

<u>January</u>		<i>Feasts/Memorial</i>
Monday	19	St Wulstan, Bishop
Tuesday	20	St Fabian, Pope & Martyr/ St Sebastian, Martyr
Wednesday	21	St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
Thursday	22	St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr
Saturday	24	St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor

Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Admission Arrangements 2010

The Governing Body of Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School (89 Addison Rd., London W14 8BZ) is consulting on its proposed Admission Arrangements for entry in September 2010. The consultation will close on 1 March 2009. If anybody would like to read the arrangements or comment on them, please follow the admissions link on website: www.cvms.co.uk
Any parents with comments or concerns, please refer to Fr Matt.

Catholic Singles

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single practising Catholics meet up, either one to one or through social events. For more information telephone: 0161-941 3498, visit website: www.catholicsingles.org.uk
or email: info@catholicsingles.org.uk

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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:	8am, 12.15pm, 6pm
Saturday Masses:	8am, 12.15pm, 6pm (<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>)
Sunday Masses:	8.30am, 10am, 11am <i>Sung/Latin</i> 12.15pm, 6pm <i>Young Adults Choir</i>
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.	

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 18 January 2009 – Second Sunday of the Year

Infant Jesus

[Next Sunday we will have the celebration of the “**Santo Niño**” here in our Church. Today I give something of the historic and Carmelite background to this devotion].

Devotion to the child Jesus is inspired by the gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus – we could say that the first people to worship the child Jesus are the shepherds and the Magi - ‘*And going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage*’. It was only a matter of time before Christians began to depict the child Jesus in art – drawing, painting and sculpture. Many saints are noted for their devotion to the child Jesus; for example, St Francis of Assisi, St Anthony of Padua and St Bernard of Clairvaux. St Teresa of Avila took her sculpture of the child Jesus around with her when she was founding her convents.

The devotion was particularly strong in Spain and it is there that the statue of the Child Jesus of Prague originates. The sculpture is the work of an unknown Spanish artist and is said to have originally been in a convent somewhere between Cordoba and Seville. It was given to Maria Manrique de Lara by her mother on the occasion of her wedding to a Czech nobleman Vojech of Pernstejn. She in turn gave it as a wedding gift to her daughter who on the death of her husband gave the sculpture to the Carmelites in Prague [*perhaps we see here the origins of the tradition of praying to the Infant of Prague at weddings*].

At first the Carmelites kept the statue in a private chapel and the novices prayed before it twice a day. Then later the statue was moved to the main Church and became very popular.

In 1631 the Saxons invaded Prague and the Church was destroyed. Some time later Fr Cyril, a Carmelite Priest from Munich, visited the ruined Church and found the statue thrown out with other rubble. The sculpture was badly damaged and Fr Cyril raised money for its restoration, and so once more it became an object of devotion, and many miracles are associated with it.

During the 17th century there was much turmoil due to ongoing wars with the Swedes and in 1784 the Carmelites lost their Church and monastery. Later it became a parish Church under the care of the Knights of Malta. In 1993 the Carmelites were invited back to Prague to take over the Church

they had lost more than 200 years earlier. Once more it has become a place of prayer, pilgrimage and devotion to the Child Jesus.

From the very beginning an important part of the devotion to this statue has been dressing it. Even when Fr Cyril found the damaged statue it was dressed in blue. Today the statue has over 70 dresses, the oldest dating back to 1700, and many modern ones, donated from all over the world.

We can understand from this little history how the tradition of praying to the Infant of Prague at time of war began. I will conclude with some lines from a letter of St Edith Stein written in the midst of World War Two, just a few months before her own death in Auschwitz. [*The Carmel of Cologne where Edith was a sister from 1933-1938 had a special mission to promote devotion to the Infant of Prague in Germany*].

“Yesterday, when I looked at a picture of the Infant of Prague, it suddenly occurred to me that he is wearing imperial coronation dress and surely it was not accidental that his efficacy should come to the fore precisely in Prague. After all, Prague has been the court of the old German and Roman Emperors, respectively, and the city makes such a majestic impression that no other city known to me can compare with it, not even Paris and Vienna. The Little Jesus came exactly when the political imperial grandeur came to an end in Prague. Is he not the secret Emperor who will some day put an end to all misery? After all, he holds the reins even though people believe they are the rulers”.

[letter 2nd February 1942)

Fr Matt Blake

Parish Information Sessions **Sunday 18 & Sunday 25 January**

Today at 11.00am (after the 10.00am Mass), we will have the first of two *Parish Information Sessions*. We welcome everybody to these Sessions. Particularly welcome are new parishioners, people who wish to know more about the Carmelite Church and those who would like to be more involved. There will be introductions, sharing of information and an opportunity to ask any questions you may wish. The second Session will be on Sunday next, 25 January at 7.00pm (after the 6.00pm Mass).

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18-25 January 2009

We begin today a **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. To mark the occasion, this year Kensington Council of Churches have organised ‘**A Celebration of Prayer and Reflection**’ to take place at St Mary Abbot’s Church, corner of Kensington High St., on Thursday next 22nd January, at 7.00pm, to which all are invited. The Week of Prayer offers an opportunity for us to meet and pray with Christians of different denominations in our Kensington locality

‘Mothers Prayers’ Meeting

On Thursday 5 February at 11am, there will be a ‘**Mothers Prayers**’ Meeting in our Carmelite Priory. ‘Mothers Prayers’ unites all mothers to pray for their children. **Veronika Williams**, its founder, will be present to explain how she came to start ‘Mothers Prayers’ 12 years ago, how it is prayed all over the world without any advertisements or fundraising. She will lead the meeting in praying the ‘Mothers Prayers’ together and teach us how to continue at home. All women and mothers who come to our Church are invited. There will be refreshments at 10.30am prior to the meeting.

Archbishop’s Mass of Thanksgiving for The Sacrament of Matrimony

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 30 May 2009 at 3.00pm. Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th+ Wedding Anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2009. If you qualify, please don’t delay in telling your parish clergy. You will need to provide: husband and wife’s names, wedding date, full postal address and email if you have one (or, if not, a phone no.).

Notices

- * We will have our **Parish Gathering** after the 10 o’clock Mass this morning. You are all invited to join us downstairs in the Parish Centre for tea/coffee and friendly chat.
- * Fr Matt will give the third of his four talks on the **Gospel of St Mark** this Tuesday evening 20 January at 7.30pm. The final talk will take place on Tuesday 27 January. All are welcome.
- * All are invited to the Concelebrated Mass in celebration of **The Feast of the Santo Niño** on **Sunday next 25 January at 2.00pm**. There will be a reception in the Parish Centre after the Mass.