

Sept.

Feasts/Memorials

Monday 1 St Teresa Margaret Redi, Virgin, Carmelite
Wednesday 3 St Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor
Thursday 4 St Cuthbert, Bishop

Marriage Preparation Course – Autumn 2008 Schedule

There will be a Marriage Preparation Course at St Mary's Rectory, Draycott Terrace, SW3, starting on Tuesday 14 October and continuing fortnightly on Tuesday 28 October, 11 November, 25 November and 9 December (5 sessions) from 8.00-9.30pm – with an additional session on Saturday 15 November from 11.00am-4.15pm – venue to be announced. The cost for the 5 Tuesday sessions is £100 per couple, and payment should be made when registering for the course, cheques payable to St Mary's Church. To book: email: chelseal@rcdow.org.uk or telephone: 020-7589-5487.

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Readers required for certain weekday 12.15pm and Sunday 8.30am Masses. If you would like to be considered for this very important ministry in the Mass, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554.

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 from 6.30-8.00pm.

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

31 August 2008 – Twenty Second Sunday of the Year

Jesus and Peter

Let us listen again to the words of Jesus to Peter in our Gospel today: “*Get behind me Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God’s way but man’s*”.

These are strong words, in fact very strong words. Let us remind ourselves of the context. We should read last Sunday’s Gospel with this Sunday’s Gospel – they go together. Last Sunday, Peter is praised for getting it right, for speaking words that did not come from human beings but from God. Now Peter’s way of thinking is not God’s but man’s. In the same conversation Peter gets it right and wrong, is a hero and a villain, enjoys success and fails spectacularly.

Peter’s “crime” is to want a Christianity without the cross. When we try to present the Christian message without the cross, we fail Jesus, we become an obstacle in his path, we become *Satan*, we think in a way that is opposed to God. (I will return to this in another newsletter!).

This passage of Matthew’s Gospel is a teaching about the Church. We see in Peter the Church at its best and at its worst. The Church is always going to be where Peter is in this Gospel passage: at the crossroads between God and humanity, success and failure, good and evil, God’s way and human ways.

Peter is each one of us. Peter had to fail, it was a necessary part of his journey, of his learning experience. Peter had to pick himself up after this failure [the worst possible failure for the leader of Christ’s Church].

Failure is part of human life, in fact it is an essential part of successful human life. This is something which the Gospel teaches us so well and is one of the lessons the early Church had to learn, often in very painful ways. When we worship success and condemn failure too strongly, we destroy human life and human potential. Jesus gives Peter another chance and he becomes a stronger and great leader because of it. It will not be his last mistake but each mistake will be a vital growing experience for him.

I am reminded of what a priest [now in heaven] who was my spiritual director for many years once said to me: “*You know, Matt, the most important lesson Jesus Christ taught humanity: to fail – never forget that*”. I think Peter would know what he meant!

Fr Matt Blake Prior

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

This programme is for (a) Adults who wish to be baptised, (b) Adult Catholics who are baptised but who have not received First Communion and/or Confirmation and (c) 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

Marriage Preparation Sessions for Engaged Couples

Our Lady of Victories Church in Kensington has organised preparation sessions for couples planning to marry in the Catholic Church. This new service in the parish is based on 'ENGAGE', a highly motivational programme. These will be held in the Parish Hall, entrance next to 16 Abingdon Road, on Mondays as follows: 29 September, 6th October and 13th October from 7.30-9.30pm, and on Saturday 18 October from 11.00am until after the 6.30pm Mass. Cost is £40 per couple. For application form please contact The Secretary, Clergy House, 16 Abingdon Rd, London W8 6AF. Tel: 020-7937-4778.

Volunteer Required to teach Conversational English

A request from the Convent of the Religious of Mary Immaculate for a *volunteer to teach conversational English* to a group of Spanish workers on one early-evening a week. No knowledge of Spanish required, books are supplied and guidance can be given. A September start is desirable. Please contact Sister Carmen at 16 Southwell Gardens, SW7 4RN. Tel: 020-7373-3869.

Pre-Marriage Procedure

If there are any couples planning to get married within the next year, it is very important they come and see Fr Iain or Fr Matt without delay so that marriage preparation and all the paperwork can be completed well in advance.

A Day with Mary

You are all invited to our ***Day with Mary*** here in this Church on Saturday 13 September, starting at 10.00am with Entrance Procession and Crowning, followed by Mass in honour of Our Lady, celebrated by Fr Matt Blake.

Convent of the Assumption Kensington Square

The Sisters of the Assumption in Kensington Square are concluding negotiations to sell part of their property to the Society of Jesus for Heythrop College. The Sisters are retaining ownership of the convent, the chapel and No 20 Kensington Square, and will continue to live there.

Carmelite Forum - London Annual Conference

The Carmelite Forum London Annual Conference will take place in the Priory, Kensington, on Saturday 20 September, starting at 11.00am (Registration at 10.30am), and ending with Evening Prayer in the Church at 5.00pm. The theme this year is '***Remarkable Carmelite Women***' – St Mary Magdalen de'Pazzi, St Teresa de Los Andes and Bl Miriam of Jesus Crucified. The Keynote Speaker will be Professor Donna Orsuto, an American lay woman, Professor of Spirituality at the Gregorian University in Rome.. The fee is £20 for the day or part thereof. Cheques payable to: Carmelite Forum. (Please bring a packed lunch) A leaflet is available from Reception Desk

Carmelite Youth Day, Saturday 11 October

Our Carmelite Youth Day is fast approaching and it is our hope that every young adult (16-35 approx) who comes to this Church will attend this special event in October. Please pass the word on to every young person you know. Full details of the day's programme will shortly be available.

Notices

Our **Parish Advisory Group Meeting** will take place on Sunday next 7 September at 7.00pm in the Priory. If there are any matters you would like raised at this meeting, kindly hand them in at Reception, attention Fr Matt.

Our Young Adults **Monday Group** resumes on Monday 8 September, following their summer break, at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Welcome Back

Welcome back to all who have been away for their Summer break. Hope you had a happy and enjoyable time. And I wish all children and students God's blessing and guidance as they go forward into their new school year.

(Fr Matt)

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 an absorbing and beautiful read, with contributions from some well-known writers. Highly recommended - an ideal book to take away with you on holiday. Price £2.50.