

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 29 June 2008 – Feast of St Peter & Paul

<u>June</u>		<i>Feasts/Memorials</i>
Monday	30	Protomartyrs of the Holy Roman Church
<u>July</u>		
Thursday	3	St Thomas, Apostle, Feast
Friday	4	St Elizabeth of Portugal
Saturday	5	St Anthony Zaccaria, Priest

First Holy Communion Catechesis 2008-09

Children aged seven years upwards are welcome to our programme of preparation for **First Holy Communion**, beginning the new catechism year in September/October 2008. Registration forms are now available from the Reception desk. We will also have a programme of Early Catechism for younger children (i.e. *5/6 and 6/7 year olds*) as well as Post-Communion Catechism classes. These classes will take place in the Priory on Sunday mornings after the 10 o'clock Mass.

Also young people aged 13 years and over who wish to be prepared to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** next year should pick up an application form from the Reception Desk and complete and return it to Fr Iain.

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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 (<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
Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB	
Tel: 020-7937-9866 Fax: 020-7938-1470	
Registered Charity No: 253645.	

The Letter to the Romans

Paul tells us: *For I am not ashamed of the Good News: It is the power of God saving all who have faith – Jews first, but Greeks as well – since this is what reveals the justice of God to us: it shows how faith leads to faith, or as scripture says: “the upright man finds life through faith”.*

In last Sunday's newsletter I quoted the opening of the letter; Paul tells us he is a servant (or slave) of Jesus Christ, he is called to be an apostle and he is chosen to preach the Good News (or Gospel). We are in the early years of Christianity and the coming of Jesus, the Jesus event, the Jesus phenomena is fresh, new and its implications are yet to be worked out. Paul never met Jesus personally but he is convinced of his calling to be an Apostle. “The power of God” Paul has experienced personally in his own life and he has seen it at work over and over again in the Churches he has founded.

While the Good News is welcomed by many, it is facing both opposition and misunderstanding everywhere. The time has come to explain what it is all about and its far reaching implications for humanity. The *Letter to the Romans* is Paul's attempt to explain. Let's try to paraphrase his explanation:

God has created the world and he has revealed Himself to his chosen people, the Jews (who are also Paul's people). Sin was not of God's design or making, yet all of humanity has sinned (Jews and non-Jews alike). This leads humanity into a situation of disaster, a situation that can only end in death. Humanity on its own is powerless to change the situation.

The Power of God changes everything and that power is revealed in Jesus Christ. Through Jesus we come to know the **Justice of God** [these two phrases are so important in understanding the *Letter to the Romans*]. God's limitless generosity is poured out to humanity in Jesus Christ. The key to receiving it is **Faith** [this is the other important word we must look out for when reading this letter].

Everything Jesus did in his life is both foretold and explained in the scriptures [hence Paul's rather long and at times complex arguments from scripture]. Paul is very keen that his readers understand this – the whole teaching about Jesus is totally consistent with the scriptures.

By the scriptures Paul, of course, means what we call the *Old Testament* [the New Testament is not written yet]. To believe in the scriptures without believing in Jesus is to have an incomplete knowledge of God. The Power and Justice of God are fully made known by Jesus and all people of faith know this.

In the past, access to God was dependent on being a member of the Jewish race [that is following the law of Moses]. Now that has totally changed – now it is faith that opens us up to the power of God. It is no longer necessary to belong to the Jewish race to be a full recipient of all that God is giving.

All believers have been given the Holy Spirit; *‘Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God... The spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God’.*

The majority of Jews rejected Jesus, so the future Church [God’s new chosen people] will be primarily Gentile. This too is according to God’s plan, a plan that God has had from the very beginning. So what about the majority of the Jewish people? They are still God’s chosen people, they are still first in God’s plan. God does not go back on his choices or withhold his promises. All God’s promises to the Jewish people still hold.

Paul concludes the letter as follows: *‘I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to Him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen’.*

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Our Young Adults Monday Group

All young adults who come to our Church are warmly invited to our Monday Group meeting tomorrow evening at 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. They will be marking the start of **The Year of St Paul** in a special way, and Fr Matt will be guest speaker. He will give a fresh insight into the life and mission of St Paul.

There will be a **Funeral Mass** at 12.15pm on Thursday next 3 July for **Patrick Longi R.I.P.**

St Patrick’s Evangelisation School

St Patrick’s Evangelisation School (SPES) is a 9-month course forming young adults in the Catholic faith. It brings together an international group of students in central London for complete study of the Catechism, community living and practical outreach initiatives while maintaining a common life of prayer. This is a life-changing experience for young adults between the ages of 20-30. There are eight places available, beginning this October 2008. For further information email: spes@stpatricksoho.org or 020-7434-9965, website: www.stpatricksoho.org/spes

The Passage Annual Garden Party

The Passage will be holding their annual Garden Party in the College Garden of Westminster Abbey on Wednesday 23 July, from 5.30pm-8.30pm. Tickets at £22 each include wine, soft drinks, a buffet supper and live music, available from The Passage, St Vincent’s Centre, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1NL. Tel: 020-7592-1856. email: tickets@passage.org.uk You are asked to please support the excellent work The Passage does for homeless people in Central London.

Day for Life 2008

On Sunday next we will celebrate **A Day for Life**, which this year will focus on mental health. The aim of the day is to help raise awareness of the needs of those affected by mental ill-health, their friends and their families. There will be a collection after all Masses to support Day for Life.

Notices

- * Today is a **Special Day of Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI**, and our 12.15 Mass will be offered for His Holiness.
- * Today is also a **Day of Prayer for Vocations**, and the 6.00 o’clock Mass will be offered for Vocations.
- * The **Brown Scapular Devotions to Our Lady of Mount Carmel** will take place on Saturday next 5 July after the 6.00pm Mass. All are invited
- * On Sunday next 6 July we will have our annual **Parish Picnic**. We will meet at **1 o’clock in Kensington Gardens** on the grass in front of the gates of Kensington Palace. Please bring something to share.

There will be the customary Collection for **Peter’s Pence** after all Masses today, Feast of St Peter & Paul – for the special charities of our Holy Father, the Pope.