

Feasts/Memorials

Nov:

Monday 29 - Bl. Denis & Redemptus, Martyrs (Carmelites)
Tuesday 30 - St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland - Feast

Dec:

Friday 3 - St Francis Xavier, Priest
(Migrants' Day)
Saturday 4 - St John Damascene, Priest & Doctor

Readers Required

We need more readers for our **Weekday Masses**, particularly the **12.15pm**. If you would like to be considered for this very important ministry in the Mass, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554, or leave your details at Reception and we will get back to you.

Clothes for the Homeless in Kensington

As announced in our Newsletter of 14 November, the **Community of Sant' Egidio**, a movement of lay people who help the homeless, were appealing for clothes for the homeless, especially in the High St. Kensington area. In this connection we would like to thank all who gave so generously to this appeal. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays from 6.30-8.00pm
Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB

Tel: 020-7937-9866 Fax: 020-7938-1470

Registered Charity No: 253645

Our Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 28 November 2010 - First Sunday of Advent

Advent

In our first reading today we have the prophet Isaiah at prayer. He is reflecting upon the world in which he lives and the lives of the people around him. It is a world being ravaged by wars and conflicts, a world that has lost its sense of direction and a world ignoring the law of God. Isaiah has a vision, or dream, of a world in which everyone recognises God and is united around the worship of God and obedience to the universal law of God. These words sum up the prophet's thinking: "*God will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war: O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord*".

This is a vision born out of prayer and serious reflection on human experience and world history. It is not naivety; Isaiah can see clearly the wisdom of "walking in the light of the Lord" and the folly of believing we can live and order human affairs without the wisdom that comes from a God who can "wield authority over nations and adjudicate between peoples". When people recognise God and accept that they are answerable to God for how they live and the decisions they take, then they instinctively turn away from war and conflict. The result is that the energy and ingenuity currently put into war, conflict and rivalry is now put into human and economic development.

Isaiah sets an example for us as we begin our season of **Advent**. This is a time to bring into our prayer the needs, concerns and uncertainties that our world of today faces. In our day, just like in the time of Isaiah, there is need for a radical change in thinking and operating. Only God can give us the wisdom, strength and courage to make the kind of changes that need to be made. These changes are not just in the world around us, the most challenging and most effective changes that need to be made are in the human heart and mind.

Advent is a time of preparation for the great meetings of God and humanity. God and the human race become one when Jesus is born – we will all have to answer to God when he comes at the end of time. At the

time of Isaiah, mountains were the great places of meeting with God, Jerusalem was the place of worship and the place to learn the law of God. Now is the time for us to meet God in our hearts, to reflect on our lives, actions and decisions and to turn to God with truthfulness, humility and openness. Isaiah puts the invitation so well: *“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths; since he Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem”*.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Children’s Christmas Celebration on Sunday 5th December

On Sunday next 5th December, after the 10 o’clock Mass, our annual **Children’s Christmas Event** will take place from 11.00am – 12.15, in the Parish Centre.

There will be a **Nativity Play** with some **Carol Singing**. All children who come to our Church are warmly invited to attend. To conclude this Advent event, there will be some refreshments and nice things to eat for all the children and parents.

Reminder: Will parents of younger children, please note there will **not** now be a further Christmas Party on Saturday 11 December, as announced in our earlier Newsletter. Those children are included in the Christmas event on 5th December outlined above. (Fr Iain)

Gathering for Young Married Couples

Our next *Gathering for Young Married Couples* will take place on Tuesday 7th December from 7.30-9.00pm. The gathering is a time when young couples come to the Carmelite Priory and enjoy friendly conversation over a glass of wine. We follow this with some input relevant to marriage or being parents, and general discussion. Contact: Fr Iain 07776-457392. iainmatthew@yahoo.com

Flowers for the Church

Donations towards Flowers for the Church for Christmas will be gratefully accepted. Contributions may be handed in at Reception in an envelope marked *“Flowers for the Church”*. Thank you.

*We thank you for your contributions to the collection on Sunday last for the **Catholic Youth Service**. The amount collected was **£549.65**.*

Carol Service in our Church

On **Sunday 12 December**, at 7.00pm (immediately after the 6.00pm Mass), you are all invited to a **Carol Concert** performed by singers from our Sunday Evening Choir, conducted by Daniela, plus some special musical accompaniments. There will also be appropriate Christmas scripture readings by some young people from the Parish. The performance will run for approximately one hour, following which you are all cordially invited to the Refectory for some refreshments and mince pies. Entrance to the concert is free but donations to the *Catholic Children’s Society* will be gratefully accepted.

Craft Project – December 1st “Big Stitch Up”

The Craft Team is recruiting more volunteers for its Christmas Project. Come join us for the **“Big Stitch Up”** on Wednesday next 1st December where, as a community, we will get sewing on our images of the *Baby Jesus* over tea and cakes from 10.00am– 12 Noon at the Carmelite Church (Reception entrance). Our goal is to make 800 felt images to be distributed to the congregation on the Third Sunday of Advent, 12th December. These will be passed on to believers and non-believers as a reminder of God’s presence and love. Everybody welcome!

Children’s Winter Cinema

Our next film showing in our *Winter Cinema for Children* series will be on Sunday 12 December at 3.00pm. The title of the film will be announced in next week’s Newsletter. All children who come to our Church are invited. Enquiries: ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk (Luciana)

Notices

* **Our Mothers and Babies Group** will take place at the revised time of 3.30pm – 5.00pm on Friday next 3rd December. New children very welcome. Contact: Deirdre Tel: 07946-544398.

Today is the **First Sunday of Advent** when we begin **Year A** in the Lectionary for Sundays and Feasts; and for weekdays until Christmas, we follow the Advent daily readings. Today’s readings can be found on **Page 26** in your new Mass Books.