

November:

- Tuesday 2 - Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed
(All Souls Day)
- Wednesday 3 - St Winefrede, Virgin/
St Martin de Porres, Religious
- Thursday 4 - St Charles Borromeo, Bishop
- Saturday 6 - Bl. Josepha Naval Girbes, Virgin - Carmelite

Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School
Events at St James's Spanish Place

On Wednesday 24 November at St James's Spanish Place, the Schola Cantorum of the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School will perform **Monteverdi's Vespers of the Blessed Virgin**, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £12. (concessions £8), available from the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School. Tel: 020-7603-8478 (See poster on our Church notice-board).

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On Tuesday 7 December at St James's Spanish Place, the Choir of the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, with the Belgravia Chamber Orchestra and leading singers, will perform Johannes Brahms '**A German Requiem**' starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £20, £16, £12 (concessions half price), available from Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School. Tel: 020-7603-8478.

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 **Sung**, 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
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Our Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 31 October 2010 - Solemnity of All Saints

Holy People

Today we celebrate the Feast of **All Saints**. These are the people who have lived Christianity well, people we call Holy. Yet when we ask the question: What is Holiness? we find it very difficult to come up with a satisfactory answer. I would like to pick out some aspects of Holiness, some characteristics or traits of these people.

Humility: Holy people are in touch with their own weakness, vulnerability and failures. They know their own truth and are at peace with it. Humble people do not seek to stand out, they do not seek fame or favour.

Compassion: They are merciful, understanding and compassionate. They do not judge or condemn. A holy person has a profound understanding and sympathy for human weakness.

Goodness: A holy person believes in the goodness of humanity, they can see the goodness in every person and promote that goodness.

Peace: These people are at peace with who they are and with the human condition. This peace is visible and is experienced by those who come into contact with them. Being in the presence of this peace makes one feel good.

Pain: All the saints speak about pain and suffering. They do not deliberately seek pain and suffering but they accept it as part of human life. They do all they can to alleviate suffering but more importantly they show us the way to accepting suffering in a creative and positive way. Often the greatness of the saint is seen in times of suffering, hardship or danger.

Freedom: These people are never fully understood or accepted. There is something that cannot be defined or controlled about them. They have a freedom to be themselves that others find baffling or threatening. Therefore they frequently have enemies – people who do not accept them or see them as disruptions to the prevailing order. Saints never conform to the expectations of others, society or tradition.

Mystery: There is something about a saint that cannot be defined, they seem to have something extra or see more than the rest of us.

Attractiveness: People are drawn to saints. We want to be in their presence and have what they have – though we may not want to do what is required to have what they have!

Influence: Holy people have influence, though they do not seek it. Their influence is not confined or limited by time or circumstances. Their words, actions and views are respected. They are listened to and their advice is sought even if not always followed.

These are some characteristics of people who have allowed the grace of God work in their lives. These people are all around us, often very hidden but they make a huge contribution to our world. They give human life a quality and richness it so badly needs – without them human life would be empty, superficial and harsh.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

'Right to Life' Day of Fasting and Prayer

There will be a **Day of Fasting and Prayer in Atonement for the Passing of the Abortion Act**, in our Church on Friday 19 November from 10.00am - 6.00pm. The day will begin with Opening Prayers and meditation on *the sanctity of human life*, followed by the Rosary at 10.30am, and full programme for the remainder of the day. There will be Mass at 12.15pm and 6.00pm. All are invited to take part in this special day of prayer. Please see poster on church notice-boards.

The Alpha Course in a Catholic Context

A group of 30 young Catholics (called *The Vision Group*) is running an **Alpha Course** at the Carmelite Priory, starting this Tuesday evening 2 November at 7.00pm. The Alpha Course is an opportunity for everyone to explore the Christian faith. The evenings will start with dinner together and live music, followed by a talk and some time in small groups to discuss the big questions – life, death and their meaning. There is no charge for the Alpha Course. All are warmly invited. For further information email: vision.ukteam@gmail.com or call the team on: 020-3239-3270. Please see poster on our Church notice-boards.

November Dead List

A Mass will be said every day during the month of November for your departed relatives and friends. Names and donations will be accepted at Reception Desk. Special forms and envelopes are available at the back of the Church.

Collection for the 'Sick and Retired Priests' Fund

There will be a Special Collection after all Masses on Sunday next, 7 November, for the Sick and **Retired Priests Fund**. The number of sick and elderly priests who need our support is growing and we need your help. 50% of the money that you give goes to Westminster Diocese and 50% to the Carmelite Order. We ask you please to be as generous as you can towards this worthy cause.

Children's 'All Saints' Party

There will be a Children's **'All Saints'** Party in the Priory on Saturday next 6 November from 3.00 – 4.30pm. *Children!* we would like you to come dressed as your favourite saint – all ages welcome. For assistance or ideas on saints' get-up, please contact Fr Iain ianmatthew@yahoo.com

Notices

- * We will have our *Parish Advisory Group Meeting* on Sunday next 7 November at 7.00pm. If there are any items you would like raised at this meeting, please hand them in at Reception, attention Fr Matt.
- * We thank you for your contributions to the collection for *Overseas Missions* on Sunday last. The amount collected was: **£1,447.34.**

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday will be celebrated on **14 November** this year. The 11.00am Mass will be a Requiem Mass for all who died in two World Wars and other conflicts of our time. As usual the doors of the Church will close promptly at one minute to 11 o'clock for the **two-minute silence** before Mass.

Solemnity of All Saints and Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

Readings at all Masses today will be those of the **Solemnity of All Saints**. On Tuesday 2 November, the **Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed** (All Souls Day) Masses will be at the usual weekday times 8.00am, 12.15 and 6.00pm.