

July

**Feasts/Memorials**

Wednesday	20	St Elijah, Prophet, Carmelite – Feast/ St Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr
Thursday	21	St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor
Friday	22	St Mary Magdalen
Saturday	23	St Bridget of Sweden, Religious, Patron of Europe, Feast

**Catechism, First Communion and Confirmation 2011/2012**

Enrolment forms for **Catechism**: children 4-6 years and 8-12 years; **First Communion**: children who will have reached their 7<sup>th</sup> birthday by 31 August 2011, and **Confirmation**: young people who will have reached their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday by 31 December 2011, are now available from the back of the Church and also at our Reception Desk. Please collect and complete them as soon as possible.

**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 arrange for one of the Fathers 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: Monday-Friday 6.30-7.30pm  
**Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB**  
**Tel: 020-7937-9866 Fax: 020-7938-1470**  
**Registered Charity No: 253645**  
 Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: [www.carmelitechurch.org](http://www.carmelitechurch.org)

**“According to the Mind of God”**

For a number of weeks I have been writing a series of reflections on life in this Church community. I have chosen some signs of the **Holy Spirit's** work and given them the title “*Tongues of Fire*”, taken from the account of Pentecost in the *Acts of the Apostles*. The series could have gone on forever but the time has come to bring it to a close. What all the signs have in common is that they show how God is making himself known through people who are willing to give their time, talents and experience.

The signs are visible, positive, encouraging and life-giving. They are also calls to us all to live our faith more deeply and to do all we can to make Jesus and the Gospel better known.

**St Paul**, in our second reading today, reminds us that the Holy Spirit works in other ways also – ways that are invisible and seem difficult and challenging to us. We need to listen to this reading again and note carefully what is being said: “*The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what He means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.*”

When we feel weak, when we do not know what to do, when we have no answers, when we are confused, frightened or helpless, these are the times when the Holy Spirit helps us. He helps us in ways that are secret, unknown to the person who is being helped – help that cannot be put into words, that is known and understood only by God. Sometimes it is only when we look back from a distance of time or experience that we can get a glimpse of this secret, mysterious but very powerful help of the Holy Spirit. So, when we look around our communities, society or our personal lives for signs of the Holy Spirit's work, we have to look also at the failures, tragedies, unsolved problems and lack of progress.

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The **Holy Spirit** is in these situations too and perhaps doing some great work. St Paul is looking around his Christian communities through the eyes of faith and seeing the grace of God at work where we human beings only see weakness and failure.

St Paul is not saying that we must accept failure or weakness in an indifferent or fatalistic way. On the contrary, he is saying that in times of weakness and failure, we must trust the Holy Spirit that we have received and always live with faith and hope. When we do this, then our prayers and everything else we do are “*according to the mind of God*”. That is what is meant by the term “*Tongues of Fire*” – when the message communicated through our actions, decisions, words and attitudes are “*according to the mind of God*”. That can happen when things are going well or going badly, in success or failure, in strength or weakness, visibly or invisibly, but always as the Spirit decides and acts, but never according to our plans, schemes or desires.

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

#### ***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 23 July. 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.

#### ***Young Adults Monday Group***

Our *Young Adults Monday Group* will meet in the Parish Centre at 7.30 for 8.00pm tomorrow Monday 18 July. The theme for discussion will be “*We Treasure the Kingdom of God*”, as they reflect on next Sunday’s Gospel (Matthew 13:44-52). The next meeting on Monday 25 July, will be an “*End of Term*” celebration - prayer of thanksgiving and a party !

#### ***‘Mount Carmel’ – A Review of the Spiritual Life***

The Summer 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 Carmelite writers – with an in-depth article on Our Lady, entitled *Celebrating our Mother and Queen : Feasts of Mary in the Carmelite Liturgy*. Appropriate reading for the week of the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and an ideal book to take away on holiday. Price £2.50

#### ***Children’s Painting Exhibition***

#### ***in aid of the Catholic Children’s Society***

*Children!* We thank you so much for the excellent selection of paintings you’ve done for our **Annual Children’s Painting Exhibition**. These are now displayed on the walls of the Church Corridor along Reception, and we invite all our parishioners to come inside after the Masses today Sunday and take a look, and hopefully make a donation to the **Catholic Children’s Society** which does such wonderful work with needy children and their families in London, and especially at the present time when many children living in poverty have never had a summer holiday or have never seen the sea. *Thank you.* (Fr Iain)

#### ***A Date for your Diaries!***

On Sunday next 24 July, after the 6.00pm Mass, we will have a relaxed **Parish Social Evening** in honour of **Fr Matt** and **Fr Bob** who will be leaving us shortly. We invite all our parishioners to come and show your support and gratitude to the two Fathers, and help make it a happy occasion – if you bring some food, we will provide the drinks! (Fr Iain)

#### ***Notices***

- \* We will have our monthly *Parish Gathering* after the 10.00am Mass this morning, when you are all invited downstairs for tea/coffee and to socialise with your friends.
- \* There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** from 6.30-7.30pm Monday - Thursday this coming week, plus on Friday for *Vocations to the Religious Profession*. You are all invited.
- \* We thank you for your contributions to the collection for the **Apostleship of the Sea** on Sunday last. The amount collected was **£853.60**.
- \* This year a **Day for Life** will be celebrated on Sunday 31 July – the day in the Church’s year dedicated to celebrating the dignity of life from conception to natural death. More details will appear in next week’s Newsletter.

Our 11 o’clock Mass today will be the special **Hermann Cohen Mass**, in honour of **Our Lady of Mount Carmel** whose feast we celebrated yesterday 16 July.