

Sunday 29 March 2009 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gift Aid Scheme

Flowers for the Altar for Easter

Visiting the Sick

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Our Parish Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

Saturday Confessions: 10.30-11.45am, 3.30-5.50pm
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These quotes from St. Paul give us an idea of what Jesus meant when he said he will draw us to himself from the Cross. To be drawn to him is to be completely changed. With his death on the cross Jesus changed us and changed us forever. We are now living new lives and the word we use to describe this new life is **Grace**. It is difficult to define what is meant by grace because we are trying to find words to express the life that God gives us. Grace is a gift, it is the free and undeserved help he gives us that enables us to respond to his call and to become his children. Grace makes us his adopted sons and partakers in his divine nature and it is grace that saves us and gives us eternal life. The cross of Jesus is God's greatest outpouring of his grace upon humanity.

To have received the grace of God means that one can no longer live a life that is “just ordinary”. We could put this another way and say that those who have tasted God’s grace can never be satisfied with a life that is not in conformity with God’s grace. Grace is something living, dynamic and creative, we are not saved to be museum pieces but to be living, dynamic and creative human beings. Those who are saved by grace, live by grace and through the grace given to them they have the capacity to live lives of heroic generosity and love. That is what St Paul means by the words I have used as a title of this reflection. A Christian is invited and challenged to live in our world as one who is “saved by grace”.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

We welcome **Bishop Alan Hopes** to our 6.00pm Mass this evening for the Celebration of *Young Adults in the West*, and we invite all young people (18-35) who come to our Church to be present with us this evening and stay for the meeting afterwards with Bishop Alan. All our parishioners are warmly invited to the Mass.

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 next 1 April at 7.30pm. All are invited.

Holy Week Chrism Mass at Westminster Cathedral

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor will celebrate the **Holy Week Chrism Mass** in the Cathedral on Tuesday 7 April at 12 Noon. This is a very special Mass and all parishioners wherever possible are encouraged to attend.

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

At our Easter Vigil very shortly, the following young people from this Church will receive the Sacraments: Riandra, Marian, Samorn, Sherez, Jeffrey, Gergely, Elena and Thomas. We ask you to please keep them in your prayers as they journey in faith.

Cardinal's Pastoral Letter

You will find in your Newsletter today a copy of Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor's **Final Pastoral Letter**. Do please take it home with you and read it.

Catholic Children's Society

£5,600 is needed to keep a play therapy project going for suffering children. *The Catholic Children's Society* offers this service at St Charles School in North Kensington, and the funding has dried up. We'd like to try as a parish to offer this help. The plan is to hold various fund-raising events over the next weeks, including:

- * **A cake sale** next Sunday 5 April: cake donations and cake buyers much appreciated!
- * **The children's painting exhibition:** *Children* - choose one of these themes and say it with paint! (1) *Joy* (2) *Easter* (3) *Children* (4) *I wish I could help*.

Contact: Elizabetta emedatoucansurf.com or

Inma inmacasa@yahoo.com or Fr Iain: 07776 457392

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 Lorena van Oordt at: lvanoordt@hotmail.com All proceeds will go to the **Mission of the Adoratrices Sisters**. We look forward to seeing you all !

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.
- * The next **Holy Hour** with emphasis on *Prayer for the gift of Vocations to Religious Life* will be on Monday 6 April, from 6.30-7.30pm.
- * Will Readers please collect their *Holy Week & Easter Rota* from Reception as they leave after Mass today.

Next Sunday 5 April is **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**. Palms will be blessed and distributed at all Masses, and the Solemn Entrance and Procession will take place at the 11.00am Mass.