

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

20 September 2009 – Twenty Fifth Sunday of the Year

<u>September</u>		<i>Feasts/Memorials</i>
Monday	21	St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
Wednesday	23	St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest (Padre Pio)
Thursday	24	Our Lady of Walsingham
Saturday	26	SS Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The **RCIA** programme will run in the Priory from October 2009 until Easter 2010. It is intended for: (i) Adults who wish to be baptised; (ii) Adult Catholics who are baptised but who have not received First Communion and/or Confirmation; (iii) Members of other Christian Churches who wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. For information and to apply, please contact Fr Matt matthewblake@rcdow.org.uk

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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You are all invited to our **Parish Gathering** after the 10.00am Mass today. Please come downstairs to the Parish Centre for tea and to socialise.

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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 12 Noon-3pm
Saturday Confessions:	10.30-11.45am, 3.30-5.50pm
Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB	
Tel: 020-7937-9866 Fax: 020-7938-1470	
Registered Charity No: 253645.	

Jesus - Servant

“If someone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all”. We need to take a little time to reflect on how these words would have sounded to the disciples of Jesus when they first heard them. The context is that Jesus is travelling with his disciples and teaching them. While he is giving them very important teaching about his impending death, they are arguing about which of them is the greatest. The disciples have given up much and risked everything to be followers of Jesus. They expect that Jesus is going to do something truly great and they, as his first followers, expect to be in positions of power, responsibility and prestige [that is very human and understandable]. They live in a society where slavery is common and acceptable and where those who do works of service are looked down upon.

It is surprising and shocking to hear Jesus say “I have come to serve and not to be served”. How can they still look up to Jesus, respect him and continue to be his followers? **Servant** becomes Jesus’ favourite word to describe Himself, his relationship with us and our position as his disciples. Let us now look at certain aspects of how Jesus understands “servant”.

Free choice: Jesus freely chooses to be servant, he is not forced or compelled. A disciple must always freely choose to serve, a call of God is always a free choice.

Happiness: After Jesus washed his disciples’ feet, he says to them: “*Now that you know this, happiness will be yours if you behave accordingly*”. Service is the road to true happiness. Those who freely choose to serve, discover the source and depths of happiness – a treasure hidden from those who refuse to serve.

Service/Human Dignity: Jesus overturns the entire social order. There is no contradiction between work of service and human dignity. Jesus serves but still remains “Lord and Master”. “*If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should wash each other’s feet*”.

Servant and Suffering: The New Testament teaching about Jesus as servant is hugely influenced by the prophet Isaiah’s teaching about the suffering servant. The prophet speaks about a servant who freely chooses to accept suffering to save and liberate the people. This is what Jesus, the Messiah, does.

Service and Love: Jesus transforms service into an act of love. He shows us how much he loves us by pouring out his life in an act of service. Jesus is changing the world but not in the way his disciples expect or can understand. The disciples of Jesus are being challenged to change their thinking. The way Jesus lives, acts, speaks, suffers and dies changes our way of seeing and understanding our world, society and human relationships. This was difficult for the first disciples of Jesus, and it is difficult for us also. When we think deeply about what Jesus is really saying in our Gospel today, we are challenged and disturbed in ways we would prefer not to be.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Catechism for Children - 2009/2010/Confirmation

- * Catechism for children for **First Holy Communion, pre-Communion and post-Communion** will begin on Sunday 4 October, following the 10.00am Mass.
- * Parents of children attending catechism for **First Holy Communion (7 years upwards)**, are asked to come together with Fr Iain on Sunday next 27 September, downstairs in the Parish Centre, after the 10.00am Mass.

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Confirmation: Young people, 13 years and over, who wish to be prepared to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** next year are invited to pick up an application form from the back of the Church, and complete and return it to Fr Iain as soon as possible.

Notices

- * Today is **Home Mission Sunday**. There will be a special collection after all Masses for the *Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation (CASE)*, an Agency of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales, and its role is to assist the spread of the Gospel. **St Thérèse of Lisieux** is Patroness of the Missions. Your kind generosity will be greatly appreciated.
- * You are all invited to our **St Thérèse Holy Hour** for the *Gift of Vocations to the Priesthood* tomorrow, Monday, evening from 6.30-7.30pm.
- * You will find enclosed in your Newsletter today a **Pastoral Letter** by Archbishop Vincent Nichols, his first since being installed as Archbishop of Westminster. This is an excellent and thought-provoking letter and you are all encouraged to take it home with you and read it.



Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux

The Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux will arrive in our Church on **Sunday 11 October**, as part of their national visit to England and Wales. Our programme is not finalised yet but will consist of the following:

- * 6.00pm Mass of Preparation, celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes.
 - * 7.30pm (approx) Arrival of the Relics and Welcoming Ceremony.
- The Church will remain open all night for private prayer and veneration.
- Monday 12 October:** 9.00am Closing Ceremony
9.30am Departure of the Relics

Events in preparation for the visit:

Sunday next 27 September: Parish 'Open Day' in preparation for the visit, from 11.00am to 6.00pm:

- * An Exhibition on Thérèse's life and teaching
- * Children's activities – including storytelling at 11.00am on the **Life of St Thérèse**
- * Film showing on *St Thérèse*
- * Book Stall with many *St Thérèse* publications.
- * Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day in the Hernann Cohen Chapel
- * 4.00pm - Talk by Fr Matt "*The greater significance of the visit*"
- * Refreshments throughout the day

Saturday 3 October: Carmelite Youth Day

An opportunity for all young adults to prepare for the visit.

- * 12.15pm Mass
- Lunch
- Talks, discussions, reflection, prayer
- 4.00-5.00pm Exposition and prayer in Church

Please spread the word around about all these activities.