

July

Feasts/Memorials

Monday	11	St Benedict, Patron of Europe
Wednesday	13	St Teresa of Jesus de los Andes, Virgin, Carmelite
Thursday	14	St Camillus of Lellis, Feast
Friday	15	St Bonaventure, Priest & Doctor
Saturday	16	Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Catechism, First Communion and Confirmation 2011/2012

Enrolment forms for **Catechism**: children 4-6 years and 8-12 years; **First Communion**: children who will have reached their 7th birthday by 31 August 2011, and **Confirmation**: young people who will have reached their 13th birthday by 31 December 2011, are now available from the back of the Church and also at our Reception Desk. Please collect and complete them as soon as possible.

Notices

- * Friday next 15 July will be the last session of **Mothers/Babies & Toddlers Playgroup** for the present term. The new time is from 3.00 - 4.00pm. See details on Church notice-boards.
- * We will have our monthly *Parish Gathering* on Sunday next 17 July after the 10.00am Mass when you are all invited downstairs for tea/coffee and to socialise with your friends.
- * There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** from 6.30-7.30pm Monday - Thursday this coming week, plus Friday for *Vocations to the Priesthood*.

Weekday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
 Saturday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (*Vigil for Sunday*)
 Sunday Masses: 8.30am, 10.00am (*with Choir*) 11.00am **Latin Choir**
 12.15pm, 6.00pm **Young Adults Choir**
 Holy Day Masses 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
 Bank Holiday Masses: 9.00am, 12.15pm (no 6.00pm Mass)
 Weekday Confessions: 5.30-5.50pm - Priest on duty except 12 Noon-3pm
 Saturday Confessions: 10.30-11.45am, 3.30-5.50pm
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“Tongues of Fire” – Sacred Music

This Carmelite Priory was founded in 1862 by **Fr. Hermann Cohen**. He had already built up an international reputation as a musician and composer. He was a student, and later became a companion of Franz Liszt. When he built the Church in 1866 he had a *Cavaillé-Coll* Organ [famous French organ-builders] installed, and among the organists to play at the grand opening was a young 21 year-old Charles-Marie Widor.

From the beginning, music and choirs have been a very important part of this Church. That is still true today and it is this tradition I would like to celebrate today in this series of ***Tongues of Fire*** [signs of the Holy Spirit]. I am reminded of the famous words of St Augustine: “*he who sings prays twice*”. Those who sing and play music lead us all in prayer, praise and worship. The beauty of their sound and words lifts our hearts and minds to God and remind us of the eternal worship of God in heaven. Furthermore, the Church has always used music and song, like other art forms, as a means of proclaiming the Gospel.

11.00am Choir: This choir has a long and rich history. It is much loved and is the reason so many people come to this Church. Not only on Sundays but so many special occasions are enriched by the music of our organist and singers. “You expose us to the richness of the Church’s music tradition and in doing so you raise our hearts and minds to the beauty, wonder and mystery of God and his presence in human life”.

The Church teaches: “*The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than any other art form. The main reason for this pre-eminence is that, as a combination of sacred music and words, it forms a necessary or integral part of solemn liturgy*”.

10.00am Choir: “You are the heart of our biggest and most alive congregation. The faith and prayer life of so many of our families, children, adults and others is built up through the help and leadership of your music and singing. Your role in our parish has grown and developed over the years. You act as hosts for our *Parish Gathering* and thus play a

very important part in building up the parish community. The annual **Santo Niño** celebration is probably the largest congregation we get in our Church and is a very visible witness to the power of faith and prayer”.

Sunday Evening Choir: This Mass is much loved by so many people. The choir helps to make this Mass a very prayerful and profound experience. Singing in a choir, playing music in Church, are acts of service and leadership. Those who do so are enriched and changed by the experience. They are also challenged to use and develop their gifts. The choir has been using its gifts to raise funds for Charity. The many Carol Concerts and other special events are a consequence of people’s commitment to serve God in this way. I remember with great joy the Carol Concerts at the Tube Station – a powerful witness to Christianity and the real meaning of Christmas.

Finally, the Church reminds us that the purpose of Church music is “*the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful*”. There are so many signs that these two purposes are being fulfilled by our choirs and musicians. This is truly a work of the **Holy Spirit** in our midst. God is given glory through gifted people who give their time and expertise to lead us all in prayer and worship. We are all drawn closer to God through this and are inspired to other works of charity and service.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Pastoral Letter by the Archbishop of Westminster

Receiving Holy Communion: You will find enclosed in your Newsletter today a Pastoral Letter from the Archbishop of Westminster, Rev. Vincent Nichols. This is a very important document reminding us of the great gift of the **Blessed Sacrament**, and the reverence and love with which we should receive **Holy Communion**. You are asked to study this document carefully and if you have children, please read it to them also.

Br Alex Ezechukwu OCD - Solemn Profession of Vows

I would like to thank all who came to the Mass of *Solemn Profession of Vows of Br. Alex Ezechukwu OCD* on Saturday last 2 July, and also all who helped or contributed in any way in making it such a joyous occasion, and a special thank you to our singer Breda McKinney and organist who provided such beautiful music.

Fr Matt

A Date for your Diaries!

On Sunday 24 July, after the 6.00pm Mass, we will have a relaxed **Parish Social Evening** in honour of **Fr Matt** and **Fr Bob** who will be leaving us shortly. We invite all our parishioners to come and show your support and gratitude to the two Fathers, and help make it a happy occasion – if you bring some food, we will provide the drinks! (*Fr Iain*)

Triduum for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

In preparation for the **Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel** on Saturday next 16 July, we will have a **Triduum** in our Church starting after the 6.00pm Mass this Wednesday 13 July, also Thursday 14, and ending on Friday 15 July. You are all invited to attend these special devotions in honour of **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**. The times of Masses on the **Feast** on Saturday 16th will be as weekdays, i.e. 8.00am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm, but a reminder that the 6.00pm Mass will be the Vigil of Sunday.

Mass for the Sick and Elderly

We will have a Mass for *the Sick and Elderly of the Parish* at 12.15pm on Saturday 23 July. 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 if they can.

Young Adults Monday Group

Our *Young Adults Monday Group* will meet in the Parish Centre at 7.30 for 8.00pm tomorrow Monday 11 July. The theme for discussion will be “*Three Parables about the Kingdom of God*”, as they reflect on next Sunday’s Gospel (Matthew 13:24-43 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time). All young adults who come to our Church are very welcome to join them. Entrance to the Parish Centre via Pitt St.

Sea Sunday

Today is **Sea Sunday**, when the Church remembers all those who live and work at sea. Many people have never stopped to consider how important seafarers are to our standard of living. The **Apostleship of the Sea** reaches out to seafarers and visit our ports, offering practical support and care. There will be a Special Collection after all Masses today in support of the **Apostleship of the Sea**. Your kind generosity will be greatly appreciated.