

Feasts/Memorials

December

Monday	7	St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor
Tuesday	8	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity
Wednesday	9	St John Diego Cuachtlatotzin
Friday	11	St Damasus I, Pope
Saturday	12	Our Lady of Guadalupe

Christmas Carols in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Trust

On Thursday 17 December at 7.00pm there will be Christmas Carols here in our Church in aid of the **Multiple Sclerosis Trust**, in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Kensington & Chelsea. Tickets cost £15.00 and all proceeds go to the MS Trust. The popular Mosaic Choir will be performing a blend of Christmas music and carols. For enquiries and tickets call: 01462 476700 or email: info@mstrust.org.uk

Westminster Year Book

The Westminster Year Book 2010 - the official Directory of the Diocese of Westminster, is now available from our Repository, price £4.00 (£5.00 ring bound). This Year Book contains listings for all parishes and schools in the Diocese, plus the Liturgical Calendar for the year. It is an invaluable reference book and a must for every Catholic household.

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 (<i>Vigil for Sunday</i>)
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
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 6 December 2009 – Second Sunday of Advent

Gospel According to Luke

The event of today's Gospel takes place "*in the fifteenth year of Tiberias Caesar's reign*". The years of Tiberias Caesar's reign are 14 - 37AD. Thereafter the major event which receives such a solemn introduction in this Gospel takes place sometime in the year August 28AD -August 29AD. Not only are we told who the Emperor is but we are also told who the local political and military leaders are, the religious leaders, and the location and context of this event.

Let us attempt to write a similar introduction today: "*In the second year of Barac Obama's Presidency when Gordon Brown was Prime Minister, Benedict XVI was Pope, Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, in the affluent technology dominated and multicultural city of London....*"

What, then, is this event that Luke needs to give such a solemn introduction? "**The word of God came to John the Baptist**". We have just began reading Luke's Gospel and we will have an extract from it almost every Sunday for the next year. Luke's Gospel and its second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, are all about the word of God and its spread. The word of God which John the Baptist and a number of others receive is destined to spread everywhere, to the very ends of the earth. The quotation from Isaiah which today's Gospel quotes, tells us: "*All mankind shall see the salvation of God*". This long and solemn introduction is important for a number of reasons:

1. We always hear the word of God in the historical, political, economic, cultural, religious, social and personal circumstances in which we are living. When the word of God comes to us, it comes into our entire reality and our experience of our reality.
2. We are who our cultural, historical and religious circumstances makes us and we can only hear the word of God when we are true to who we are. We can only hear the word of God as 21st Century residents of London and in the context of our real lives today.

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3. The word of God which we receive is not for us personally, it is not a private possession. The word of God is a gift for the entire world in which we live. The entire reality which we live must be permeated, challenged and transformed by the word we have received.
4. John the Baptist is far more important than any other person mentioned in this Gospel [with the exception of Zechariah, his father, who received the word of God earlier in the story]. No success, power, influence or fame can be an equal to the Word of God. Those who have received, lived and shared the word of God are truly important people in our world.
5. Tiberias and all the other “important” people mentioned in this introduction are totally unaware of what has happened to John in the wilderness, but the effects of what happened to John will reach all of them [*Acts of the Apostles* ends with Paul preaching the word of God in Rome “*in all freedom and without hindrance*”]. Not even the power of Rome can stop the word of God received by a poor, obscure but holy man in the wilderness.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

A Talk for Young Adults at Westminster Cathedral

On Friday next 11 December, Fr Matt Blake, our Prior, will give a talk for young adults (18-38), entitled ‘***Doubts along the Vocational Journey***’ – *from the Perspective of St John of the Cross*, 7.30-9.00pm, in the Hinsley Room, Westminster Cathedral. All young adults from the Parish are invited. For further details visit www.free2become.org

Flowers for the Church

Donations towards **Flowers for the Church for Christmas** will be gratefully accepted. Contributions may be handed in at Reception in an envelope marked “Flowers for the Church”. Thank you.

Carmelite Prayer Hour

Tomorrow, Monday 7 December we will have our **Carmelite Prayer Hour** from 6.30-7.30pm. **Odile** of the Secular Institute Notre Dame de Vie will be leading the prayer with words from Pere Marie-Eugene, Discalced Carmelite. All are warmly invited.

On Friday next 11 December, the 12.15 Mass will be a **Funeral Mass** for **Mauro Dante Beltrandi RIP**

Nativity Play and Advent Celebration

The Catechism Children and their families invite all who would like to come to their **Nativity Play and Advent Celebration** on Sunday next 13 December. Please join us downstairs in the Parish Centre after the 10am Mass to see our Catechism children perform the greatest love story in human history – **The Story of the First Christmas**. There will be carol singing by all present, led by our Choir. The Catechism children look forward to sharing with you all the enthusiasm with which they have prepared this Celebration.

Children’s Christmas Party

You are all welcome to the **Children’s Christmas Party** to be held at the Priory on Sunday next 13 December from 3.00-5.00pm. Lots of activities focused on the meaning of Christmas for the young children of the Parish. Bring your favourite **Nativity** character costume!! Why not also bring something nice to have with tea and coffee and to share with everyone else. There will be some Christmas Carols – hope to see you there!! Any questions, please contact Luciana: ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk or Inma: inmacasa@yahoo.com or Fr Iain.

Charity Concert on Sunday 27 December at 7.00pm

A group of 20 exceptionally talented teenage musicians called ‘**Melodie Music**’ from Soweto, South Africa, are giving a concert here in our Church on Sunday 27 December at 7.00pm. The concert will be a combination of Classical, Christmas and African music. Entrance is free but we will take up a collection for the charity that supports the work of **giving the opportunity to disadvantaged children to learn music**. Please tell anyone you know who is in London for Christmas to come along - it promises to be something very special.

Carol Service in our Church this Evening

You are all invited to a **Carol Service** in our Church this evening, after the 6.00pm Mass, organised by our *Sunday Evening Choir*. This will be followed by refreshments. For enquiries: danielamirai@hotmail.com

On Tuesday next 8 December, we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Masses will be at the usual times: 8.00am, 12.15 and 6.00pm.