

<u>April</u>		<u>Feasts/Memorials</u>
Monday	4	Lent Feria / St Isidore
Tuesday	5	Lent Feria / St Vincent Ferrer
Wednesday	6	Lent Feria
Thursday	7	Lent Feria / St John Baptist de la Salle
Friday	8	Lent Feria
Saturday	9	Lent Feria

### ***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 - Come and 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***

Throughout Lent you will find 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* and (2) *Friends of the Holy Land*. Your kind generosity will be greatly appreciated.

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

## **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**

### **Parish Newsletter**

Sunday 3 April 2011 – Fourth Sunday of Lent  
 (Laetare Sunday)

## **I am the Light of the World**

*“You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth”.*

This statement from St Paul we find in our second reading today. We must first consider its background:

1. At the beginning of the bible we are told that all is darkness and void. Then God says: “Let there be light”. Without light there is no life. Life begins when God lets light into our world.
2. John begins his Gospel by telling us that the Word [Jesus] is the “true light that enlightens all people, and he is coming into the world”. Now it is no longer understood as physical light, but true life comes from the light that is Jesus Christ. This is demonstrated in our Gospel today – a man who is born blind [that is, never seen physical light] can see with the light that faith in Jesus gives. The lack of physical light is no obstacle.
3. In our Gospel today Jesus tells us: “*I am the light of the world*”. In John's Gospel whenever we hear an “**I am**” statement, we know Jesus is revealing something of his divinity. Jesus gives life, sustains all life and guarantees us eternal life.
4. Now St Paul is telling us that every Christian is light because of the union with Christ that comes about with our baptism. Now the light of the world is Jesus living in his Church and in each baptised person who lives a life of “goodness and right living and truth”.

This wonderful statement from St Paul is a powerful reminder to us of who we are as baptised Christians.

One of the most moving moments of the baptism ceremony is the giving of the lighted candle to the newly-baptised person. In the case of an adult, the Godparent gives the lighted candle to the newly-baptised – in the case of a child, a Godparent holds the candle on behalf of the child. A parent physically gives life to a child, so a Godparent “parents” the life of God in the newly-baptised person.

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The lighted candle is a symbol of the light of Jesus Christ which is passed on to the new Christian. The new Christian now lives the fullness of life that Jesus, the "Light of the World", gives in baptism.

Today's readings invite us to reflect on what it means to have received the Light of Christ in baptism. To help us, perhaps we could all pray the prayer that will be said today over all those preparing to receive Baptism and Confirmation this Easter:

*"Lord Jesus, you are the true light that enlightens the world.  
Through your Spirit of truth, free those who are enslaved by  
the father, of lies. Stir up the desire for good in these elect,  
whom you have chosen for your sacraments. Let them rejoice  
in your light, that they may see, and, like the man born blind  
whose sight you restored, let them prove to be staunch and  
fearless witnesses to the faith, for you are Lord forever  
and ever. Amen*

*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 4 April at 7.30 for 8.00pm in the Parish Centre, when they will follow Session 4 of the '**Faithful Pilgrim**' programme, "*The Kingdom of God is very near to you*". All young adults who come to our Church are very welcome to join them.

### ***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*)

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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.

### ***A Catechetical Session on the Mass***

**All Catechists and Readers: A date for your Diaries - Tuesday 17 May from 7.00-9.00pm at the Carmelite Church**

**With Hearts & Minds** – a session offering catechists a time to engage with a systematic exploration of the teaching of the church, a time of prayer and space for reflection and discussion with other catechists. In this session, participants will come to a deeper understanding of the Mass, and how we *pray the Mass*. In view of the upcoming introduction of the new translation of the Missal later this year, all catechists, readers and others in the parish who are involved in liturgy are strongly advised to attend this session in our Church on 17 May. For enquiries: e-mail: Warren Brown: [catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk) or call 020-7798-9150

### ***Flowers for the Church for Easter***

Your Donations towards **Flowers for the Church for Easter** will be greatly appreciated. Kindly place your offerings in an envelope and leave at Reception, envelope marked "Flowers for the Church" attention Fr Matt. Thank you.

### ***Mother's Day***

Today is **Mother's Day**. We wish all Mothers who come to our Church a very happy day.