and theme to be announced later.

Notices

- * There will be **Stations of the Cross** after the 6pm Mass every Friday during Lent.
- * Tomorrow Monday 11 February, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, is **World Day of Prayer for the Sick**.
- * Fr Iain will hold a **Parents' Meeting** after the 10 o'clock Mass this morning for all those who have children presently enrolled in pre-Communion/post-Communion/First Communion & pre-Confirmation classes. This will take place downstairs in the Parish Centre.
- * We will have our **Parish Family Gathering** next Sunday morning 17 February after the 10 o'clock Mass. You are all invited downstairs for tea/coffee and friendly chat.
- * Also on Sunday next, after the 10 o'clock Mass, our pre-Communion and post-Communion children are laying on tea/coffee and biscuits in the Refectory for our **Senior Parishioners**. Do please come as the children are looking forward to welcoming you.
- * Fr Iain will hold a **Readers' Meeting** on Sunday next 17 February at 3pm. All readers are invited.

Family Lenten Fast Day for CAFOD

Friday next 15 February is **Family Lenten Fast Day** and on Sunday next your fast day offerings for **CAFOD** will be taken up at 10am.