

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

17 February 2008 – Second Sunday of Lent

<i>Feasts/Memorials</i>		
Thursday	21	St Peter Damian
Friday	22	Chair of St Peter, Apostle, Feast
Saturday	23	St Polycarp

Talks at St Patrick's, Soho Square

A series of talks for young people has been organised by St Patrick's Soho Square, entitled '*Love and Responsibility*', to mark the 40th Anniversary of the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. These talks will seek to unpack and explain the Church's teaching on the truth and meaning of human sexuality in a way that is challenging, encouraging and healing. The series will commence on Wednesday 27 February, starting with supper at 6.15pm followed at 7.00pm with the talk. For full details, visit: www.stpatricksoho.org

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.

Transfiguration

When reading a Gospel story pay particular attention to the location; where an event happens tells us so much about the meaning of what is taking place. Last Sunday we were in the desert or the wilderness, today we are at the top of a high mountain. In the bible, whenever we hear of a wilderness or desert or mountain, we know we are in a privileged place of meeting with God. These are the locations where the great meetings with God take place: *Moses on Mount Horeb, Moses and the people of Israel in the desert, Elijah on Mount Carmel and Mount Horeb, Elijah in the Negev desert* etc.

We are not told what mountain they are on, we are only told it was high or very high and that they are alone or in private. What makes this meeting different to anything Moses or Elijah or any of the figures from the past experienced is that Jesus went up the mountain with them and came back down with them. On the mountain they saw Jesus differently, saw something of his Divinity but it was clearly the same Jesus who had taken them up the mountain and accompanied them down. What is this saying then? It is an occasion of prayer, time spent privately with Jesus, a private meeting with God. The person the disciples saw at the top of the mountain is Jesus who is with them all the time. So it is with us; he is with us all the time, we can meet him privately anywhere, "the high mountain" is where Jesus is, in our hearts, lives, experiences, the people we meet etc.

Like Peter, James and John, we meet Jesus in all sorts of circumstances, situations and experiences, but like them also we do not understand and are confused, frightened and at times put off. We must heed the advice he gave to his disciples on their way down from the mountain: '*Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead*'. Only after the Resurrection will his disciples understand – the **Resurrection** is essential to all understanding of Jesus.

Jesus is preparing his disciples for the difficult and challenging experience which his death will be for them. The lesson he teaches them is helpful to us also when the demands of being disciples of Jesus seem too much. Let us just look at two basic principles that will help us to understand Christian experience [these are particularly important when Christianity is difficult or unattractive]:-

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1. However we are experiencing or not experiencing Jesus now, the experience can only be understood in the light of scripture, history and tradition - it cannot be understood in isolation. The disciples needed, and will need more and more, the experience of Moses, Elijah, and all who have gone before in order to understand, accept and live what is now taking place. We do not live discipleship of Jesus in isolation, we are part of a bigger picture - this is God's great work of salvation and each of us plays a little but essential part of it.

2. The **Resurrection** is essential to our understanding of Christianity. Whatever we are experiencing we must see it in the light of the Resurrection; Jesus has risen from the dead and that is our source of strength and hope however difficult the situation may be.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Who is My Neighbour? – Lenten Programme

Our Lenten **Group Reflections** started in the Priory on Tuesday last, led by Fr. Iain. These meetings will continue throughout Lent but please note that on Tuesday next 19 February it will start at 9.15am. You are all invited.

St Mary's Cadogan Street – Marriage Preparation

St Mary's Cadogan Street have prepared a Marriage Preparation Spring Communication Day for Saturday 1 March. This is offered to couples who wish to complement their own marriage preparation. The venue is our Carmelite Parish Centre. The day commences at 11.00am and ends around 4.30pm. The cost is £40 per couple. For all enquiries and to book: email: chelsea1@rcdow.org.uk Telephone Parish Secretary on: 020-7589-5487 (between 9.00am and 3.00pm only).

An Evening for Recently-Married Couples

On Tuesday 26 February there will be a special event in the Priory for recently-married couples (up to 5 years) from the Parish. All those who come under this category are warmly invited. For full details of the evening, please e-mail Luciana on: ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk or telephone Fr Iain on 07776-457392.

Easter Sunday Children's Party

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 date and be sure to come!

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*. You will find a special box at the back of the church for your contributions. Your kind generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Rite of Election

Last weekend, 653 adults from the Diocese of Westminster gathered in the Cathedral for the 2008 '**Rite of Election**' ceremonies, presided over by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor. Everyone is asked to please pray for these people as they journey in faith towards receiving the Sacraments at Easter.

Two Lenten Talks

You are all invited to two Lenten talks given by Fr Iain starting on Tuesday 4 March – this talk entitled ***Why did Jesus Die?*** and the second on Tuesday 11 March, entitled ***Christianity – A Resurrection Faith***. These will be held in the Priory from 7.30-9.00pm.

Notices

- * We will have the **Stations of the Cross** after the 6pm Mass every Friday during Lent.
- * Our **Parish Family Gathering** takes place this morning after the 10 o'clock Mass. You are all invited downstairs for tea/coffee and friendly chat.
- * Also this morning, after the 10 o'clock Mass, our young children from Catechism classes are looking forward to welcoming a group of **Senior Parishioners** for tea/coffee and biscuits in the Refectory.

CAFOD Collection

Friday last was **Family Lenten Fast Day**, and your fast day offerings for **CAFOD** will be taken up after all Masses today.