

January 2011

Monday	17	St Anthony, Abbot
Wednesday	19	St Wulstan, Bishop
Thursday	20	St Fabian, Pope & Martyr/ St Sebastian, Martyr
Friday	21	St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
Saturday	22	St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr

St Mary's Cadogan Street, Marriage Course, Spring 2011

Six Sessions on the **Sacrament of Marriage** begin on Tuesday 8 February from 8.00pm-9.30pm, at St Mary's Rectory, Draycott Terrace. These will continue fortnightly on Tuesdays until 5 April. The cost is £60 per couple. Telephone: 020-7589-5487 Monday-Thursday, 9.00am-1.00pm. email: chelsea1@rcdow.org.uk See our Church notice-boards for full details.

Mass for the Sick and Elderly at Westminster Cathedral

There will be **Mass in Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes** on Saturday 19 February at Westminster Cathedral at 2.30pm. *The Sacrament of the Sick* will be administered at this Mass. All are welcome.

Feast of Sto Niño (Divine Infant of Prague)

The Carmelite Filipino Choir invites you all to attend the annual Celebration of **The Feast of Sto Niño** in this Church on Sunday 30 January at 2.00pm. The Celebrant will be Fr Matt. A Reception will follow in the Parish Centre.

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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Registered Charity No: 253645

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

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 16 January 2011 - 2nd Sunday of the Year
(Peace Day)

Christian Unity

"I pray not only for these, but for those also who through their words will believe in me. May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me. I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one".

This is the prayer of Jesus at the Last Supper, just before his own death. It is his prayer for his disciples and for all who will believe in him down through the ages, including us. Jesus prays for this with great passion and sincerity because he knows it will be one of the greatest challenges facing Christians. He also knows that unity is essential for the spreading of the Gospel and for its effectiveness in our world.

From the beginning Christianity has been blessed with diversity and damaged by division, unity gives it life, uniformity stifles and kills life. The challenge of maintaining and developing unity in a diverse and dynamic Church has been the source of both inspiration and pain throughout the history of Christendom. Our own day is no different and I would like to comment on a few of the challenges of our times.

Ordinariate: The Catholic Church is setting up a new structure to help groups of Anglicans to become part of the Catholic Church. There is no space to go into the details but it is clear that this is a challenge both to us as Catholics and to our relations with our Anglican brothers and sisters. I would just like to make two points:

1. We always welcome people from other Christian traditions who wish to join us and we always will. We welcome their experience, gifts, sincerity and faith. Now we are also saying we welcome their Anglican liturgical, spiritual and pastoral traditions. Not only individually but now also as formed communities they are invited to enrich Catholicism.

2. We all know many Catholics who have chosen to live their Christian discipleship in other Christian Churches, not least the Anglican Church. We often forget to assure them of our support, friendship and prayers. We also need to do all we can to heal any hurt, to build good human and Christian relationships, and to acknowledge their contribution to their new Christian communities.

Pope Benedict when speaking about the **Ordinariate** said: “*it should be seen as a prophetic gesture that can contribute positively to the developing relations between Anglicans and Catholics. It helps us to set our sights on the ultimate goal of all ecumenical activity: the restoration of full ecclesial communion in the context of which the mutual exchange of gifts from our respective spiritual patrimonies serves as an enrichment to us all*”.

Christians in Middle East: We are all praying for and doing everything we can to support the Coptic Church in Egypt, the Christians in Iraq, Pakistan, Lebanon and throughout that part of the world. These Christian brothers and sisters are facing particular hardship at this time in history. We do this at the same time as we try to reach out and build better relations with Islam. That is difficult but very necessary and part of the complex challenge of Christian unity.

Families: The joy of Christian unity and the pain of division is so often acutely felt in families. The vast majority of Christian marriages are between couples of different Christian traditions. How do we support them better? What lessons can the wisdom and experience of our many ecumenical families teach the wider community?

Today's Questions: Secularism, atheism, injustice, poverty, education, family life, sexuality, divorce, homosexuality, medical and genetic developments etc. The list of challenges we all share in common is enormous and very daunting. We have slightly different approaches to some of these issues but every Church is struggling with the new challenges our modern world brings before us.

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For further information, prayers and reflection on *Christian Unity*, see www.ctbi.org.uk [website of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland].

For further information on the *Ordinariate*, see: www.rcdow.org.uk [website of Westminster Diocese has an excellent explanation of the Ordinariate].

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Parish Mass for the Sick and Elderly

We will have a *Mass for the Sick and Elderly* of the Parish at 12.15pm on Saturday 12 February. The **Sacrament of the Sick** will be administered during this Mass. Please encourage all who are sick and/or elderly to come to this Mass if they can.

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18-25 January 2011

This Thursday, 20th January, our Church has the honour of hosting **Kensington Council of Churches' Annual Unity Service**. This is an opportunity for the Christian Churches of Kensington to come together to pray, praise God, witness to our common faith and get to know each other. We will have a Service from 7.00-8.00pm, followed by refreshments.

Bruce Ogston and his Choir will be treating us to some very special music. The preacher will be Revd. James Mather of the United Reformed Church, Allen Street. It will be an opportunity for us all to pray, listen, share and celebrate.

There is a long tradition of holding a collection for charity during these services. This year the chosen charity is the **Rahab Project**. As many of you know, this was started by the *Adoratrices Sisters* to work with prostitutes and trafficked women in the Kensington area. The project is doing work which is very much needed and is a great example of Christians reaching out to those who are vulnerable and in great need.

I hope many of you will be able to join us on Thursday evening. Please pass the word around and take the opportunity to invite other Christians and non-Christians to our Church.

Fr Matt

Gathering for Young Married Couples

Our next **Gathering for young Married Couples** will take place on Wednesday 26 January from 7.30-9.00pm. The gathering is a time when young couples come to the Carmelite Priory and enjoy friendly conversation over a glass of wine. We follow this with some input relevant to marriage or being parents and general discussion
Contact: Fr Iain 07776-457392 ianmatthew@yahoo.com

Church Notices

- * We will have our *Parish Gathering* after the 10.00am Mass this morning, when you are all invited downstairs for tea/coffee and friendly chat.
- * On Sunday next 23 January, at 3.00pm, we will be showing another film in our *Winter Cinema for Children* season. All children who come to our Church are invited – no need to book, just come along, accompanied by an adult. Contact: ludfazio@yahoo.co.uk

You are all invited to our **Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations to Religious Life** on Friday next 21 January, from 6.30-7.30pm. (Fr Iain)