

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 13 March 2011 – First Sunday of Lent

Fed by the Living Word

This Sunday we include with the Newsletter the Second of our series “*Praying the Mass*”. The title “Praying the Mass” is an important one – we each come to Church to pray the mass. Often we tend to see ourselves as attending the mass or being present at the mass. Being present at mass is not like being at a football match or a concert – at mass everyone is praying the mass, everyone is fully participating in what is happening. Today we are asked to reflect on the part of the mass we call the “*Liturgy of the Word*”. We listen to readings from the Old Testament, including a psalm and the New Testament, including the Gospel, and these are followed by the Homily [note the word “listening” not “reading” [all books should be put away while the Word of God is being read!]] The Word of God is meant to be listened to – the act of listening in a prayerful and attentive way, brings the word of God to life. The word is alive and active now, it is not just recounting the past or communicating information. The word is personal and is heard through the voice of the reader by each person present in a way that is unique and personal to each person.

The **Reader** is one of the most important ministers in the Church. These are the people whose vocation is to lead all of us in listening to and praying God’s word. An effective reader is a person of prayer – a person who lives a deep personal prayer life that is nourished and inspired by the Word of God. The reader spends time prayerfully preparing the Word of God. The reader is a servant of God’s word, it is God speaking through the reader – not the reader speaking on behalf of God.

We pray God’s word, we listen to God’s word and we respond to God’s word with our minds, hearts and voices. The vocation of our **singers and musicians** is to enhance our praying and listening, and to lead us into a deeper and fuller response to all that God is revealing to us in his Word. The singers and musicians spend many hours learning and rehearsing – this is an act of great generosity and service to God and his people. However, their most important preparation is their personal prayer. The ministry of a singer or musician is a ministry of service to God’s Word and a ministry of leadership – leading the congregation’s prayerful praise, worship and thanksgiving to God.

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<u>March</u>	<u>Feasts/Memorials</u>
Thursday	17 St Patrick, Patron of Ireland – Feast
Friday	18 St Cyril of Jerusalem
Saturday	19 St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity

Lenten Alms

This year the two charities Archbishop Vincent has chosen to benefit from the **Lenten Alms** collected in the parishes are, firstly the **St John Southworth Fund**. This Fund has been set up to support the work of parishes, organisations or individuals across a range of issues, including poverty, old age and infirmity, homelessness, and children with disabilities or who are in danger of deprivation. The second is **Friends of the Holy Land**, of which Archbishop Vincent is a Patron, together with Archbishop Patrick Kelly. The objectives are to raise awareness of the difficulties that the Christian Community in the Holy Land is experiencing, to encourage and to provide prayers for their intentions, and to generate financial support to aid their well-being. Throughout Lent there will be an Alms Box at the back of our Church for your donations towards these charities.

Kensington Council of Churches Lent Course – ‘The Unreconciled’

At St Phillips Church, Earls Court, the KCC’s Lenten theme will be “The Unreconciled”. How do we bring about reconciliation? What happens when attempts at reconciliation fail? Thursdays 7.00-8.30pm, from 10-31 March. All are invited. Enquiries: secretary@kensingtonchurches.org

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 6.30-8.00pm

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

In the **Homily**, the priest helps us enter more deeply into God's word. The homily is an integral and essential part of the *Liturgy of the Word*. Its purpose is to aid a deeper listening to the scriptures and to help each of us see the relevance of God's word to our lives today. The sources of a good homily are the priest's personal prayer life, his study of God's word and his listening to the stories and reality of people's lives in his daily ministry as a priest. It is a gift and privilege to hear God's word. Every Sunday we hear God's word in the context of the Eucharist, we are nourished by his Word and his Body. We must never underestimate the power that this gift is in our lives. A gift whose power and effectiveness is summed up so beautifully in the ancient words of the prophet Isaiah:

"Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the Word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do".

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Lent in the Carmelite Church

1. Opportunities for Prayer

Monday – Thursday: *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
6.30-7.30pm (after the 6.00pm Mass).

Fridays: *Stations of the Cross* 6.30pm (after the 6.00pm Mass)
(Please note the regular *Holy Hour* at this time on Fridays will be suspended during Lent).

2. Conferences

There will be three conferences by Fr Matt, *Looking at the Scriptures* and how they help us grow in faith:

Thursday March 17 7.30-8.30pm

Tuesday March 22 7.30-8.30pm

There will be two conferences inspired by the teaching of **St John of the Cross** in preparation for Holy Week and Easter, led by Fr Matt, as follows:

Thursday April 14 7.30-8.30pm

Tuesday April 19 7.30-8.30pm

"Faithful Pilgrim" Lent Group: Fridays 9.15-9.45am at the Priory.
Enquiries, Fr Iain

Solemnity of St Joseph, 19 March

On **Saturday 19 March**, the **Solemnity of St Joseph**, the 12.15pm Mass will include a special welcome for the infirm and elderly, with a cup of tea and cake to follow, in the Refectory. (Students from LSE are looking forward to playing host!).

Young Adults Monday Group

Our **Young Adults Monday Group** will meet tomorrow Monday 14 March at 7.30 for 8.00pm in the Parish Centre. For the next six weeks they will follow the Diocese of Westminster's '**Faithful Pilgrim**' programme, the booklets of which were distributed in our Church on Sunday last. All young adults who come to our Church are very welcome to join them. Entrance to the Parish Centre via Pitt St.

Lent Retreat Day at Convent of the Assumption

Entering into Lent with St Augustine – on Saturday 19 March, there will be a Retreat Day at the Convent of the Assumption, 20 Kensington Square, London W8, from 10.30am–4.30pm. All are welcome, although reservations are essential. For more information or to reserve a place: assumptiontogether@gmail.com or telephone: 07503-241 127.

Lenten Fast Day for CAFOD

Friday next 18 March is **Lenten Fast Day for CAFOD**, and on Sunday next 20 March there will be a collection after all Masses when your fast day offerings for CAFOD will be taken up. Your generosity towards this very worthy cause will be greatly appreciated.

Gift Aid Donations

Will those Parishioners who give donations to the Church by weekly **Gift Aid** kindly collect their boxes of envelopes for the new financial year from our Reception Desk as soon as possible please.

* Our next *Parish Advisory Group* Meeting will take place on Sunday 20 March at 7.00pm. If anyone has any matters they would like raised at this meeting, kindly hand them in at Reception, attention Fr Matt.