

‘Mind the Gap’ Lenten Commitment for Young Adults

at Our Lady of the Assumption & St Gregory, Warwick St., W1

This Lenten series for Young Adults continues on Tuesday evenings in the form of “Film Nights” with refreshments and discussion. On Tuesday next 29 March the film will be *Babette’s Feast*, and on 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 information, contact: daveburke@rcdow.org.uk Tel: 020-7798-9357.

Lenten Alms

Throughout Lent there will be a **Lenten Alms Box** at the back of our Church (by the Repository door) for your Lenten Alms contributions towards the two charities specified by Westminster Diocese (1) *The St John Southworth Fund*, which makes grants to groups and individuals in need in the London area, and (2) *Friends of the Holy Land*. Your kind generosity will be greatly appreciated.

- * On Saturday next 2 April, we will have the **Brown Scapular Devotions** in honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel after the 6.00pm Mass. All are invited to stay on for the Rosary and special prayers.

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 6.30-7.30pm

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

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 27 March 2011 – Third Sunday of Lent

The Waters of Baptism

“The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us”. These are words which St Paul addresses to the baptised Christians of Rome and which we have in our second reading today. Paul is speaking about Baptism and inviting us to reflect deeply on the meaning and implications of our baptism. At baptism we have received the Holy Spirit and therefore He is constantly *“pouring the love of God into our hearts”*. This opens up to us awesome possibilities and responsibilities. For Paul, Jesus has proven this love by *“dying for us while we were still sinners”*. This makes us *“righteous”* and *“at peace with God since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God’s glory”*.

In our Gospel today we can see this love of God being gradually poured into the heart of the woman of Samaria. At the beginning of the story she is a social outcast [coming to the well at midday, a time when no one else would]. In the course of the story we see her become the leader of her people [the whole city comes to Jesus because of what she says]. The love of God that she experiences in her conversation with Jesus leads her gradually through a process of inner conversion, healing and transformation to becoming a new person.

In our first reading, water flowing from the rock is a symbol of the waters of baptism. Even the hardest of hearts and minds can be transformed by the grace and love of God. Even from the most unlikely of people or situations God can draw love, beauty, wisdom and light.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church sums up baptism as follows: *“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission”*.

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Finally let us reflect on the words of the early Christian writer St Gregory of Nazianzus: *“Baptism is God’s most beautiful and magnificent gift. We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal and most precious gift. It is called gift because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own; grace since it is given even to the guilty; Baptism because sin is buried in the water; anointing for it is priestly and royal as are those who are anointed, enlightenment because it radiates light; clothing since it veils our shame; bath because it washes; and seal as it is our guard and the sign of God’s Lordship”.*

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 *“Faithful Pilgrim” Lent Group:* 9.15-9.45am
in the Priory.

Stations of the Cross 6.30pm (after the
6.00pm Mass)

2. 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 19 April 7.30-8.30pm

You are all invited.

Young Adults Monday Group

Our **Young Adults Monday Group** will meet tomorrow Monday 28 March at 7.30 for 8.00pm in the Parish Centre, when they concentrate on Session 3 of the **‘Faithful Pilgrim’** programme. All young adults who come to our Church are very welcome to join them.

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

Supporting our Church by Gift Aid

As the new **Gift Aid** year is about to commence, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who donate to our Church in this way. Being able to claim the tax back – **25p for every £1 that you give** - is a great financial help to our Church. Also I would like to invite others to consider donating in this way. All you have to do is complete a simple form, and we will give you a box of numbered envelopes for your weekly donation. Or if you prefer, you can donate by Bankers Order. Paying by either of these two methods will not cost you anything extra. The only requirement is that you are a British Tax Payer. Forms available from Reception. Thank you.

Fr Matt

Will those Parishioners who already 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.

Congratulations to Sister Carolyn

Sister Carolyn of the Assumption Convent, Kensington Square, made her First Profession on Friday last 25 March. We offer her our warmest congratulations and assure her of our prayers and support.

RCIA –Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

We ask you please to remember in your prayers our **RCIA** group from this Church who are preparing to receive the Sacraments this Easter.

Parish Notices

- * At 3.00pm today Sunday we will show the final film in the present season of our **Winter Cinema for Children**. All children who come to our Church are warmly invited to come along (accompanied by an adult) and enjoy a nice afternoon. Contact: Luciana, email: ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk
- * There will be a **Readers’ Gathering** in the Priory, hosted by Fr Bob, on Sunday next 3 April, from 4.00-5.00pm. All readers are invited.
- * We thank you for your contributions to the collection for **CAFOD** on Sunday last – the amount raised was **£1,481.36**.

The 12.15pm Mass tomorrow Monday 28 March, will be a
Funeral Mass for Keith Middleton R.I.P.