

Mass in Support of Migrant Workers in London

On Bank Holiday Monday, 2 May 2011, at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, Lambeth Rd., London SE1, you are invited to join fellow workers, migrants and civic leaders for a morning of reflection and celebration in **Honour of St Joseph the Worker**. **11am Mass**, preceded by a procession of representatives from London's diverse communities, occupations and civic organisations. Celebrants: Peter Smith, Archbishop of Southwark; The Most Revd Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster; Thomas McMahon, Bishop of Brentwood, and auxiliary bishops from the Dioceses of Southwark, Westminster and Brentwood.

Lenten Alms

We thank all those who made contributions throughout Lent towards the **Lenten Alms** charities specified by Westminster Diocese (1) *The St John Southworth Fund* and (2) *Friends of the Holy Land* (via the box at the back of the Church). Your kind generosity is greatly appreciated.

Notices

- * Your Newsletter is on Easter Break next week – back on Sunday 8 May.
- * There will be **no** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.30-7.30pm on Wednesday next 27 April.
- * Our **Young Adults Monday Group's** next meeting will be on Monday 9 May at 7.30 for 8.00pm, in the Parish Centre

Weekday Masses:	8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Saturday Masses:	8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (<i>Vigil for Sunday</i>)
Sunday Masses:	8.30am, 10.00am (<i>with Choir</i>) 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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Our Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 24 April 2011 – Easter Sunday

The Resurrection

St John's Gospel tells us that when the "*disciple Jesus loved*" went into the tomb, "*he saw and he believed*". We need to capture that moment like a photographer will capture a still shot of a piece of action.

What must his face have looked like? What do we see in his eyes? What has he discovered? What do the words *see* and *believe* mean in this context? These are, perhaps, some of the questions we are tempted to ask but there is a real danger of asking the wrong questions! We must let nothing distract us from the magnitude of this moment.

We need to get back to that moment, sit there, stay there and not be tempted to rush on to conclusions, interpretations or answers. The disciple is in the tomb, the very first sight of dawn of a new day is appearing. The tomb is human life, existence, reality, history etc. as we know it. There is now appearing a light that is going to give a whole new life. Everything we have known, experienced and understood is now totally transformed by this first glimpse of the new light. What must it be like to look out from the tomb of human existence to a new light whose consequences are total mystery. This is what it means to be a Christian – to live in the tomb of earthly life and understanding, a tomb that embraces darkness and death and yet have in the depths of one's being the sight of, and belief in, a light that gives the fullness of life, life that will last forever.

John concludes his Gospel by telling us that he has recounted these signs that the disciples *saw*, that we may *believe* and that believing we will have *life*. Life on earth begins with light and depends on light – both the bible and science tell us this. With the coming of Jesus a new light has come into the world, it is belief in the resurrection that enables us to glimpse this light. We could argue that John wrote his whole Gospel story to help us see what "*the disciple Jesus loved*" saw from the darkness of the tomb early that first Easter Sunday morning.

What the Gospel makes clear is that the disciple had to go right into the tomb – waiting outside he saw nothing. That is the lesson for every beloved disciple of Jesus today. Into the tombs of human life we must go – pain, suffering, depression, poverty, oppression, loneliness, darkness, death etc. It is there we will meet Jesus, in that glimpse of light and belief he will give us in the midst of deepest darkness.

The resurrection is a journey from death to life, a journey we cannot make on our own, a journey that begins in the most unlikely place.

In the tomb, the disciple saw the truth of this journey, now he is faced with the challenge of telling others, of showing the world the truth of what he sees and believes. That is our challenge this Easter also. As Christians, we believe we are living in the first glimpse of dawn of a whole new creation, a whole new life. Like the disciple, our first thought is also: this is impossible! No one will believe us!

Jesus convinced his disciples by entering the tomb of human existence – birth, growing up, struggle, poverty, rejection, betrayal, pain, death, burial. The resurrection is not an escape from life or death, it is an entering more deeply into the mystery of these two truths. Only life lived to the full and death embraced with trust and courage can bring us face to face with the greatest and deepest mystery of all: *God and the possibility of life for ever with Him.*

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Easter Wishes from the Carmelite Community

We welcome all who have come to join us for Easter, both those who are regularly with us and our many visitors. In addition we greet all those who read this newsletter on the internet. May the light of the Risen Jesus shine in whatever darkness there is in your lives at this time. We pray especially for those who are sick, housebound or in hospital.

May this Easter be a time of grace and blessing for all of you.

RCIA Group - Easter Baptisms and Confirmations

We offer our sincerest congratulations to **Caroline, Nathalie, Ruth, Gary** and **Fausto** who received the Sacraments at our Easter Vigil last night. Congratulations also to their families, sponsors, catechists and all who helped them in any way on their journey of faith.

Easter Sunday Celebration

After the 10.00am Mass this morning we will have a special **Family Gathering** to celebrate the Risen Christ. There will be an *Easter Egg Hunt* in the garden for the children, plus a *visit from the Easter Bunny* and much more. Raffle tickets for **two splendid Gourmet Easter Baskets** are available at Reception. (Price £5 each, or three for £12). All proceeds will go to our selected charity – **Mary's Meals** – *bringing food and education to children in developing countries.*

40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration - 15-17 May

This year the **40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration** will take place at St Mary's Cadogan Street from the evening of Sunday 15 May to Midday on Tuesday 17 May. Please put these dates in your diaries. You will remember last year the vast numbers of people who came from other parishes to support us when our Church hosted the Adoration. (Fr Matt)

Collections for Charitable Causes

Grateful thanks for your generous contributions to the *Holy Thursday* and *Good Friday* collections. The amounts collected were: On *Holy Thursday* in aid of *The Homeless*: **£873.18** – this money been given to **The Passage**. And on *Good Friday* for **Holy Places throughout the world**, the amount collected was: **£1,250.62**.

Prayer for the Royal Wedding

Archbishop Vincent Nichols has forwarded the following prayer, produced by the Liturgy Office of the Bishop's Conference, for **HRH Prince William and Catherine Middleton** on the occasion of their Marriage on 29 April 2011:

Heavenly Father,

We ask your blessing upon His Royal Highness, Prince William and Catherine as they pledge their love for each other in marriage. May your love unite them throughout their lives.

Grant them the strength to serve you, our country and our commonwealth with integrity and faithfulness.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Bank Holidays

Reminder: Tomorrow Monday 25 April, Easter Monday, is a Bank Holiday. Masses will be at 9.00am and 12.15pm. The Church will close at 1.00pm. And Monday 2 May is also a Bank Holiday - Masses will be at 9.00am and 12.15pm. The Church will close at 1.00pm.

Please also note that, although Friday 29 April is an official Bank Holiday, our Carmelite Church will remain open and Masses will be as usual, 8.00am, 12.15 and 6.00pm.

The 12.15pm Mass on Thursday next 28 April will be a **Funeral Mass** for **Mrs Patricia Moroz RIP**