

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 21 November 2010 - Solemnity of Christ the King

Feasts/Memorials

November:

Monday 22 - St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr
Tuesday 23 - St Clement I, Pope & Martyr / St Columban Abbot
Wednesday 24 - St Andrew Dung Lac, Priest, & Companions,
Vietnamese Martyrs
Thursday 25 - St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr

Vocations Discernment Group

The next meeting of the *Vocations Discernment Group* for young men and women (19-30s) will be on Friday next 26 November from 7.00-9.00pm, in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, next to Westminster Cathedral, with a reflection by Mgr Keith Barltrop on “**Vocation and Mission**”. For further details, visit: www.rcdow.org.uk/vocations email: richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk

November Dead List

A Mass will be said every day during the month of November for your departed relatives and friends. Names and donations will be accepted at Reception Desk. Special forms and envelopes are available at the back of the Church.

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 from 6.30-8.00pm
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Our Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

‘Let Him save Himself if He is the Christ’

Today is the **Feast of Christ the King** and the last Sunday of the Church’s year. Throughout the past year we have been reading the *Gospel of St Luke* [next Sunday we begin *Matthew’s Gospel*] We have seen and reflected upon many characteristics of how Luke presents Jesus to us. One of these characteristics is Jesus as **Saviour** - note how often we see the words: *Saviour, Save, Salvation*. Let us recall a few examples:

“*My spirit exults in God my saviour*” [Mary, in her prayer].

“*A saviour has been born to you*” [Angel to the shepherds].

“*My eyes have seen salvation*” [Simeon when he sees the baby].

“*Today salvation has come to this house*” [Jesus to Zacchaeus].

These are just a few examples of many we could have quoted. In our Gospel today we have Jesus upon the cross and this is the question that the scene poses: Is Jesus really the person this Gospel claims him to be? We could argue that the opponents of Jesus get it absolutely right – if Jesus is Saviour, then he should not be on the cross, he cannot possibly die – he must be able to save himself! For Luke, author of this Gospel, the whole credibility of his story depends on the answer to this question. So how is the question answered?

* Salvation is not an escape, it is not a running away from truth, reality, pain, death etc. It is not a last resort we turn to when everything else has gone wrong.

* We are not saved from being human, we are saved by being human. Human life, lived well, lived as it should be lived, is a journey of salvation.

* We are not saved on our terms but on God’s terms. We cannot dictate to God “*Have you no fear of God at all?*”

* Salvation is a loving acceptance of God and all that God wants to give us.

* Salvation is not a possession or a right, it is a relationship – “*Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom*”.

* There is no one beyond the reach of God’s salvation, the first one to be saved is a guilty criminal nailed to a cross. It is not a reward, it can never be deserved, it is always a free gift, a gift available to everyone who has the humility to ask.

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For us, the most important line of this Gospel passage is the first one: “*The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus*”. We are these people, the readers, the listeners to this Gospel. We must stay for a long time before the cross. This scene is a beautiful painting we must never take our eyes off. That is what Mary does at the beginning of the Gospel, it is now what every Christian must do. We will never fully understand how Jesus is Saviour or King or God but we must follow Him, stay with Him, humbly speak with Him and be open to receiving his gifts.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome
Sunday 2nd – Saturday 8th October 2011

The year **2012** will be the **150th Anniversary of this Church** – the Carmelites first came here in **1862**. To begin our year of celebration and thanksgiving we are organising a Parish Pilgrimage to Rome from **2nd – 8th October 2011**.

Fr Matt Blake will lead this Pilgrimage and the cost is **£769**, with £28.50 extra per person for Insurance (if required). Also single room supplement is £96 per person for the 6 nights (limited availability). The Programme for the Pilgrimage is available from the back of the Church after all Masses today. The Booking Form can be obtained from Reception once you’ve decided if you wish to travel. This should be completed and returned to Pax Travel Ltd, 152-156 Kentish Town Road, London, NW1 9QB (**not** to our Church). A deposit of £120, plus the Insurance Premium (if required) should be sent with your booking.

A Holy Hour for Vocations

On Friday next 26 November, from 6.30-7.30pm, we will have **an hour of prayer** before the Blessed Sacrament, for **Vocations to the Discalced Carmelite Order in England**, and to the Religious Congregations represented in our parish.

Gathering for Young Married Couples

Our next *Gathering for Young Married Couples* will take place on Tuesday 7th December from 7.30-9.00pm. The gathering is a time when young couples come to the Carmelite Priory and enjoy friendly conversation over a glass of wine. We follow this with some input relevant to marriage or being parents, and general discussion. Contact: Fr Iain 07776-457392. iainmatthew@yahoo.com

Carols at Kensington High St Tube Station

Our Sunday evening Choir and friends will be singing carols inside Kensington High St. Tube Station on **Saturday next 27 November** from 2.00-5.00pm Please come along and support them. Money raised will go to the *Catholic Children’s Society*.

Carol Service in our Church

Another date for your diaries: On **Sunday 12 December**, after the 6.00pm Mass, our Sunday evening Choir will perform an arrangement of your favourite carols with some special supporting accompaniments. This will be followed by refreshments. You are all invited.

Craft Project – December 1st “Stitch Up”

The Craft Team is recruiting more volunteers for its Christmas Project. Come join us for the “**Big Stitch Up**” on Wednesday 1st December where, as a community, we will get sewing on our images of the *Baby Jesus* over tea and cakes from 10.00am– 12 Noon at the Carmelite Church (Reception entrance). Our goal is to make 800 felt images to be distributed to the congregation on the Third Sunday of Advent, 12th December. These will be passed on to believers and non-believers as a reminder of God’s presence and love. Everybody welcome!.

Notices

- * We will have our monthly *Parish Gathering* after the 10 o’clock Mass this morning, when you are all invited downstairs for tea/coffee.
- * As of Friday next 26th November, our **Mothers and Babies’ Group** will take place on Fridays from 3.30pm to 5.00pm, in the Parish Centre. Enquiries: Deirdre, Tel: 07946-544398.
- * Our **Children’s Christmas Party** will take place on Saturday 11th December in the Parish Centre from 3.00-5.00pm. Lots of activities focused on the real meaning of Christmas for the young children of the Parish. More details to follow.

Sunday next 28 November is the **First Sunday of Advent** when we begin **Year A** in the Lectionary for Sundays and Feasts; and for weekdays until Christmas, we follow the Advent daily readings. Will readers please note.

Today is **National Youth Day**. There will be a special collection after all Masses for the *Catholic Youth Service*.