

January		<i>Feasts/Memorial</i>
Monday	26	SS Timothy & Titus, Bishops
Tuesday	27	St Angela Merici, Virgin
Wednesday	28	St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor
Saturday	31	St John Bosco, Priest

Catholic Priesthood – The Challenge

A week-end for men, 21-22 March '09, at Allen Hall Seminary, Westminster Diocese. Contact vocations@rcdow.org.uk Tel: 020-7798-9083
www.rcdow.org.uk/vocations

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

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.

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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

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Registered Charity No: 253645.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 25 January 2009 – Third Sunday of the Year

Book of Jonah

Our first reading today is from the *Book of Jonah*. I assume most of us are familiar with this well known biblical story:

- * *Jonah is called by God to go and preach to the people of Nineveh [Nineveh is the capital of Assyria, an ancient enemy of the people of Israel, the ruins of the city are near the modern Iraqi city of Mosul. The city represents the epitome of wickedness and inhumanity in the ancient world].*
- * *Jonah does not want to go and decides to flee in the opposite direction.*
- * *He gets on a ship to sail for Tarshish [a name meaning “the end of the world”, probably in Spain].*
- * *There is a great storm, the sailors throw Jonah overboard, Jonah is swallowed up by a fish and after three days and three nights he is vomited up on the shore.*
- * *Finally he goes to preach to the people of Nineveh, the people repent and God does not destroy Nineveh.*
- * *Jonah is unhappy that Nineveh has not been destroyed. He could not bear the possibility that God’s mercy might be extended to this wicked and hateful people.*

Message: This book is not recounting a historic event, it is a parable and its message is universal. The book invites us into the life of a reluctant prophet. Jonah struggles to understand the God he is called to serve. The mercy of God is free and unmerited but how can we accept this when we see God being merciful to our enemies? How do we understand concepts like “mercy”, “justice”, “righteousness” etc? Why does God not punish people who are clearly and so obviously “evil”? Jonah is called by God but in order to serve God he has to rethink his understanding of God. God is not limited by the limitations of human thinking or the accepted interpretations of human history. If the city of Nineveh can change, then all people and human history itself can change.

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We can understand both Jonah's fear of the people of Nineveh and his scepticism about the possibility of change. Like Jonah, the call of God to us challenges us to break free of the limitations of our inherited world and religious viewpoints.

The Book of Jonah is no fairy tale. It is a parable which conveys a very complex and challenging message. It is only a few pages but it is well worth picking up the bible and reading again this very attractive, well written and challenging story. Its message is as much needed in our world today as it was whenever this story was written.

Fr Matt Blake

Parish Information Session – Sunday 25 January

It is regretted that, due to unforeseen circumstances, the second of our *Parish Information Sessions*, due to take place at 7.00pm this evening, has been postponed. A new date will be announced shortly, but in the meantime, apologies for any inconvenience the change of date may cause.

'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.

Two Marathons

Isabel Hill, a postulant with the Sisters of the Assumption in Kensington Square, will be running two marathons for two charities on two consecutive week-ends in April. The charities are: **"Reaching the Unreached"** which works amongst orphaned children and poor villagers in Southern India, and **WPF Therapy**, a London-based organisation which offers subsidised counselling and psychotherapy for people on low income. See Isabel's blog: www.twomarathons.blogspot.com for more information and online donations, or contact her on 020-7361-4743, or isabelahill@yahoo.co.uk Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Samuel Group - "Speak Lord, your Servant is listening"

Making important decisions about career, study or a gap-year? Wondering whether marriage, priesthood, single life or consecrated life is for you?

The Samuel Group - for young adults [20-30s] open to listening to the Word of God and putting it into action in their lives, beginning February 2009 in Kensington. Contact: samuel.group@yahoo.co.uk

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 number)

Faith Matters

A series of four lectures hosted by The Agency for Evangelisation and Mount Street Jesuit Centre, at Westminster Cathedral Hall, Victoria Street, beginning on Tuesday 10 March at 7.00pm - first lecture entitled *"Is God? Who God? The Existence and Nature of God"* given by Dr Peter Vardy. These are public lectures to which all are welcome, but registration is required to guarantee a place. Please email: faithmatters@rcdow.org.uk or telephone 020-7931-6078. See poster on our Church notice-board.

Notices

- * Fr Matt will give the last of his four talks on the **Gospel of St Mark** this Tuesday evening 27 January at 7.30pm. All are welcome.
- * *Parish Winter Cinema for Children* - On Sunday next, 1 February, at 3.30pm, all children are invited to come to the Priory to see the film **Horton Hears a Who!** No need to book, just come along, accompanied by an adult.
- * All are invited to the Concelebrated Mass in celebration of **The Feast of the Santo Niño** today at **2.00pm**. There will be a reception in the Parish Centre after the Mass.