

### *Feasts/Memorials*

#### March

Tuesday	17	St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland
Wednesday	18	St Cyril of Jerusalem
Thursday	19	St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Solemnity

### *Young Adults in the West*

On Sunday 29 March we will have the ‘*Young Adults in the West*’ gathering in our Church with Bishop Alan Hopes, starting with Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan at 6.00pm. The focus of the evening, centred on the Gospel, will be ***Believe & Live!*** Mass will be followed by refreshments, faith-sharing and Question Time in the Parish Centre. All young adults (17-35) who come to our Church are warmly invited.

### *Readers Required*

We need some more Readers for our week-day Masses. If you would like to be considered for this very important ministry in the Mass, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554, or leave your details at Reception.

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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](http://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
<b>Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB</b>	
<b>Tel: 020-7937-9866 Fax: 020-7938-1470</b>	
<b>Registered Charity No: 253645.</b>	

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

### Parish Newsletter

Sunday 15 March 2009 – Third Sunday of Lent

### **Lent and Baptism**

Lent is the season of preparation for baptism, and those already baptised are invited to prepare for the renewal of baptism at Easter. Baptism is the most positive and life-giving step any person can take in their lives. However, before a person is baptised [and before we renew our baptism promises] three questions are asked which are negative in their nature. In other words, in order to say “yes” to baptism, we must say “no” to something. I would like to reflect on these three questions today.

**Do you reject Satan?** Some people are uncomfortable with the idea of personifying evil, let’s leave that issue aside and reflect on what it means when we speak about rejecting Satan. Evil is more than what a human being does or some bad influence, it is first and foremost a distorted and destructive relationship in one’s life. We are formed, influenced and beholden to those with whom we are in relationship.

Evil becomes something [or someone] that shapes and influences us and to which we owe a loyalty. It can be very difficult and painful to break off that loyalty because it is so deep within us, it is part of who we are.

**And all his works?** This is not about rejecting something that someone else [or something else] does. It is I who do the works I am rejecting. However, they are works that do not properly belong to me. Conversion is about discovering one’s true self and when one does this, then one rejects what is not true to one’s true self.

**And all his empty promises?** So much of life is chasing after empty promises. If only I had this, achieved that, arrived there etc. I would then be happy!! The greatest emptiness in life is to have all one ever longed for and not have peace or happiness. It is our distorted way of thinking and acting that leads us to place our trust in promises that are in truth empty. Our desires, longings and ambitions need to be purified. We need to learn how to desire what is healthy, life-giving and truthful.

Our answer to each of these questions is **I do.** Everything I do from that moment onwards, for the rest of my life, is my response to these questions. I must constantly return to these questions and examine the quality of my response

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A fruitful way of looking at this season of Lent is to ask myself the question: What must I say “**No**” to in order that my response to the call of Jesus in my life will be more healthy, generous, truthful and complete?

These three questions must be taken seriously and returned to frequently throughout the journey of life, otherwise baptism is guaranteed to disappoint. Without a serious and committed response to these questions, baptism remains at the “expectation” level - that is, it remains another commodity, achievement or instrument that is at my service and expected to give me happiness or peace or strength or whatever my expectation may be. It is my response to these three questions that creates the space for God’s grace to come flooding into my life. When this happens, **Baptism** becomes what it is meant to be: **New Life** - nothing less.

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

#### ***Saturday Lenten Reflection Group***

Each Saturday morning during Lent, Fr Iain will lead a **Lenten Reflection Group** in the Priory from 12.45-1.30pm (immediately after the 12.15pm Mass) The next session will be on Saturday 21 March when we will be following Week 3 of ‘**Lord, Giver of Life**’, the Daily Meditations & Group Reflections Lenten booklet. You are all invited to take part.

#### ***Distribution of Lenten Alms***

This year our Lenten Alms will be divided between the *St John Southworth Fund*, which makes grants to groups and individuals in need in the London area, and *School Projects in Bangladesh*. You will find a box at the back of the Church, by the Repository door, for your donations. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

#### ***Celebration Mass with Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor***

A Mass of thanksgiving to mark **Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor’s** impending retirement will take place at St Benedict’s Abbey Church, Ealing, on Wednesday 1 April at 7.30pm. The Cardinal will be the main celebrant, and we are all invited.

#### ***RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults***

We ask you to please continue to remember in your prayers our group of young people from this Church as they journey in faith towards receiving the Sacraments at Easter. They are: Riandra, Marian, Samorn, Sherez, Jeffrey, Gergely, Elena and Thomas.

#### ***Pre-St Patrick’s Day Event***

Our young children from post-Communion class have arranged a special ***pre-St Patrick’s Day coffee morning*** in the Refectory, on the Ground Floor, for 11 o’clock today Sunday immediately after the 10 o’clock Mass. They would be delighted to see as many of you as possible come along and enjoy some tea/coffee and delicious goodies, compliments of the children. Do please come and spend a little time with them.

#### ***Notices***

- \* We have **Stations of the Cross** after the 6.00pm Mass each Friday during Lent. You are all invited to take part.
- \* **Parish Winter Cinema for Children** - Today at 3.30pm, all children who come to our Church are invited to come to the Priory to see another of our special films. Just turn up, accompanied by an adult.
- \* On Thursday next 19 March, we celebrate the **Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Masses will be at the usual week-day times.
- \* **Monday Holy Hour**: The next Holy Hour with emphasis on *Prayer for the gift of Vocations to Religious Life*, will be on Monday 23 March, from 6.30-7.30pm. You are all invited.

#### ***St Patrick’s Day at St Patrick’s Church, Soho Square***

Tomorrow Monday 16 March, there will be a 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Patrick’s Church, Soho Square. The Main Celebrant will be the Right Rev George Stack, Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of Westminster. And on Tuesday 17 March, there will be Mass there at 8.00am, 12.45 and 6.00pm. Shamrock will be distributed at all Masses.

#### ***Family Lenten Fast Day for CAFOD***

Grateful thanks for your contributions to the **CAFOD** collection last week-end. The total collected was **£1,308.14**.

#### ***Fr Raphael O’Connell RIP***

On Sunday next 22 March, the 11.00am Mass will be offered for the repose of the soul of **Fr Raphael O’Connell**, formerly of our Community, who died on Sunday 15 February. All his many friends are invited to come to the Mass to remember him in prayer.