

<u>June</u>	<i>Feasts/Memorials</i>
Monday 22	- SS John Fisher, Bishop & Thomas More, Martyrs
Tuesday 23	- St Etheldreda, Virgin
Wednesday 24	- Nativity of St John the Baptist
Saturday 27	- St John Southworth, Priest & Martyr

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Canon Christopher Tuckwell from Westminster Cathedral will lead a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 8-15 November 2009, cost £899. Booking forms are available from Clergy House Reception. Further details from Pax Travel on 020-7485-3003. e-mail: info@paxtravel.co.uk

Readers Required

We need some more readers for our weekday 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 and we will get back to you.

The Sick, Elderly & Housebound

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:	8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Saturday Masses:	8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (<i>Vigil for Sunday</i>)
Sunday Masses:	8.30am, 10.00am Sung , 11.00am Sung/Latin 12.15pm, 6.00pm Young Adults Choir
Holy Days:	8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Bank Holidays:	9am, 12.15pm (no 6.00pm Mass)
Weekday Confessions:	5.30-5.50pm (Priest on duty except between 12 Noon-3.00pm)
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 21 June 2009 – Twelfth Sunday of the Year

Year of the Priesthood

On Friday 19 June, *Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*, Pope Benedict inaugurated the **Year of the Priesthood**. The Pope has chosen the Priesthood as the theme for reflection over the next year because it coincides with the 150th Anniversary of the Death of St John Mary Vianney.

[St John Mary Vianney was born at Lyons in 1786. After overcoming great difficulties he was finally ordained a priest. He became parish priest of the parish of Ars. He is remembered as a person of prayer and charity, and he particularly dedicated himself to the care of his fellow priests. He died in 1859. He is the patron saint of priests]

The *Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus* is a feast that emphasises the love of God for us as expressed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Opening this Year of the Priesthood on the feast of the Sacred Heart is a strong reminder to us that priesthood is a gift, a gift of God to the Church and to all humanity. It is a gift that Jesus gives because he loves us, it is a gift that flows from his greatest act of love – his death for us. The gift of the priesthood is inseparable from the gift of the Eucharist. All reflection on the priesthood must begin at the Last Supper, the night before Jesus died he gave us this gift that we may remember, celebrate, be healed, nourished, transformed and saved by his sacrifice of his life and our eating and drinking his body and blood.

Priesthood is a gift to the whole Church but certain individuals are called to give their lives to the living out of that gift. A gift of God, given to weak, fragile and vulnerable human beings must always be nurtured, guided and protected, otherwise it becomes distorted, abused or neglected. There are many reasons why it is important for the whole Church to reflect upon, and take responsibility for, the gift of the priesthood in this era of human history. I would like to list just a few:

* Some parts of the world are suffering from a lack of new candidates for the priesthood, other parts of the world have greater numbers than ever before – each of these realities present their own challenges, opportunities and concerns.

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- * The world we live in has radically changed. Therefore how priesthood is understood and lived must be looked at again in these new and evolving circumstances.
- * We have received many reminders recently of problems and failures in how certain individuals have lived their vocations and the failures of the Church to properly deal with this. While this is painful, it is also a time of cleansing, healing and renewal. The truth is always liberating and healing, even when it is painful.
- * The role of the priest in the Christian community and the relationship between priest and people has changed greatly in recent years. However, there is still a lot more work to be done in this area.
- * The priest is first and foremost a spiritual leader, a leader of the community in prayer and worship and a preacher of the word and love of God. This is the area this year is going to put most emphasis on.

As we begin this **Year of the Priesthood** let us pray for the entire Church. May the Church embrace this opportunity with love, courage and creativity. May those who have been hurt, confused or alienated by the Church or by individual priests, receive welcome, support and healing. May all Christians be open to the new and fresh call of God at this time and may the Holy Spirit guide us, as together we seek the true road he is calling us to take.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Holy Hour for the Gift of Vocations

Tomorrow Monday 22 June from 6.30-7.30pm we will have our **Holy Hour** with emphasis on Prayer for the *Gift of Vocations to Religious Life* - the prayer guided by *the Message of St Thérèse*. All are invited.

Relics of St Thérèse

The Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux will be visiting our Church on **Sunday 11 October**, as part of their national visit to England and Wales. They will depart for Westminster Cathedral on Monday 12 October. You will find full details of the various venues involved in the visit if you go to our website: www.carmelitechurch.org Details of arrangements for the visit to our Church will be given nearer the time.

Peter's Pence Collection

There will be the customary Collection for **Peter's Pence** after all Masses on Sunday next, Feast of St Peter & Paul – for the special charities of our Holy Father, the Pope.

Closing of The Year of St Paul

At our 12.15 Mass on Monday 29 June we will mark the closing of **The Year of St Paul** with prayer and thanksgiving. After the Mass, you are all invited for light refreshments in the garden (weather permitting) or in the Priory. We would really like to see as many of you as possible join us for this celebration. You are very welcome to bring a friend along too.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to all our children who received First Holy Communion on Sunday last, and sincere thanks to their Catechists for their hard work in preparing them so well.

Catechism Parents and Children

An invitation to all parents of our Catechism Children: Please join us on Sunday next 28 June after the 10 o'clock Mass, when Fr Iain and the Catechists will get together with the children to present their Catechism Certificates for the completion of this Catechism Year. The Presentation will take place in the Refectory, and we look forward to seeing you all.

Young Adults Monday Group

Our Monday Group will meet tomorrow evening at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. As usual a challenging topic for discussion will be on the agenda. All young people (18-35) who come to our church are very welcome to join them. Entrance to the Parish Centre via Pitt Street.

Bright Lights Festival

Brightlights, the annual festival in the Diocese of Westminster, bringing together hundreds of young adults for quality music, inspirational speakers and opportunities for worship, will take place at St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, Hendon from Friday 10 – Sunday 12 July. For full details of the programme visit www.brightlights.org.uk

Notices

- * We will have our *Parish Gathering* after the 10 o'clock Mass this morning. All are invited downstairs to the Parish Centre for tea/coffee and to socialise.
- * To prepare for the Solemnity of *Our Lady of Mount Carmel* on 16 July, we will have a Triduum in our Church, beginning after the 6.00pm Mass on Monday 13 July. More details to follow.