

September

Feasts/Memorials

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| Tuesday | 8 | Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Feast |
| Wednesday | 9 | St Peter Claver, Priest |
| Saturday | 12 | Blessed Mary of Jesus, Virgin, Carmelite |

Notices

Sunday next 13 September is **Racial Justice Day**. There will be a special collection after all Masses for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice.

Monday Group: Our Young Adults Monday Group will meet tomorrow evening at 7.30 for 8.00pm in the Parish Centre, following their summer break. All young people (18/35) who come to our Church are very welcome to join them. Entrance to the Parish Centre via Pitt Street.

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Babies and Toddlers Playgroup have now resumed, following their Summer break - Fridays 3.45-5.15pm in the Parish Centre. New children welcome. For further information, contact: Segolene 020-3062-2978

Works going on in the Church at Present

- * **The Parish Centre** is being painted, plus other small repair works. This should be finished in the next few days.
- * **Fire Alarms:** The Fire Alarm System is being upgraded throughout the entire premises. It will be another two to three weeks before this is complete. Apologies for any inconvenience caused as a result of this work.

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

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

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 **Sung**, 11.00am **Sung/Latin**
12.15pm, 6.00pm **Young Adults Choir**

Holy Days: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Bank Holidays: 9am, 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

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Registered Charity No: 253645.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 6 September 2009 – Twenty Third Sunday of the Year

'Be Opened'

In today's Gospel Jesus is in pagan territory and they bring him a man who is deaf and dumb. The people ask Jesus "*to lay his hands on him*". This is a gesture used in many of the sacraments of the Church; it is a prayer for healing, blessing and an invocation of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus effortlessly restores his powers of hearing and speech. Word spreads everywhere and "*their admiration was unbounded. He has done all things well, he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak*". Limitless admiration and astonishment sum up the atmosphere of this scene. What is really happening is much greater and more far-reaching than the astonishing change in one person's circumstances.

Jesus is opening the ears and giving a voice to all into whose lives he comes. Jesus opens the ears of all who are deaf to the voice of truth, goodness, beauty, love, justice, etc. whatever it is we are deaf to, once Jesus enters our lives we can no longer be imprisoned by, or hold on to, our deafness. Those who hear the word of God are given a voice – a voice that speaks words of comfort, hope, truth, wisdom [welcome or unwelcome] to all the world. From early Christian times, blessing the ears and mouth has been part of the baptism ceremony. This is also one of the ceremonies in the RCIA journey. The name of the ceremony is "*Ephphatha*" which is the Aramaic word used by Jesus and means "*Be opened*". In Baptism a person's mind, heart, life is opened to the presence, action and words of Jesus. A Christian is given the grace to hear God's word and to speak his word through their life style, actions, attitudes and words.

Baptism is a very personal experience but its implications go way beyond the individual. This Gospel story wonderfully illustrates this aspect of baptism for us. We do not even know the name of the man but nothing can stop the news of him spreading – nothing can stop an individual who accepts the Gospel from spreading it. Throughout the history of Christianity scholars have been puzzled by the geography in the first sentence of today's Gospel – read it with a map in front of you [Jesus seems to be going in four different directions at the one time!].

Mark, of course, is not interested in giving us a geography lesson, he wants to make a much more profound point. Jesus is in our world.

this the word of God is spreading in every direction. There can be no limits to who can hear it, who can be healed or forgiven by it or who can be the medium through whom it is heard. The word is spreading in an uncontrollable way and the normal rules of navigation or locomotion do not apply.

I conclude with how another translator translates the conclusion of this Gospel passage: *“But as much as he tried to command them, they proclaimed it all the more extravagantly. And they were super-extravagantly amazed, saying, ‘He has done everything well: even the deaf he makes to hear, and speechless ones to speak’”*.

No person who receives Jesus Christ and is baptised can remain deaf and without a voice.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

First Holy Communion/Confirmation/RCIA Classes 2009/2010

Parents of children eligible for the following First Communion classes are requested to submit their Registration Forms without delay, if not already done. (Forms available from the back of the Church).

(1) Children aged seven years upwards for programme of preparation for **First Holy Communion**, beginning in October 2009.

(2) We will also have a programme of Early Catechism for younger children (i.e. 5/6 and 6/7 year olds) as well as (3) Post-Communion Catechism classes. These classes will all take place in the Priory on Sunday mornings after the 10 o'clock Mass.

Confirmation: Young people, 13 years and over, who wish to be prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next year are invited to pick up an application form from back of the Church, and complete and return to Fr Iain.

The **RCIA** programme will run in the Priory from October 2009 until Easter 2010. It is intended for: (i) Adults who wish to be baptised; (ii) Adult Catholics who are baptised but who have not received First Communion and/or Confirmation; (iii) Members of other Christian Churches who wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. For information contact Fr Matt matthewblake@rcdow.org.uk

Holy Hour for the Gift of Vocations

Tomorrow Monday, 7 September, we will have our Holy Hour with emphasis on *Prayer for the Gift of Vocations to Religious Life* – guided by the *Message of St Thérèse* – from 6.30-7.30pm. All are warmly invited.



Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux

The Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux will arrive in our Church on **Sunday 11 October**, as part of their national visit to England and Wales. Our programme is not finalised yet but will consist of the following:

- * 6.00pm Mass of Preparation, celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes.
- * 7.30pm (approx) Arrival of the Relics and Welcoming Ceremony.

The Church will remain open all night for private prayer and veneration.

Monday 12 October: 9.00am Closing Ceremony

9.30am Departure of the Relics

Events in preparation for the visit:

Saturday 12 September: Carmelite Forum Conference. Talks by Heather Ward OCDS and Fr Chris O'Donnell O'Carm, and various discussions and prayer. More details on notice-board, and application forms can be obtained from Reception.

Sunday 27 September: Parish Open Day in preparation for the visit, 11.00am to 6.00pm:

- * An Exhibition on Thérèse's life and teaching
- * Film
- * Children's activities
- * Book Stall
- * Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day
- * 4.00pm - Talk by Fr Matt *“The greater significance of the visit”*
- * Refreshments throughout the day

Saturday 3 October: Carmelite Youth Day

An opportunity for all young adults to prepare for the visit.

- * 12.15pm Mass
- Lunch
- Talks, discussions, reflection, prayer
- 4.00-5.00pm Exposition and prayer in Church

Please spread the word around about all these activities.