

March *Feasts/Memorials*
Monday 23 St Turibius of Mogrovejo
Wednesday 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Kensington Council of Churches Lent Course 2009

This Lenten Course organised by Kensington Council of Churches takes place on Monday evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre of Our Lady of Victories Church, High St. Kensington, entrance next to 16 Abingdon Villas. The theme is “*Sense Making Faith; Observing Lent through the Senses*” and follows the pattern established by BBC 4 Radio, centred on finding God through the senses. We encourage any of our Parishioners who can to please go along and participate.

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.

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.

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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

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OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 22 March 2009 – Fourth Sunday of Lent -
Laetare Sunday

Believe and Live

On Sunday next we welcome **Bishop Alan Hopes** to our Sunday evening Mass. The Mass will be followed by a meeting with young adults which will include scripture reflection, faith sharing, discussion and a question and answer session with Bishop Alan. A question has been posed to me: *Why does the Bishop come to meet with one particular age group?*

I am going to attempt to answer that question [I have not consulted with Bishop Alan or any of the organisers, this is simply my answer!]

The age range is approximately 18-35. These are the people with the time, energy, resources and ideas to build the Church of today and tomorrow. It is from this generation that the next generation of Church leaders will come. These are the parents, teachers, priests, nuns, bishops, missionaries, carers etc. of the future.

This is decision-making time in every aspect of life: education, career, faith, spirituality, relationships, morality, social involvement, etc. An evening like this is not about telling people what to do but rather to create a safe space where these issues can be explored.

The world is constantly changing. Every generation of Christians must learn anew how to live Christianity in the midst of the world it finds itself in. Therefore next Sunday, the Bishop meets with the generation who are experiencing and struggling with the unique challenges that living Christian life is faced with in our 21st century world. The Bishop comes to listen, learn, share with and support.

While the gifts and opportunities that this generation has are unique, the needs and challenges are also. The Bishop needs the voices, views, generosity, gifts and experience of this generation to help him fulfil his role in the Church, especially his role of preparing the Church for the challenges of the future.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us: “*Bishops have as their first task to preach the Gospel of God to all people. They are heralds of faith who draw new disciples to Christ*”. Bishops cannot do this on their own. On Sunday next the Bishop will be meeting with young people who represent so many walks of life, facets of society, cultures and nationalities but who all share with Bishop Alan a commitment

to Jesus Christ and a love for the Church. These people can reach so many others whom the Bishop's words or presence can never reach.

History has taught the Church, often in very painful ways, that it is only strong when it is united. The faith, prayer, commitment and creativity of the young generation can only reach its full potential when it is lived in union and communion with the Bishop. On the other hand, the Bishop can only fulfil his role well when he is listening to and sharing with the entire Church, but particularly with those who are in the best positions to influence the young people of today.

The theme of the evening is **Believe and Live**, taken from the Gospel passage [the raising of Lazarus from the dead] which is being reflected upon. The challenge of being a Believer living in our world today is great and we hope and pray that the evening will be an inspiration and source of strength and energy for all who attend.

I invite, in fact I strongly encourage, all young adults who come to this Church to come to the 6.00pm Mass next Sunday evening and stay for the meeting which will end at 9.00pm. Everyone, of course, is welcome to the Mass and I hope many people will come to encourage our young people and support them with your prayers. Finally I ask you all to spread the word around and invite every young person you know to attend. It is a unique opportunity to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and to give some real hope and support to our young people.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Fr Raphael O'Connell RIP

The 11.00am Mass today is being offered for the repose of the soul of **Fr Raphael O'Connell**, formerly of our Community, who died on 15 February.

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. All are invited.

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.**

British Summer time begins on Sunday next 29 March. Please remember to put your clocks **forward** by one hour at Midnight on Saturday !!

Easter Sunday Celebration for Children and Families

Please join us on Easter Sunday, 12 April, as we celebrate the *Risen Christ* with a special Family Gathering. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt in our garden for the children, a visit from the Easter Bunny, games and singing. If you are planning to attend, please sign the attendance sheet at the Reception. Raffle tickets for our Easter baskets are also available for sale at the Reception. If you would like to donate any gourmet goods for our Easter baskets, please contact Mrs Van Oordt at: lvanoordt@hotmail.com All proceeds will go to the **Adoratrices Sisters** in Kensington Square. We look forward to seeing you all !

Gift Aid Scheme

For those who contribute to the Gift Aid Scheme in our Church and who donate by weekly envelope, we ask you to please collect your box for the new financial year from the Reception Desk. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Notices

- * We have **Stations of the Cross** after the 6.00pm Mass each Friday during Lent. You are all invited to take part.
- * **Lenten Alms** – There is a box at the back of the Church for your Lenten Alms contributions. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.
- * **Holy Hour tomorrow Monday 23 March** from 6.30-7.30pm, 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.
- * There will be a Memorial Service for **Brian Foxwell RIP** at 7.00pm on Friday next 27 March.
- * Will Readers please collect their *Holy Week & Easter Rota* on Sunday next 29 March.

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

We ask you to please keep in your prayers the group of young people from this Church who will receive the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil this year. They are: Riandra, Marian, Samorn, Sherez, Jeffrey, Gergely, Elena and Thomas.

Today is **Mothers Day**. We wish all mothers who come to our Church
A Very Happy Day