

## Feasts/Memorials

### November:

Tuesday 9 - Dedication of the Lateran Basilica  
Wednesday 10 - St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor  
Thursday 11 - St Martin of Tours, Bishop  
Friday 14 - St Josephat, Bishop & Martyr  
Prisoners' Week: 9 - 15 November

### *Academic Mass for Students and Staff of the London Universities*

There will be an **Academic Mass** at Westminster Cathedral at 12 Noon on Sunday 21 November, for *Students and Staff of the London Universities*. Fr Christopher Jamison OSB, Director of the National Office for Vocations, will preach at this Celebration of Mass for London's Academic community. All are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Chris Castell [chris@universitycatholic.net](mailto:chris@universitycatholic.net)

### *Mount Carmel – A Review of the Spiritual Life*

The October-December issue of **Mount Carmel** is now available at Reception. As always it is an excellent read with contributions by many well-known Carmelites, including an in-depth article on Cardinal Newman – highly recommended. Price £2.50.

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**  
**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](http://www.carmelitechurch.org)

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

### Parish Newsletter

Sunday 7 November 2010 - 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year

### The Books of Maccabees

Our first reading today comes from the **Second Book of Maccabees**. There are four Books of Maccabees in all and they recount various events of Jewish history in the two centuries before the birth of Jesus Christ. These Books have struggled to be accepted as part of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures. None of the Books are fully accepted as part of the Jewish Scriptures. The Roman Catholic Church accepts Book I and 2 as part of its scriptures. Some Orthodox Christian Churches accept Book 3 also. Most Reformed Christian Churches do not accept any of the Books of Maccabees as part of scripture. However, all Jewish and Christian Groups hold all four books in very high regard and the books have greatly influenced, and at times challenged, both Jewish and Christian thinking over the past two thousand years. Some people are very “put off” by these books and question why they are in scripture or are even considered “Holy Books” [this is also part of the reason they have struggled for acceptance]. Among the controversial subjects are: the complex history the books recount and at times seem to distort, the accounts of oppression, cruelty and gruesome acts, the overt and unquestioned Jewish nationalism and issues around the morality of war, revolution, violence and fanaticism. How books dealing with all these subjects can also be so profoundly spiritual is a puzzle for many people. Among the spiritual subjects the Books of Maccabees speak of and have greatly influenced our understanding of, are the following: prayer and especially prayer of intercession, prayers for the dead [the only place in scripture we are asked *to pray for the dead!*], sacrifice, martyrdom, resurrection, atonement for sin, judgement, eternal justice, etc. All of these are very much part of our Catholic devotion and spirituality and we owe so much to the influence of the Books of Maccabees.

What the Books of Maccabees write about can seem very “foreign” or baffling to us but the underlying realities are very familiar: sometimes faith must be lived in circumstances that are far from ideal, our faith can seem alien, threatening or unacceptable to the people around us, sometimes very painful decisions must be taken in order to live our faith, there are certain things our conscience will not allow us compromise on, sometimes living our faith costs us financially or socially, our choices can seem incomprehensible or illogical or naïve to others. These are some of

the subjects these ancient books tackle head-on and do not shirk from their painful consequences. Among the theological themes explored in these books, we could pick out the following:

- \* There is only one God and He is all-powerful, supreme and totally transcendent.
- \* Israel [the Church!] exists to bear witness to this.
- \* History is a vehicle to convey the truth about God, it is not an end in itself.
- \* God's hand is at work in all human history.
- \* God's law and his truth are what all believers must live by, defend and even die for.
- \* The individual person is at the service of the community – therefore the deeds of heroes and martyrs must not be exalted in themselves but must only be spoken of insofar as they give glory and honour to God.
- \* God will put everything right and grant justice to all, if not in this world, then in the next.
- \* God is the supreme defender of truth and he sees the heart, motives and conscience of every human being.

*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.

#### ***Alpha Course in our Parish***

Thank you for your prayers for this initiative which began on Tuesday last. The sessions include a meal, and as so many people came for the course last week, the Vision team have asked whether there might be some people from our parish who would consider helping to serve [not to cook] the meal, on the next sessions (Tuesdays at 7.00pm. If you would like to help in this way, please contact Fr Iain, [iainmatthew@yahoo.com](mailto:iainmatthew@yahoo.com) Tel: 07776-457392

#### ***Collection for the 'Sick and Retired Priests' Fund***

There will be a Special Collection after all Masses today 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 Winter Cinema***

Our *Winter Cinema for Children* returns on Sunday next 14 November at 3.00pm for our new season of films. We will start off with '*Mary Poppins*' - a great favourite of many. All children who come to our Church are invited – no need to book, just come along, accompanied by an adult. Enquiries: [ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk) (Luciana)

#### ***The Monday Group***

Our *Young Adults Monday Group* will meet in the Parish Centre tomorrow, Monday, evening at 7.30 for 8.00pm. At present they are following the Weekly Group Reflections on *Mary, the Mother of God*, recently distributed to all parishioners. All young adults who come to our Church are very welcome to join them. Entrance via Pitt Street.

#### ***Young Adults Retreat***

There will be **Retreat** for Young Adults (18-35) at the Carmelite Priory, Boars Hill, Oxford, from Friday 19 – Sunday 21 November, 2010. Theme: *Poetry and teaching of St John of the Cross* - led by Fr Matt. For further information and to book, contact: [garyclarke2006@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:garylclarke2006@yahoo.co.uk)

#### ***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.

#### ***Remembrance Sunday***

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

