April Feasts/Memorials
Thursday 2 St Francis of Paola

#### 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.

### 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 (Vigil Mass for Sunday)

Sunday Masses: 8.30am, 10am, 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 29 March 2009 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

## "It is by Grace that you have been saved"

We are only two weeks away from our celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus. We are invited to make this a time of special prayer and reflection.

"When I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself". With these words Jesus is not just predicting his forthcoming death, he is telling us the effect his death will have on all humanity. His death will change the world. His death will make possible a new relationship between humanity and God and change how we see ourselves and how we relate with each other. During our Good Friday service the cross is lifted up and we are invited to come and worship. Jesus wants us to come to him on the cross because it is from there he can do most for us.

St Paul tells us that as baptised Christians we have died with Christ and risen with him, that is we have died to the old life of sin and risen to a new life as children of God. He tells us: If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus". (Romans 6:8-11).

And again: If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself". (2 Cor 5:17).

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 emeda@toucansurf.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: <a href="mailto:lvanoordt@hotmail.com">lvanoordt@hotmail.com</a> 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.

