

February		<i>Feasts/Memorial</i>
Monday	2	Presentation of the Lord – Candlemas Day - Feast
Tuesday	3	SS Lawrence, Dunstan, Theodore, Bishops; St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr
Thursday	5	St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
Friday	6	SS Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

Sacred Heart High School, Hammersmith

The Governing Body of the Sacred Heart High School, Hammersmith, is consulting on its proposed admission arrangements for entry in September 2010. The draft Policy and Supplementary Information Form are available to view on the school's website: www.sacredhearthischool.org.uk

St Mary's Cadogan Street

Marriage Preparation – Communication Day

St Mary's Cadogan Street have prepared a Marriage Communication Day to take place on Saturday 21 March at the Parish Centre of our Carmelite Priory. This is offered to couples in parishes outside the Deanery who wish to complement their own marriage preparation. The day commences at 11.00am and ends around 4.30pm. The cost is £40 per couple. For all enquiries and to book: email: chelsea1@rcdow.org.uk Telephone Parish Secretary on: 020-7589-5487 (between 8.30am and 12.30pm only).

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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 1 February 2009 – Fourth Sunday of the Year

The Church in Corinth

Our second reading today is from *St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians* – we will be hearing from this letter and from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians for quite a few Sundays.

The importance of Corinth lay in its position on the Isthmus of Corinth, the shortest route from the Adriatic to the Aegean and thus from Europe to Asia. The ancient Greek city was destroyed by the Romans in 146BC. The Corinth of the New Testament times was founded by Julius Caesar in 44BC. It was a wealthy city, most of the wealth coming from trade. It is estimated that the population would have been made up of one-third free full citizens, one-third freedmen (ex slaves whose freedom was restricted by commitments to their former owners) and one-third slaves. It was a city of many temples and gods, many philosophical traditions and a sizeable Jewish population. In addition Corinth had a reputation as a city of pleasure and vice both in Greek and Roman times. It was into this world that Paul arrived in 50AD. Corinth has been described as the New Testament city most like our modern cities – international population, great wealth, poverty, education, trade, many different ways of thinking, moral confusion, religious diversity, exploitation, injustice, etc., you name it, Corinth had it!

The Church that Paul founded in Corinth had all the diversity one would expect in such a city. His letters are mostly taken up with dealing with the problems of the Corinthian Church. It is helpful when reading Paul's letters to the Corinthians to keep in mind the difficulties that form the background to the writing. These are some of the principal ones:

1. The Church in Corinth tended to divide into factions; loyalty to different leaders, different ways of preaching the message of Jesus and the following of teachings incompatible with the Gospel.
2. The Christians of Corinth tended to suffer from a "spiritual superiority", they saw themselves as important and with the right to look down on others.
3. Corinth was a melting pot for all kinds of religious and philosophical thinking and this infiltrated the Christian community.
4. Many of the Christian converts wanted to continue living the free moral lives they lived before becoming Christians. Two particular attitudes prevailed:-

- * “Christianity has no say over my “private life”, I am still free to live as I choose”.
 - * “My life is now “spiritual”, only the spiritual matters, and so what I do in the physical world and with my body has no importance”.
5. The Church in Corinth had many very wealthy members and they liked to flaunt that wealth even at meetings of the Christian community and in front of less well off fellow Christians.

From these few examples we can understand why the Church in Corinth tested Paul’s patience to the limits. They also forced him to clarify and develop his ideas, and the result is a treasury of the teaching of Jesus Christ and its application in everyday life.

These two letters deepen our understanding of who Jesus is and give us so much to reflect upon as we try to apply his teaching to the everyday reality of our lives.

Fr Matt Blake

‘Mothers Prayers’ Meeting

On Thursday next, 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. All women and mothers who come to our Church are invited, including those in consecrated life. There will be refreshments at 10.30am prior to the meeting.

Samuel Group

Making important decisions about career, study or a gap-year? Wondering whether marriage, priesthood, single life or consecrated life is for you? Why not join a **Samuel Group**? For young adults [20-30s] open to listening to the Word of God speaking to their life - beginning February 2009 in Kensington. Monthly meetings on a Sunday afternoon. Contact: samuel.group@yahoo.co.uk

Education Sunday

Sunday next, 8 February, is Education Sunday – there will be a special collection after all Masses for the *Catholic Education Service*.

Santo Niño – Infant Jesus of Prague

The **Santo Niño** Celebration last Sunday was a very special occasion. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed in any way. A special thanks to Chelo and the Choir for all their work in organising and for their singing. The total taken at the Offertory collection was **£1,320.15** – thank you all for your generosity *Fr Matt*

Holy Hour on Monday 9 February

On Monday 9 February, from 6.30-7.30pm, there will be a Holy Hour in the Church, with emphasis on ***Prayer for the gift of Vocations to Religious Life***. The prayer will be guided by the message of St Thérèse, whose relics will be coming to England in September this year. This prayer time for the gift of vocations will happen at regular intervals over the next nine months.

An Evening for Recently Married Couples

Recently married couples are invited to another evening of sharing here at the Priory, on Tuesday 10 February, from 7.30-9.00pm. The evening includes refreshments and chat, some DVD input, and discussion. For details, contact Luciana: ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk

Notices

- * *Parish Winter Cinema for Children* - Today 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.
- * Our *Parish Advisory Group* meeting takes place this evening at 7.00pm. If there are any items you would like raised, please hand them in at the Reception Desk, attention Fr Matt.
- * Tomorrow Monday 2 February is the *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – Candlemas Day*. There will be the blessing of candles at all Masses.
- * On Tuesday 3 February we celebrate the *Feast of St Blaise*. There will be the usual blessing of throats after all Masses.
- * We will have the *Brown Scapular Devotions to Our Lady of Mount Carmel* after the 6.00m Mass on Saturday next 7 February. All are invited to stay on for the special prayers.