

## Feasts/Memorials

### November

Monday	9	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Feast
Tuesday	10	St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor
Wednesday	11	St Martin of Tours, Bishop
Thursday	12	St Josephat, Bishop & Martyr
Saturday	14	All Saints of the Carmelite Order - Feast

### Mind the Gap: Faith in Film

The next series of '**Mind the Gap**', the 2009 Advent Reflection Evenings for Young Adults (17-30sh) will take the form of 'Film nights' with refreshments and discussion.

- 24 November: 'Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story'
- 1 December: 'Molokai: The Story of Father Damien'
- 8 December: 'Bella'
- 15 December: 'St Thérèse of Lisieux', introduced by Fr Iain Matthew OCD

Time: 7.00-9.15pm (6.30pm refreshments)

Please note the new Venue: Our Lady of the Assumption & St Gregory Church, Warwick St., W1F 9JR (2 minutes from Piccadilly Circus).

For more information, contact [daveburke@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:daveburke@rcdow.org.uk)

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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](http://www.carmelitechurch.org)

Weekday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm  
Saturday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (*Vigil for Sunday*)  
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**

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**Registered Charity No: 253645**

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

### Parish Newsletter

Sunday 8 November 2009 – 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year

### Remembrance Sunday

We welcome you all to our Mass today, **Remembrance Sunday**, as we remember and pray for those who gave their lives in two world wars and in other conflicts of our time. The 11.00am Mass will be a **Requiem Mass** especially for them. We pray also for the families who have been bereaved and we pray for peace.

### Why do we Pray for the Dead?

Having reflected upon some questions last week, I have been asked by various people: What do we mean by "*Praying for the dead?*", "*Praying for the Holy Souls?*", "*Souls in Purgatory?*" or whatever phrase one uses or has heard.

In order to respond to this we need to remind ourselves of certain facts about death. Our physical bodies die but our spirits live on. Therefore after death we are still the same human beings, the unique persons we always were and that God created us to be. Love does not die, neither do our relationships. After death our spiritual lives continue and the process of spiritual growth which began in this life continues. Our spiritual lives and spiritual growth are very dependent on the support and prayers of the Church and that essential relationship continues after death. Praying for the dead then is a continuation of the support, friendship and love that sustains us in this life and which we believe to be an essential support for the spiritual growth that still needs to take place after death.

"*Purgatory*" is the name the Church uses for the place, situation, stage, process, in which this growth takes place after death. We have no way of understanding how life after death might be, so our explanations and teachings are based on our understanding of spiritual growth as we know it in this life. Purgatory is not a punishment, it is a gift and an invitation. We were created for union with God and God offers the possibility of that union to all of us. In order to be ready for union with God we must first be converted, cleansed, purified and transformed into the people we were really created to be. While this process begins in this world, most of us die before it is complete.

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All growth and change involves pain, sacrifice and depravation – this we know very well from our experience of life. “*Fire*” is an image often used by spiritual writers to describe this transformation and it is a word often used in traditional teaching about purgatory. Let us listen to St John of the Cross describing how this fire works: “*The very fire of love that afterwards is united with the soul, glorifying it, is what previously assailed it by purging it, just as a fire that penetrates a log of wood is the same that first makes an assault on the wood, wounding it with the flame, drying it out, stripping it of its unsightly qualities until it is so disposed that it can be penetrated and transformed into the fire..... The very God who desires to enter within the soul through the union and transformation of love is He who first assails and purges it with the light and heat of His divine flame*”.

After death we are exposed to a love of God that is deeper and more complete than anything we knew or could imagine in this life. It is going to take time, pain, healing, growth and transformation for us to be ready to fully receive, live and reciprocate that love.

St John of the Cross tells us that “*This Flame of Love is the Holy Spirit*”. Purgatory then is the Holy Spirit completing in us after death the work he had begun in us during this life. Our prayers are the help, support and love we give to each other; a help, support and love that death cannot take away, rather they become deeper and richer when freed from the limitations of this life.

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

#### ***Farewell Mass for Bishop Bernard Longley***

On Friday 20 November at 5.30pm there will be a *Farewell Mass* in Westminster Cathedral for **Bishop Bernard Longley**, before he departs to take up his post in Birmingham. Bishop Longley welcomes everybody, and particularly invites his many friends whom he got to know during his time in the Diocese of Westminster.

#### ***November Dead List***

A Mass will be said every day during the month of November for your departed relatives and friends. Names and donations accepted at Reception Desk. Special forms and envelopes are available at the back of the Church.

#### ***Children's 'All Saints' Party***

**Children!** we look forward to seeing you all, dressed as your favourite saint, at our ‘**All Saints**’ Party here in the Priory on Sunday next 15 November from 3.00pm to 5.00pm - all ages welcome. For assistance or ideas on saints etc. please contact Fr Iain: [iainmatthew@yahoo.com](mailto:iainmatthew@yahoo.com)

#### ***Christmas Cards in aid of the Catholic Children's Society***

On Thursday next 12 November from 9am–12 Noon, we will have Christmas cards on sale in the Priory in aid of the *Catholic Children's Society*, which reaches out to children and families in need in London. We will have a further sale on Sunday next 15 November from 11.00am–1.00pm. A good opportunity to purchase quality cards at reasonable prices and support the CCS. Enquiries: Elizabetta: 07977 928766.

#### ***Children's Winter Cinema***

Our popular *Parish Winter Cinema for Children* kicks off again on Sunday 22 November at 3.00pm in the Priory, showing the film ‘**Cars**’. All children who come to our Church are invited – no need to book, just come along, accompanied by an adult. Enquiries, contact Luciana at: [ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk)

#### ***Notices***

- \* On Sunday 22 November, after the 10am Mass, there will be a *Parents of First Holy Communion children* meeting while catechism is taking place. All parents of this group of children are invited.
- \* **Praying with the Saints of Carmel:** There will be an Adoration Hour in the Church tomorrow Monday evening from 6.30–7.30pm, guided by **St Teresa of Avila**, and praying for the gift of vocations to religious life.
- \* We thank you for your contributions to the collection for the *Sick & Retired Priests' Fund* on Sunday last. The amount collected was **£1,902.39**.
- \* **Prisoners' Week** takes place from 9–15 November, and Sunday next will be a *Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their dependants*.

#### ***Mass for the Sick***

On Saturday 21 November the 12.15pm Mass will be a special Mass which will include the **Anointing of the Sick**. All are invited.