

## Feasts/Memorials

### May

Monday 18 - St John I, Pope & Martyr  
Wednesday 20 - St Bernardine of Siena, Priest  
Thursday 21 - SS Christopher Magallanes, Priest & Companions,  
Martyrs  
Friday 22 - St Rita of Cascia, Religious

### Two Marathons

**Isabel Hill**, a postulant with the Sisters of the Assumption in Kensington Square, has just run **two marathons** for two charities on two consecutive Sundays! As announced in an earlier Newsletter, 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. To find out more or to make a donation, see Isabel's blog. [www.twomarathons.blogspot.com](http://www.twomarathons.blogspot.com) or call her on 020-7361-4743.

### 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](http://www.carmelitechurch.org)

Weekday Masses: 8am, 12.15pm, 6pm  
Saturday Masses: 8am, 12.15pm, 6pm (*Vigil Mass for Sunday*)  
Sunday Masses: 8.30am, 10am **Sung**, 11am **Sung/Latin**  
12.15pm, 6pm **Young Adults Choir**  
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 17 May 2009 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

### God is Love

Our second reading today from the first letter of St John needs very careful and attentive reading. We could also argue that it needs to be read "backwards". The last line is not the conclusion but the starting point: "*God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away*".

John is trying to help his readers understand the command: "*What I command you is to love one another*" [Today's Gospel]. We fail to love when we misunderstand, ignore or are indifferent to what God has done for us. We are sinners, all of us without exception. Our sins have been forgiven, taken away, wiped out, paid for by the death of Jesus. We learn to love when we begin to accept this forgiveness deep in our hearts. Our failure to accept forgiveness is the greatest obstacle to love – it requires humility to accept forgiveness and we are not good at that.

The death of Jesus is the greatest expression of love known to humanity but it cannot remain at that. This is personal; each person must hear, feel, touch, believe in and most importantly of all, accept this love totally and unconditionally. St John is writing for people who are struggling to do this. St John is saying something like this – *stop being harsh with yourselves because of your failure to love each other – begin by admitting you are a sinner – seek and accept forgiveness – pray and meditate on God's great love for you – get to know Jesus better – then love for each other automatically or instinctively follows.*

The person who knows that he/she is loved and forgiven by God cannot not love other people. The more one is forgiven the more one loves. Love is both the proof and the fruit of forgiveness.

This passage from the first letter of St John requires personal examination, prayer and meditation. Explanations and analysis are of limited help.

I will conclude with some phrases from *St John of the Cross* which might help with this:

- \* After all this, love is the end for which we were created.
- \* God makes use of nothing else but love.
- \* O good Jesus, if you in your love do not soften the soul, it will ever continue in its natural hardness.

- \* Our greatest need is to be silent before this great God with the appetite and with the tongue, for the only language he hears is the silent language of love.
- \* The soul's aim is a love equal to God's. She always desires this equality, naturally and supernaturally, for lovers cannot be satisfied if they fail to feel that they love as much as they are loved.
- \* From my observations, Christ is to a great extent unknown by those who consider themselves his friends. Because of their extreme self-love they go about seeking in him their own consolations and satisfactions. But they do not seek, out of great love for him, his bitter trials and death.

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

#### ***Installation of our new Archbishop of Westminster***

On Thursday next 21 May **Archbishop Vincent Nichols** will be installed as the new Archbishop of Westminster at a special *Mass of Installation* at Westminster Cathedral. This will be broadcast live on BBC-2, starting at 11.45am.

#### ***St Paul – His Poetry & His Preaching***

On Tuesday next 19 May Dr Brian Horne will give a *Lecture on St Paul – His Poetry & His Preaching*, at St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, SW3, starting at 7.00pm. This is the main event for the **Year of St Paul**, and the *Icon of St Paul* which has been going around to various churches throughout the year will be on display and will be a key feature on this occasion. All are invited

#### ***World Communications Day***

Sunday next 24 May is **World Communications Day**. The Catholic Communications Network provides support for the Bishops of England and Wales in promoting the gospel in the media. This work involves engaging with the press in the UK and abroad, dealing with requests for information, and offering a Catholic voice. There will be a **Special Collection** after all Masses for *Catholic Communications*. Your kind generosity will be greatly appreciated.

#### ***Parish Information Session***

After the 6.00pm Mass this evening we will have a **Parish Information Session**. All are welcome to this, whether you are a newcomer to the parish or have been a parishioner for years. There will be people available to offer assistance and endeavour to answer any questions. It will also serve as an opportunity to socialise and get to know one another.

#### ***Children's Art Exhibition***

A huge thank you to the children from our Parish who have done such delightful drawings and paintings in an effort to raise funds for the *Catholic Children's Society's Play Therapy Project* at St Charles School. Their work was greatly admired by our parishioners last week-end, whom we thank sincerely for their generous donations to the Society. The paintings will remain on display along the passage by Reception for all to go and take a look at and maybe offer a donation.

#### ***Children's First Holy Communion***

On Sunday 14 June at the 10 o'clock Mass, 28 young children from this Parish will receive First Holy Communion. We ask you to please remember them in your prayers and also their Catechists. You are all invited to be present at the Mass.

#### ***Notices***

- \* There will be a **Procession** led by our First Communion children immediately after the 10 o'clock Mass this morning. Following this, we will have our *Parish Gathering* downstairs in the Parish Centre.
- \* Our **Young Adults Monday Group** will meet tomorrow evening at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All young adults (18-35) who come to our Church are very welcome to join them in faith sharing, prayer and also to socialise. Entrance to the Parish Centre via Pitt Street.
- \* The next **Holy Hour** with emphasis on *Prayer for the Gift of Vocations* will be on Monday 1 June from 6.30-7.30pm

#### ***Solemnities in May/June***

Sunday next 24 May is the Solemnity of **The Ascension of the Lord** and is the first of four important Solemnities celebrated on four consecutive Sundays:- Sunday 31 May is *Pentecost Sunday*; Sunday 7 June, *The Most Holy Trinity*, and Sunday 14 June, *Corpus Christi, Most Holy Body & Blood of the Lord*.