

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 6 March 2011 - 9th Sunday of the Year

Feasts/Memorials

March

Monday	7	SS Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs
Tuesday	8	St John of God, Religious
Wednesday	9	Ash Wednesday, Day of Fast & Abstinence
Thursday	10	Anniversary of the death of Fr Isidore Carey OCD

Children's Cinema

At 3.00pm today Sunday, we will be showing another film in our **Winter Cinema for Children** season. All children who come to our Church are warmly invited. Just come along, accompanied by a parent or adult.

Contact: Luciana lundefazio@yahoo.co.uk

Lenten Journey in the Desert – Faith in Film

The annual 'Mind the Gap' series of *Films and Discussion for Young Adults* (17-35) will take place this Lent at Our Lady of the Assumption & St Gregory's, 13 Warwick St., W1, commencing on Tuesday 22 March with the film 'FATIMA: The 13th Day' (2009). Three further films follow on consecutive Tuesdays. Please see list on our notice-board. Refreshments at 6.30pm, film at 7.00pm. mindthegap@rcdow.org.uk 020-7798-9360.

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

Faithful Pilgrim

This week we begin the **Season of Lent**. There are many aspects to Lent but one of the most important is that Lent is the season when we look seriously at how we live our Christian lives and identify areas of potential change and growth. To help us do this the Diocese each year produces a book with prayers, reflections and teaching. This year the book is entitled **Faithful Pilgrim** and it looks back to the recent visit of Pope Benedict and chooses the main themes from his visit.

Pope Benedict wanted the visit to be a *Pilgrimage of Faith* and described himself as a *Pilgrim* coming to our land. Going on pilgrimage is an important spiritual experience in almost all world religions – we think of Jerusalem, Mecca, Rome etc. The physical journey is an expression and a symbol of the inner journey of change and transformation that takes place. The real work is done on the journey – the decision to make the journey, the preparation for the journey, the journey itself with all its sacrifices, dangers and adventures.

The destination is a special place, a place of holiness and the fulfilment of the pilgrim's hopes and dreams. Traditionally going on pilgrimage has been seen as a response to a call of God, going on pilgrimage is a vocation – when a pilgrim returns they do not return to the "old life" but now live a new life, enlightened and strengthened by the experience of pilgrimage.

Pope Benedict saw his visit as a personal pilgrimage for himself but also as a pilgrimage of faith that he would share with the whole Church and the whole of society in England, Wales and Scotland. His choice of the word pilgrimage tells us so much about how he saw the visit and how he wanted it understood and remembered. It also tells us so much about how Pope Benedict sees the Christian life today and the challenges of living Christianity in today's world.

Six months after this *Pilgrimage of Faith* it is appropriate for us to look back and see how we have been changed by the experience. It is time to ask: How has our faith grown? Are we more confident about being Christian/Catholic? What practical changes has it inspired in our lives?

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We are now invited to reflect on some aspects of that pilgrimage as we engage in our annual pilgrimage of faith which is our **Season of Lent**. I invite you to take a copy of the book **‘Faithful Pilgrim’** away with you today which you find at the back of the Church. The book can be used by individuals, families, groups or communities. As usual we give out the book free to parishioners of this parish.

With our Newsletter today you will receive a **Pastoral Letter** from Archbishop Vincent Nichols. I urge you to make it part of your reading and reflection this Lent.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Lent in the Carmelite Church

1. Opportunities for Prayer

Monday – Thursday: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
6.30-7.30pm

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

2. Conferences

There will be three conferences by Fr Matt, *Looking at the Scriptures* and how they help us grow in faith:

Thursday March 10 7.30-8.30pm

Thursday March 17 7.30-8.30pm

Tuesday March 22 7.30-8.30pm

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, as follows:

Thursday April 14 7.30-8.30pm

Tuesday April 19 7.30-8.30pm

[Please note the regular *Friday Holy Hour for Vocations* will be suspended during Lent to make way for the **Stations of the Cross** on Fridays at 6.30pm].

“Faithful Pilgrim” Lent Group: Fridays 9.15-9.45am at the Priory.
Enquiries, Fr Iain

Kensington Council of Churches Lent Course – ‘The Unreconciled’

Following last year’s Lent Course on *Confession* and *Forgiveness*, the KCC will explore **Failure** together and reflect on the Hope we have in Jesus Christ. Thursdays 7.30-8.30pm, from 10 – 31 March, at St Phillips Church, Earls Court. Enquiries: secretary@kensingtonchurches.org

Catholic Chaplaincy to the London Universities:

University Catholic Lecture 2011

Tomorrow Monday 7 March at 7.30pm, Dr Austen Ivereigh, journalist, campaigner, author and co-founder of ‘Catholic Voices’, will give a lecture entitled **“Religious Freedom” – Pope Benedict’s Vision for a Fractured World**. This will take place at Newman House, 1 Gower St., London WC1. This Lecture is open to all, but it is suggested you register your attendance to Chris Castell at: chris@universitycatholic.net

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

We ask you please to remember in your prayers our **RCIA** candidates as they prepare to receive the Sacraments this Easter. On Saturday next 12 March they will attend Westminster Cathedral at 3.00pm, together with their Sponsors, for the **Rite of Election**, celebrated by Archbishop Vincent Nichols.

Young Adults Monday Group

Our **Young Adults Monday Group** will meet tomorrow Monday 7 March at 7.30 for 8.00pm in the Parish Centre. The theme for discussion this week will be **Praying the Mass – ‘Fed by the Living Word’**, the second of five reflections featured in the Westminster Diocese Programme. All young adults who come to our Church are very welcome to join them.

Monday Group Retreat

In preparation for Easter, Fr Matt will lead our Monday Group on a **Retreat** from Friday 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

Lent Retreat Day at Convent of the Assumption

Entering into Lent with St Augustine – on Saturday 19 March, from 10.30am – 4.30pm at the Convent of the Assumption, 20 Kensington Square, London W8. For more information or to reserve a place: assumptiontogether@gmail.com or: 07503-241 127. Please bring a packed lunch. No charge, donations only, reservations essential.

Wednesday next 9 March is Ash Wednesday. It is a day of Fast and Abstinence. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.