March Feasts/Memorials

Wednesday 23 St Turibius of Mogrovejo

Friday 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

'Mind the Gap' Lenten Commitment for Young Adults at Our Lady of the Assumption & St Gregory, Warwick St., W1

The next series of 'Mind the Gap' – the Lenten series for Young Adults – will be on <u>Tuesday evenings</u> during Lent, taking the form of "Film Nights" with refreshments and discussion: 22 March: *Fatima: The 13<sup>th</sup> Day*; 29 March: *Babette's Feast*; 5 April: *Pay it Forward*; 12 April: *The Gospel According to Matthew*. Time: 7.00-9.30 (6.30pm Refreshments) All young Adults (17-35sh) welcome. For more information, contact: daveburke@rcdow.org.uk Tel: 020-7798-9357.

## Preparation for Marriage Course

The Parish of St Charles Borromeo, Ogle St., London W1, will begin a **Preparation for Marriage Course** on Thursday 5 May 2011, which will consist of five sessions of about one hour on consecutive Thursday evenings. The meetings will take place in the crypt room at 8.00pm, and will be led by two married couples and the Parish Priest. Engaged and recently married couples from our parish will be very welcome. There is no registration and no fee. For further details, contact Fr Alan Fudge, Parish Priest, 020-7636-2883 or email: oglestreet@rcdow.org.uk

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

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

## **Parish Newsletter**

Sunday 20 March 2011 - Second Sunday of Lent

# Moses and Elijah

Jesus, in the presence of Peter, James and John, is speaking with **Moses** and **Elijah.** The meeting takes place on top of a high mountain. This is the scene of today's Gospel. Let us remind ourselves of a few basic facts about these two very important biblical figures.

**Moses:** He leads the people of Israel from the slavery of Egypt to the promised land – a journey of 40 years which is both a physical journey and a spiritual journey. He receives the Law from God and of special importance in the law are the **Ten Commandments.** The first five books of the Bible [the Pentateuch] are attributed to Moses. He formed the people of Israel into a nation, he defined their religious identity and practice, and his Law is still the Law of the Jewish people.

**Elijah:** The bible presents Elijah as a person totally open to, and obedient to, the word of God. He is the prophet of prayer and the true worship of God. He saves Israel's unique identity and worship at a time when it is in danger of being lost. He does not die, he is taken up into heaven and the people of Israel look forward to his return when the Messiah is coming.

The experience that Moses and Elijah have in common is that they have both heard the voice of God on Mount Sinai [or Horeb]. These are among the most sacred moments in scripture. Today's Gospel story is a development of these experiences or "*Theophanies*". People hear the voice of God and experience his presence.

What Moses and Elijah experience is a preparation or foretaste of the presence of Jesus. In addition what they experience on the mountain is a preparation for the fullness of the experience of God that will happen when Jesus dies and rises from the dead: "Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead". We could paraphrase the Gospel like this:

What Moses and Elijah experienced on Mount Sinai and what Peter, James and John experienced, are only hints of the greatest manifestation of God that will be seen when Jesus dies and rises from the dead.

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Even Moses and Elijah are inferior to Jesus, and their lives and teaching can only be properly understood with the light and wisdom that comes from the death and resurrection of Jesus. Moses and Elijah listened to the voice of God and acted upon it. All Christians, all disciples of Jesus, are successors of Moses and Elijah. The voice we hear is the voice of Jesus, a voice that speaks most clearly and most profoundly from the Cross and in the Resurrection. When we contemplate Jesus on the Cross and profess our faith in the Resurrection, we need to hear the words of God the Father: "This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. <u>Listen</u> to Him".

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

#### **Lent in the Carmelite Church**

## 1. Opportunities for Prayer

 ${\bf Monday-Thursday:} \quad \textit{Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament}$ 

6.30-7.30pm (after the 6.00pm Mass).

**Fridays:** *Stations of the Cross* 6.30pm (after the 6.00pm Mass)

#### 2. Conferences

Three conferences by Fr Matt, *Looking at the Scriptures* and how they help us grow in faith on 10, 17 & 22 March. The <u>third and final</u> session will take place this **Tuesday 22 March** 7.30-8.30pm. All are invited.

**3.** 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, on:

**Thursday 14 April** 7.30-8.30pm **Tuesday 19April** 7.30-8.30pm

**"Faithful Pilgrim" Lent Group:** Fridays mornings 9.15-9.45 at the Priory. All are invited. Enquiries, Fr Iain

## Lenten Fast Day for CAFOD

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

#### **Lenten Alms**

This year the two charities Archbishop Vincent has chosen to benefit from the **Lenten Alms** collected in the parishes are (1) **The St John Southworth Fund,** which has been set up to support the work of parishes, organisations or individuals across a range of issues, and (2) **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, Throughout Lent there will be an <u>Alms Box at the back of our Church</u> for your donations towards these charities.

## Young Adults Monday Group

Our **Young Adults Monday Group** will meet tomorrow Monday 21March at 7.30 for 8.00pm in the Parish Centre, when they continue with the Diocese of Westminster's '**Faithful Pilgrim'** programme. All young adults who come to our Church are very welcome to join them.

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In preparation for Easter, Fr Matt will lead our Monday Group on a **Retreat** from <u>Friday 1April – Sunday 3 April</u> at the Carmelite Priory, Boars Hill, Oxford. For more information and to book a place, contact Gary Clarke garyclarke2006@yahoo.co.uk

#### Parish Notices

- \* Parents/Babies & Toddlers Play Group every Friday from 3.30-5.00pm. New children very welcome (no admission fee). Enquiries: Deirdre on: 07946-544398
- \* We will have our *Parish Gathering* after the 10.00am Mass this morning, when you are all invited downstairs for tea/coffee and to socialise with your friends.
- \* <u>Gift Aid Boxes</u>: 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 *Parish Advisory Group* Meeting will take place this (Sunday) evening, 20 March at 7.00pm.

**Reminder:** British Summer time begins next week-end 27 March. So please remember to **put your clocks forward by one hour** on Saturday night 26<sup>th</sup> March!

