

Feasts/Memorials

May

Monday 7 – Friday 11 Easter Feria
Saturday 12 St Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs/
 St Pancras, Martyr

Individually-Guided Retreat at our Carmelite Priory, Boars Hill, Oxford

An individually-guided **Retreat** will be given by members of the Carmelite Secular Order from Monday evening 14 May to Friday lunch 18 May 2012. This Retreat will look at how the spiritual wisdom of Carmel deepens our prayer to give encouragement and inspiration in our daily lives. The cost for the Retreat is £200 for a single room or £160 if sharing. For further details and to book your place, please contact Stephen Pacey, Carmelite Priory, Boars Hill, Oxford. Telephone: 01865-321991. See also poster on our Church notice-boards

Readers Required

We need more readers for our **Weekday Masses**, particularly the 12.15 and 6.00pm. Also certain **Sunday Masses**. If you would like to be considered for this very important ministry in the Mass, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554, rmcdonagh34@btinternet.com

Weekday Masses:	8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Saturday Masses:	8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (<i>Vigil for Sunday</i>)
Sunday Masses:	8.30am, 10.00am (<i>with Choir</i>) 11.00am (some Latin) 12.15pm, 6.00pm <i>Young Adults Choir</i>
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:	Fridays 6.30.7.30pm – for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Profession.

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Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 6 May 2012 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Prayer – the Battle of Faith

Poignantly, the catechism of the Church invites us to ponder if, when we do pray “do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or “out of the depths” of a humble and contrite heart?” (2559). This small statement is thought-provoking and invites us to ponder our approach to prayer and perhaps recognise that subtle moments of pride and self-will do intermingle with our attempts to pray to God. Can we recognise the difference, for example, between a humble prayer and one full of pride in our moments of talking with God? To be able to do this, we would need to understand what humility is and what pride is. Let’s look at *humility* first.

What is humility?

A dictionary definition of humility states it is “*a modest or low view of one’s own importance...*” In prayer, to possess humility then is to have an awareness of who we are compared to the person we are speaking to. Before we begin to pray then, the Church is encouraging us to view things in proper perspective. An essential preamble to prayer is to remember that we are God’s creation, God’s creature. So there is no question of our being God’s equal. As the catechism suggests, each of us is a “beggar before God” and this awareness becomes the catalyst for our approach to God – to receive the gift of prayer necessitates we be humble as a pre-requisite to our establishing a right relationship with God to begin with. We enter the presence of a Person who is great and can and wants to help us. A Person who, knowing what we do against him, still wants to offer his love to us to help us.

What is Pride?

A definition of pride is “*the quality of having an excessively high opinion of oneself or one’s importance*”. In this definition we can see that pride is the opposite of humility. A person so preoccupied with their own achievements, feelings and satisfaction, coming to prayer in such a manner will obviously not be open to the *gift* of prayer – God, and gifts God desires to give.

So, within this small reflection on the catechism's teaching, we can see each person who makes the decision to pray enters into a wrestling match - pride and humility battling for our attention. We face in prayer the struggle to grow aware of who we are by encouraging our understanding of who God is, or we insist on being so preoccupied with ourselves that no room is left for being open enough to receive what God may wish to give. This wrestling match is depicted in the story of the *Pharisee and the Publican* and makes for good reading on this spiritual battle in each of us. The question of how we begin to pray needs this sensitivity towards humility as a preamble to converse with God. How do we become humble needs a closer look at this story in our lives – *over to you.* (Fr Prior)

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Solemnities in May/June

The following are Solemnities celebrated on four consecutive Sundays in May/June as follows: Sunday 20 May: Ascension of the Lord; Sunday 27 May: Pentecost Sunday; Sunday 3 June: Most Holy Trinity, and Sunday 10 June: Corpus Christi, Most Holy Body & Blood of the Lord. Following these, on Friday 29 June, we will have the *Solemnity of SS Peter & Paul*.

Children's First Holy Communion

On Sunday 10 June, Feast of Corpus Christi, and Sunday 17 June, at the 10.00am Mass, a group of children from this Parish will receive **First Holy Communion** in our Church. You are all invited to be present at the Mass and we ask you please to pray for these children on this special day in their lives, and to pray also for their families and Catechists.

Ordination of Br Alex Ezechukwu

On Saturday 30 June, **Br Alex Ezechukwu will be ordained a Carmelite priest here at Kensington**. You are all invited to the Ordination. *Please keep Br Alex in your prayers as he prepares for his Ordination to the priestly ministry.*

11am Sunday Liturgy in our Church

As a community, we are more than aware of the delicacy associated with liturgy as much as the integral nature of music within the liturgy. Of late, certain temporary arrangements have been set in place for the **11am Sunday Liturgy**. Whilst not ideal, it is sufficient as it helps sustain Latin sung at this Mass – an overall aim that we have in mind to keep. Meanwhile, the Community and I are actively seeking to discern how best to identify and move forward where possible, to make improvements that would certainly look to restore the revered tradition of our long-standing music at the 11 am Sunday Mass. Be assured that the Carmelite Community and I perceive the current situation as temporary. We ask for your prayers and patience as a process unfolds. (Fr Prior)

Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land November 2012

Archbishop Vincent Nichols will lead the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from **7-15 November 2012**. During the pilgrimage you will stay in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Galilee. The cost is **£1,480** per person for two sharing a room. Places are limited, so please request a booking form a.s.a.p. via Gerald Daly at gerald Daly@rcdow.org.uk

Mass in Support of Migrant Workers in London

Tomorrow, Bank Holiday Monday 7 May, at **Westminster Cathedral**, you are invited to join fellow workers, migrants and civic leaders for a morning of reflection and celebration in **Honour of St Joseph the Worker, at 10.30am**. Mass will be preceded by a procession of representatives from London's diverse communities, occupations and civic organisations. The Chief Celebrant will be Thomas McMahon, Bishop of Brentwood, Preacher Bishop Patrick Lynch. Also celebrating will be Auxiliary Bishops from Diocese of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster

Please note tomorrow <u>Monday 7 May is May Day Bank Holiday</u> . Masses will be at 9.00am and 12.15pm. The Church will close at 1.00pm – no 6.00pm Mass .
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