

Feasts/Memorials

February		
Monday	21	St Peter Damian, Priest & Doctor
Tuesday	22	Chair of St Peter, Apostle - Feast
Wednesday	23	St Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
Saturday	26	Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage

Westminster Cathedral – Saturday 11 June at 3.00pm

Archbishop Vincent Nichols would like to personally invite all married couples who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th **Wedding Anniversary of Marriage in 2011**. If you qualify and would like an invitation, please give me (Fr Matt) your names, address, email, telephone and wedding date before the end of February. *Fr Matt* - matthewblake@rcdow.org.uk

Faith Matters

Being Catholic Today is the theme of the next series of ***Faith Matters***, the biannual programme of Catholic Lectures in Westminster Cathedral Hall. The series begins on Thursday 10 March with a lecture by General Lord Guthrie (former Chief of the General Staff of the British Army and Chief of the Defence Staff, and a leading Catholic). Three further lectures follow on 16th, 23rd and 30th March with individual guest speakers. Full details can be found on the poster on our Church notice-board.

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 February 2011 - 7th Sunday of the Year

Love Your Neighbour as Yourself

Today's first reading comes from the **Book of Leviticus**. It is the third book of the bible and a book I guess most people have never read! It is a book that consists entirely of laws and customs about many aspects of daily living and the worship of God. Most of these laws, rituals and customs go back to Moses and the time of the exodus but the book in its current form was completed much later [we know this because the people are obviously living in settled communities]. Both Moses and Aaron were of the tribe of Levi – this tribe did not receive land after the Exodus but because of their priestly function were to receive tithes from all the other tribes. Therefore the book in its current form was completed by Levitical priests in the period after the exile in Babylon to help the people be faithful to the ancient laws given by Moses, and to restore the true worship of Israel.

The people of Israel are God's chosen people and this must be expressed in every aspect of their lives. They must not be like the people around them – God is the measure of their holiness. The theme of the whole book can be summed up in the words we have in the extract in today's Mass: *“Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy”*.

In today's extract we find the most famous line in the Book of Leviticus: *“You must love your neighbour as yourself”*. God is the measure of holiness, self-love is the measure of love of neighbour. These are very demanding measures which the author set before the people of Israel because they are inclined to measure themselves against the adherents to neighbouring religions. It is not what neighbouring peoples and religions do, or do not do, that matters but the law they are privileged to receive from God. The law they have received from God, through Moses, sets them apart from all other peoples and so they must be faithful to this in everything they do.

Jesus puts this message even more strongly in our Gospel today: You must not just do what tax collectors and pagans do but *“you must be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect”*. God's perfection then is the measure of Christian perfection, nothing less!

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When Jesus is asked which is the greatest commandment, he combines the very well known and revered law {*the Shema*}, “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind* [Deuteronomy 6:5] and the command from Leviticus: “*You must love your neighbour as yourself*” cf. Matthew 22:34-40.

Moses received the law from God, Jesus gives it Himself with his own authority. In addition Jesus is the measure of our adherence to this new law of love. A Christian must always measure themselves by the standard of love of God and neighbour set by Jesus in his life and death.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

***Vocations week-end
with the Religious of the Assumption***

On the week-end of 4th-6th March there will be a **Vocations Week-end** at the Convent of the Assumption, 20 Kensington Square, London W8, for Women aged 18-35 who are open to considering whether they may be called to Religious Life. For more information contact: assumptionsisters@gmail.com or Telephone: 07503-241127.

Young Adults Monday Group

Our **Young Adults Monday Group** will meet tomorrow Monday 21 February at 7.30 for 8.00pm in the Parish Centre for their weekly meeting. The theme this week will be **Praying the Mass – ‘At One with Jesus’**. They will participate in the first of five reflections and discussions featured in the Westminster Diocese programme (as detailed in our Newsletter last Sunday). All young adults who come to our Church are very welcome to join them. (Entrance to the Parish Centre via Pitt St.)

‘Mount Carmel’ – A Review of the Spiritual Life

The Spring issue of **Mount Carmel – A Review of the Spiritual Life** - is now available at Reception. As always it is an excellent read with contributions by many well-known writers - highly recommended. Price £2.50.

*** Exposition and Benediction Holy Hour** each Friday, 6.30-7.30pm.
Prayer for *Vocations to Religious Life*.

Visiting Gambian Choir

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to the visiting **Gambian Choir** who sang so beautifully at our 6.00pm Mass on Saturday last 12 February. This was greatly appreciated by our Parishioners and Community. Thank you all very much. (Fr Iain)

Young Adults in the West, with Bishop Alan Hopes

On Sunday 6 March all young adults (aged 17-35) are invited to join Bishop Alan Hopes for an evening at Holy Trinity Church, Brook Green. The evening will begin with Mass at 6.00pm, followed by a time for food, discussion, faith sharing and socialising with other young adults. Contact: David Burke: 020-7798-9537. email: davidburke@rcdow.org.uk

**Jesus of Nazareth : Holy Week :
from the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection**

Jesus of Nazareth (Pt 2) by Pope Benedict XVI will be released for sale on 9 March 2011. It is a follow up to the very popular ‘*Jesus of Nazareth*’ published in 2007. Pauline Books & Media can now take pre-publication orders with 10% discount off the full price of £14.95. To order, phone, fax, or email your order to Pauline Books & Media, 199 Kensington High St., London W8 6BA. Tel: 020-7937-9591, Fax: 020-7937-9910; email: london@pauline-uk.org

Parish Notices

- * We will have our *Parish Gathering* this morning after the 10 o'clock Mass, when you are all invited downstairs for tea/coffee and to socialise with your friends.
- * **Parents and Babies/Toddlers Group** are on holiday on Friday next 25 February, resuming on Friday 4 March, 3.30-5.00pm. *New Parents & Babies/Toddlers* are very welcome. (Ring front doorbell of the Priory). Enquiries: Deirdre on: 07946-544398.

Today 20 February is **Education Sunday**. There will be a Special Collection after all Masses for the *Catholic Education Service*.