

<u>July</u>		<i>Feasts/Memorials</i>
Monday	4	St Elizabeth of Portugal
Tuesday	5	St Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Priest
Wednesday	6	St Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr
Saturday	9	SS Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest & Companions, Maryrs

Young Adults Monday Group

Our *Young Adults Monday Group* will meet in the Parish Centre at 7.30 for 8.00pm tomorrow Monday 4 July. All young adults who come to our Church are very welcome to join them for an evening of meaningful and challenging discussion on matters of faith.

Pre-Marriage Procedure

If there are any couples planning to get married within the next year, it is very important they come and see Fr Iain or Fr Matt without delay so that marriage preparation and all the paperwork can be completed well in advance

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-Thursday 6.30-7.30pm
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Registered Charity No: 253645
 Our Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

“Tongues of Fire” – Religious Communities

By the time most of you read this, **Br. Alex Ezechukwu OCD** will have made his **Final Profession** of Religious Vows in our Church. This is the third final profession to have taken place in this parish in a little over a year [Sr. Camilla, in this Church, March 2010, and Sr. Cathy, at the Assumption Convent, December 2010]. These are signs of the Holy Spirit’s work in the Church and evidence that this unique way of living Christianity is not dying but rather finding new life and new expressions.

This parish is served by a community of Carmelite friars. Though most of us are priests, our primary vocation is to live life in a Carmelite Community; a lifestyle that is anchored in more than 900 years of lived tradition. Furthermore, we are blessed in this parish to have the presence and support of a great variety of other Religious Communities: *Adoratrices, Assumption Sisters, Religious of Mary Immaculate, Pauline Sisters, Holy Child Sisters, Sisters of Sion, Poor Servants of the Mother of God, Carmelite Missionary Sisters* and many others who come to this Church or are linked in other ways. These communities and the dynamism of the Religious Vocation in the Church are the **“Tongues of Fire”** [signs of the Holy Spirit] I invite you to celebrate today.

People sometimes ask me: *“What is meant by a Carmelite Parish?”* I struggle to answer this question. It is evident to so many people that this place is different but the difference is subtle, unspoken and does not have a very visible cause. The difference must come from the way life is lived rather than the method by which things are done. For us, Carmelites, the parish is not a workplace but an extension of our community. Your lives are inseparable from the lives of prayer and contemplation we live. Two models from Carmelite history help to illustrate this:

The first Carmelites began as a community of hermits on Mount Carmel [a biblical mountain near Haifa]. The Carmelite Monastery quickly became a very important place for pilgrims. People went to the Holy Land on pilgrimage for a variety of motives but they found something of what their hearts longed most for in the prayer and witness of the first Carmelites.

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A few hundred years later **St. John of the Cross** began the first community of friars of the Carmelite reform in a quiet rural village. However, very quickly people began coming there and the friars travelled around to all the local villages. A mission began almost immediately and the people recognised that there was something unique and different here.

A Carmelite Parish then is an expression, perhaps the clearest expression, of the original spirit and tradition of the Carmelite friars [what the Church usually refers to as the Order's Charism]. That is how Religious Orders are effective; the work they do may be no different from anyone else's but because of the lives they live, the work takes on a quality and depth that is unique. Never ask a Religious Community what they do but rather how they live and why they live this way of life!

An illustration of the gift of Religious Life to society is the Charity that the *Adoratrices Sisters* have recently founded – to work with prostitutes in the Kensington area [called **Rahab Sanctuary**]. This Order was founded in Spain by *St. Maria Micaela* specifically for this work. Now they are doing that same work here in Kensington in a new but every bit as effective way. When a Religious Order is faithful to its Charism [its unique gift of the Holy Spirit], then it never ceases to be effective, creative and life-giving.

We celebrate the depth and variety of Religious life that enriches this parish. Each bring their own gifts, often in very hidden ways, but the benefits reach and influence so many people.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Triduum for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

In preparation for the **Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel**, on Saturday 16 July, we will have a **Triduum** in our Church starting after the 6.00pm Mass on Wednesday 13 July, also Thursday 14, and ending on Friday 15 July. You are all invited to attend these special devotions in honour of **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**.

Mass for the Sick and Elderly

We will have a Mass for *the Sick and Elderly of the Parish* at 12.15pm on Saturday 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.

Sacrament of Confirmation

At Westminster Cathedral yesterday, 2 July, a group of young people from this Parish received the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. We send them our warmest congratulations and also their Catechists and Sponsors.

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 7th birthday by 31 August 2011, and **Confirmation** – young people who will have reached their 13th 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.

Notices

- * Immediately after the 10 o'clock Mass this morning, we will have a **Corpus Christi Procession**. You are all warmly invited to join in, especially families/children and *First Communion Children*.
- * There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** from Monday-Thursday this coming week from 6.30-7.30pm. All are invited.
- * We thank you for your contributions to the **Peter's Pence** Collection on Sunday last. The amount collected was **£906.98**.

Mothers/Babies & Toddlers Playgroup

Please note the last Playgroup for the summer will be Friday 15 July. The new time for the Playgroup is from **3.00pm-4.00pm**. Timetables of playgroup activities are on the notice boards in the Church porches. For details contact Deirdra, deirdracottrill@hotmail.co.uk or Angie Birch: angie.birch@hotmail.co.uk

Sea Sunday

Sunday next 10 July is Sea Sunday. There will be Special Collection after all Masses in support of **The Apostleship of the Sea**. This is an independent charitable agency of the Catholic Church, wholly dependent on voluntary donations to continue its work. Please give as generously as you can towards this worthy cause. Thank you.