

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

28 September 2008 – Twenty Sixth Sunday of the Year

Sept.

Feasts/Memorials

Monday 29 SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
Tuesday 30 St Jerome, Priest & Doctor

Oct

Wednesday 1 St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Carmelite, Virgin &
Doctor of the Church - Feast
Thursday 2 Holy Guardian Angels
Saturday 4 St Francis of Assisi

Brown Scapular Devotions in honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

On Saturday next 4 October we will have the Brown Scapular Devotions in honour of our Lady of Mount Carmel, after the 6pm Mass. You are all invited to stay on for the rosary and special prayers. This being the month of October, we are all encouraged to pray the Rosary.

The Sick, Elderly & Housebound

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.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays from 6.30-8.00pm.

Our Parish Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

Weekday Masses: 8am, 12.15pm, 6pm
Saturday Masses: 8am, 12.15pm, 6pm (*Vigil Mass for Sunday*)
Sunday Masses: 8.30am, 10am, 11am *Sung/Latin*
12.15pm, 6pm *Young Adults Choir*
Holy Days: 8am, 12.15pm, 6pm
Bank Holidays: 9am, 12.15pm (no 6pm Mass)
Weekday Confessions: 5.30-5.50pm (Priest on duty except between
12 Noon-3pm)
Saturday Confessions: 10.30-11.45am, 3.30-5.50pm
Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB
Tel: 020-7937-9866 Fax: 020-7938-1470
Registered Charity No: 253645.

Letter to the Philippians

For four Sundays, of which this is the second, we have extracts from *St Paul's Letter to the Philippians*. In New Testament times, Philippi was an important Roman city in the north east of Macedonia. It was situated on the important Roman road to the east and was the site of Mark Antony's defeat of Brutus and Cassius in 31BC. The population of Philippi was a mixture of Roman veterans and Macedonians with a small Jewish population. We read in the *Acts of the Apostles* that the Jews did not have a Synagogue but met for prayer at a place by the river and that is where Paul first went to speak with them.

The Church in Philippi was the first that Paul founded in Europe. From Paul's Letter to the Philippians we can see that Paul seems to have a particular love for this Church – some people suggest it was Paul's favourite Christian community! The background to his Letter to the Philippians could be summarised as follows:

- * Paul is in prison – it is not clear where or when.
- * The Christian community in Philippi has been particularly kind to Paul and he wants to acknowledge this generosity.
- * There are divisions in the Church.
- * Some person or persons have upset or disturbed the Christians of Philippi.

We could sum up Paul's message to the Christians of Philippi with these two statements:

Only Jesus Christ matters - the preaching of the Gospel and the unity and solidarity of all who believe.

Jesus is our source of joy and therefore a Christian must always remain joyful [look at how often the words joy and rejoice are used in this letter].

Our Second Reading today is perhaps the best known and most often quoted passage of this letter. It begins with an appeal to the Christians to be like Jesus Christ - to have the mind of Jesus Christ. Then Paul quotes this beautiful hymn [whether Paul wrote this hymn or is quoting a well-known early Christian hymn, we do not know].

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The content of the hymn can be seen in six movements:-

1. *Jesus is God.*
2. *Jesus voluntarily lets go of this and fully accepts the human condition, even the unpleasant aspects like slavery.*
3. *Jesus goes further and accepts death, even an exceptionally painful and humiliating criminal's death on a cross.*
4. *God raises Jesus up to the highest possible place.*
5. *All that exists in heaven, earth and the underworld must pay Jesus homage.*
6. *All people must acclaim Jesus as God and give glory to the one true God.*

A Christian, then, must know and appreciate what it means to be a disciple of this same Jesus. To be a disciple of Jesus is the greatest of all gifts of God and that is why Paul says to the Christians of Philippi: *"Be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing that would make me completely happy"*.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Young Adults Monday Group

All young adults are warmly invited to our Monday Group meeting tomorrow Monday (7.00pm for 7.30 in the Parish Centre) when there will be an inspiring talk on DVD by David Payne (Director of Catholic Faith Exploration – CaFE) on *'Knowing the Father's Love'*. The talk includes practical advice, testimonies and time for prayerful reflection. It promises to be a stimulating and enjoyable evening.

Feast of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus

On **Wednesday next 1 October** we celebrate the **Feast of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus**, Virgin of our Order and Doctor of the Church. Masses will be at the usual times, 8.00am, 12.15 and 6.00pm.

We thank you for your contributions to the collection on Sunday last, **Home Mission Sunday**. The amount collected was **£699.72**.

Carmelite Youth Day – Saturday 11 October 2008

Only two more weeks to go till we celebrate our **Carmelite Youth Day** here in this Church on Saturday 11 October. This is a day for the youth of our parish and other parishes in the Diocese to come together in prayer. Our inspiration this year will be the Carmelite, **St Edith Stein**, Patroness of Europe and Patroness of World Youth Day. There is a very full day's programme lined up, beginning with **Special Mass of St Edith Stein** at **12.15pm**, to which everyone is invited, followed by an afternoon programme for young people, and ending with **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** in the Church from **4.00-5.00pm**, with concluding liturgy (everyone welcome). Please invite all the young people you possibly can, and above all please pray for the success of this day.

Catechism for Children - 2008-09

- * Catechism for children begins today after the 10am Mass. Parents of children attending the catechism for **First Holy Communion** are asked to come together with Fr Iain today after the 10am Mass (i.e. while the children are having their catechism).
- * On Sunday next 5th October, Parents of children attending the **pre-Communion groups** (i.e. children aged 5-6 and 6-7) are asked to meet Fr Iain after the 10am Mass.

Confirmation

Young people aged 13 years and over who wish to be prepared to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** next year should pick up an application form from the back of the Church and complete and return it to Fr Iain without delay.

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

This programme is for (a) Adults who wish to be baptised, (b) Adult Catholics who are baptised but who have not received First Communion and/or Confirmation and (c) Members of other Christian Churches who wish to enter into full Communion with the Catholic Church. The programme runs from October until Easter. For further information and to apply, please contact Fr Matt at: matthewblake@rcdow.org.uk

Harvest Fast Day for CAFOD

Friday next 3 October is **Harvest Fast Day**, and on Sunday next there will be a special collection after all Masses for your contributions to **CAFOD**, the Catholic Church's own overseas aid agency. Your generosity towards this very worthy cause will be greatly appreciated.