

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 12 April 2009 – Easter Sunday

Feasts/Memorials

Monday 13-Saturday 18 April - Octave of Easter
Tuesday 21 - St Anselm, Bishop & Doctor
Thursday 23 - St George, Martyr, Patron of England
Friday 24 - SS Erkenwald & Mellitus, Bishops
Saturday 25 - St Mark, Evangelist

Flowers for the Altar for Easter

Your contributions towards **Flowers for the Altar for Easter** will be greatly appreciated. You may leave your donations at Reception in an envelope marked “Flowers for Easter”. *Thank you.*

Visiting the Sick

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.

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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What is Easter ?

We begin our celebration of the **Easter Vigil** with the Church in darkness. The Easter fire is lit and from it the Easter candle. We are reminded of the first words of the bible: “*Let there be light*”. Life on earth begins when God creates light. A new life is beginning with the resurrection, or we can put it differently and say that the resurrection is the real beginning of life on earth – life as God meant it to be known, lived and understood. For us Christians the resurrection is the starting point of our discovery of who we truly are and of how God wishes us to understand ourselves, our lives and our world.

At the Easter Vigil we are brought on a journey through scripture. Over these centuries God gradually reveals himself to his people and his people gradually discover who they are and their part in God’s plan. All of this is leading up to the resurrection when God reveals through Jesus Christ the full reality of his plan for humanity.

The Easter candle is blessed with these beautiful words: *Christ yesterday and today the beginning and the end, Alpha, and Omega; all time belongs to him, and all the ages; to him be glory and power, through every age for ever. Amen.* These words once more remind us that we are at the real beginning of human history. St John opens his Gospel by telling us this about Jesus: “*Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower*”.

Easter, then, is the celebration of who we are as human beings, children of God, people with a capacity for thought, love, relationship, decision-making, etc. and the most astounding capacity of all – the capacity for relationship with God. In addition, Easter is the celebration of our destiny: life, light, wisdom, eternal life, union with God etc.

We struggle to answer the question: **What is Easter?** That struggle goes very deep within us because, in reality, we are struggling to answer the most profound mysteries of human existence. Though we give superficial answers when we are asked casually, people of faith are deeply aware that Easter takes us to a mystery we can never satisfactorily put into words.

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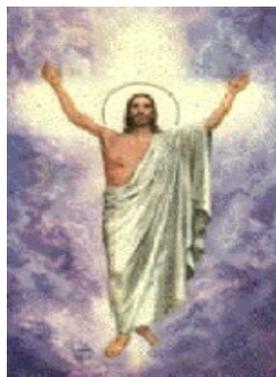
As Christians, as people of faith in Jesus Christ, the one thing we are certain about today is that what we are celebrating is real and has life-changing consequences for all of us. The Church has always understood Easter to be the time for Baptism and the time to renew Baptism. We are at the heart, the epicentre of all we believe, this is the time for life-changing decisions, to cast aside all that compromises or distorts our faith or Christian living and to make new again our faith in all that the resurrection makes possible.

May this Easter be a time of grace and blessings for all who come to this Church. Our prayers and best wishes are with all our parishioners who are celebrating Easter in other parts of the world.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Easter Baptisms

We offer our sincere congratulations to Riandra, Marian, Samorn, Sherez, Jeffrey, Gergely, Elena and Thomas who received the Sacrament of Baptism at our Easter Vigil last night. Congratulations also to their families, sponsors and all who helped them in any way on their journey of faith.



*Rejoice, heavenly powers,
Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!*

*Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
Radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!*

John McCarthy RIP

With sadness we announce the death on 9 April of **John McCarthy OBE**, a past Director of our Carmelite Choir, and the following is a contribution submitted by Bruce Ogston our present Choir Master and Organist:-

“John, who was awarded the OBE for his services to music, directed the Carmelite Choir for over 40 years, engaging professional singers who were as loyal to him as he was to us. Every Sunday was a musical and social occasion, often leading to opera and film recordings, radio, and many trips abroad. He built up a vast library of music which I continue to use and which will ensure that he will always be remembered. *May he Rest in Peace*”

Bruce Ogston FTCL

Holy Thursday and Good Friday Collections

Grateful thanks for your generous contributions to the above collections. The amounts collected were: On *Holy Thursday* in aid of *The Homeless*: **£634.41**. This money has been given to **The Passage**. And on *Good Friday* for ***Holy Places throughout the world*** the amount was: **£1,155.75**.

Notices

- * Our *Young Adults Monday Group* will resume on Monday 20 April at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, following their Easter break.
- * The next **Holy Hour** with emphasis on *Prayer for the gift of Vocations to Religious Life* will be on Monday 20 April from 6.30-7.30pm.
- * **Urgent reminder:** Will those who contribute to the **Gift Aid Scheme** in our Church and who donate by weekly envelope, please collect their boxes for the new financial year from the Reception Desk, without delay. There are still several boxes awaiting collection.
- * Sunday next 19 April, Second Sunday of Easter, is *Divine Mercy Sunday*.

The 12.15 Mass on Wednesday next 15 April will be a **Funeral Mass for Elizabeth Al Hussani RIP**

Your Newsletter is on Easter break next week-end – it will be back on Sunday 26 April