

February

Tuesday	8	St Jerome Emiliani/ St Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
Thursday	10	St Scholastica, Virgin
Friday	11	Our Lady of Lourdes – World Day for the Sick
Saturday	12	Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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, celebrated by Archbishop Vincent Nichols. **The Sacrament of the Sick** will be administered at this Mass. All are welcome.

‘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.

Visiting the Sick

If you know of any sick, elderly or housebound parishioner who would like a visit from a priest, please tell **Fr. Iain** at the Priory. He will be very pleased to pay a visit.

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 6 February 2011 - 5th Sunday of the Year

Salt and Light

“You are the salt of the earth” – “You are the light of the world”. These are familiar Gospel images, we have heard these phrases many times before. However, we need to ask a few questions:

Who is Jesus addressing these words to? The context of these words in the Gospel is as follows: Jesus is in the presence of his disciples, he is addressing the crowd and he has just given the famous teaching we heard last Sunday [the Beatitudes]. So who are “salt” and “light” – the crowd? his chosen disciples? those who live the Beatitudes? Must surely be all three but in varying degrees of strength and effectiveness.

What does this say about us as human beings? We all have the capacity to be “salt” and “light”, but without the wisdom, strength and light that comes from the teaching of Jesus we live as salt without taste and light that remains hidden.

What does becoming a disciple of Jesus mean? It means becoming people we were always meant to be and taking our rightful place in our world. Christian commitment is not something personal or private – it is not for me or my benefit but for the world, it is an act of service to all humanity. This may sound surprising and certainly very challenging. Jesus is saying to all those listening to him – if you live up to the demands of the Beatitudes, then you become “salt” and “light” for all the world.

Is this welcome? Usually not, hence Jesus’ warning about persecutions! It is very tempting to become complacent, indifferent or self-centred and in doing so lose one’s “taste”. It is much easier and more comfortable to live one’s Christianity as a private interest or on one’s own controllable terms, and so the light that our world so badly needs from us is hidden. For the salt to remain tasty and the light to remain shining, there must be continuous listening to God’s word, conversion, prayer, sacrifice and charity.

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What is the relationship between a Christian and the world?

We are not better than anybody else and we do not have any secret knowledge or strength denied to others. However, if we live by the teaching of Jesus and allow ourselves to be transformed by his wisdom, then he works through us. A Christian is called to live and work for the glory of God and not one's own advancement or self-interest, hence the words: "*seeing your good works, they may give the glory to your Father in heaven*".

Why is losing the taste or hiding the light so tragic? If we have forgotten what it means to be Christian, then we are no longer true to ourselves or realising our full potential. Life is being lived for me and not for the greater good of my brothers and sisters. Most importantly, God's presence and his will is being denied and the world is a lesser place because of this.

Is it important? Last Sunday Jesus told us what good Christian living is, today he tells us, with the help of these images, how essential good Christians are for our world. Living witnesses to the message of Jesus are more essential to human life than light and salt.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Kensington Samuel Group 2011

Are you wondering what God is calling you to do with your life? The **Samuel Group** is for young adults (18-30's) open to listening to the Word of God and putting it into action in their lives. There will be a commitment to six monthly meetings on a Sunday afternoon beginning in February 2011 in Kensington. Closing date to request a place is Monday 7 February. Contact: samuel.group@yahoo.co.uk or Telephone: 0750 324 1127.

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 next 12 February. The **Sacrament of the Sick** will be administered during this Mass. Please spread the word and encourage those you know who are sick and/or elderly to come to this Mass if they can.

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

Thanksgiving Mass for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Married couples in the Diocese of Westminster who will be celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th+ Wedding Anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2011, will be invited by Archbishop Vincent Nichols to a **Thanksgiving Mass for the Sacrament of Matrimony** at Westminster Cathedral. This will take place on **Saturday 11 June 2011 at 3.00pm**. If you qualify, please don't delay in submitting all details to me, Fr Matt, at the Carmelite Priory. You will need to provide: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address, telephone number and email if you have one.
(Fr Matt)

Feast of Sto Niño

My thanks to Chelo, our Filipino Choir, readers, altar servers and the many other people who helped to make our celebration on Sunday last such a special occasion. A total of **£1,535.16** was collected for the Church. Thank you all for your generosity.
Fr Matt

Young Adults Monday Group

Our **Young Adults Monday Group** will meet tomorrow Monday 7 February at 7.30 for 8.00pm in the Parish Centre for their weekly meeting. The theme this week will be "**The Year of Matthew**" – with a talk by Fr Matt on Matthew's Gospel. All young adults (18-30) who come to our Church are very welcome to join them

Gambian Choir

On Saturday next 12 February we welcome a **visiting Choir from Gambia** to our 6.00pm Mass. We thank them for joining us and we invite as many of our parishioners as possible to come to the Mass and help make the evening a happy occasion for our Gambian singers.

Winter Cinema for Children

Today Sunday at 3.00pm we will be showing another film in our *Winter Cinema for Children* season. A really nice afternoon for children (and parents who get to chat and have a coffee while the film is on). All children who come to our Church are warmly invited. Contact: Luciana, email ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk

Friday next 11 February is the **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes** and is *World Day of Prayer for the Sick*.