

Feasts/Memorials

November

Monday	2	Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)
Tuesday	3	St Winefrede, Virgin/ St Martin de Porres, Religious
Wednesday	4	St Charles Borromeo, Bishop
Friday	6	Bl Josepha Naval Girbes, Virgin – Carmelite
Saturday	7	Bl Francis Palau y Quer, Priest – Carmelite

Thanksgiving Prayer

This is the official prayer from the Bishops Conference in thanksgiving for the **Visit of the Relics of St Thérèse**, composed by our Carmelite Fathers, Fr Michael McGoldrick and Fr Iain Matthew:-

Loving Father,

We thank you for the visit of the relics of St Thérèse to our country.
We ask you to draw us more deeply into your love
And to fill us with confidence in your mercy.
Help us to become, like St Thérèse, love at the heart of the Church.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns, forever and ever, Amen.

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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 <i>Sung</i> , 11.00am <i>Sung/Latin</i> 12.15pm, 6.00pm <i>Young Adults Choir</i>
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

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OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 1 November 2009 – Solemnity of All Saints

November – Remembering our Dead

We are beginning the month of November, a time when traditionally in the Church we pray for the dead. It is traditional to visit cemeteries and have prayers said for the dead. Also next Sunday is **Remembrance Sunday** when we pray for those who died in the wars.

None of us like thinking about death and often we are reluctant to talk about death. This is understandable; we all know loved ones who have died and this is a painful and sad experience. However, death is an unavoidable reality of life and sooner or later it is something we all have to deal with.

As a priest I frequently find myself with people when a loved one has just died. Often they find themselves having to deal with issues and questions they have never even thought about. So this newsletter is going to be a kind of “frequently asked questions!!”.

Should we view the body of our dead loved one? I always answer ‘yes’ to that question. In fact I very strongly encourage it [though there will be certain circumstances where it is not appropriate]. This is an important part of the grieving and healing process and something essential is missed when it does not happen.

Do we bring the children to the funeral? Definitely yes. In addition, where possible, involve children in the ceremony. Be open with children about death, listen to their questions and try to answer as truthfully and clearly as one can. Never cloud death in secrecy or mystique, that causes children unnecessary worry and fear – worries that they feel they cannot speak about. [This is very difficult to do but you will never regret the effort and pain put into it].

What about estranged spouses, children, friends etc. Everyone has a right to be told and invited. While all wounds cannot be healed, many are at the time of a death. Death brings with it a certain freedom from the past and an opportunity for a new beginning.

I am afraid I will break down if I do the Reading! Get up and read. It is important that close family members do the readings, prayers, tributes etc. and partake as fully as possible in the preparation of the funeral. It is part of the process of saying “*Goodbye*”, and again that is a very important part of the healing process.

There will be many people there who have no faith or religion: Do not worry about this. Often these people find the Christian customs, rituals and even the prayers and readings very helpful and supportive. Also it is an opportunity to share our Christian faith and hope with others.

I am finding it very difficult to pray: That is OK and is a common experience. Just go along with the rituals and prayers and lean on others and the community for support. God will give you strength in ways you do not see or understand.

These are just a few thoughts to encourage reflection, prayer and sharing. Our Christian and Biblical tradition give us a great richness to help and support us in times of grief and to prepare us for the inevitable day when each of us faces our own death.

Finally, let us pray for those who have died:

Loving and merciful God,

We entrust all who have died to your mercy. You loved them greatly in this life; now that they are freed from all its cares, give them happiness and peace for ever. The old order has passed away; welcome them now into paradise where there will be no more sorrow, no more weeping or pain, but only peace and joy with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

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.

All Souls Day

Tomorrow Monday 2 November we celebrate the **Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed** (All Souls Day). Masses will be at the usual times, 8.00am, 12.15 & 6.00pm, and the Readings will be those of All Souls Day.

Funerals: Tomorrow Monday at 3.00pm there will be a Funeral Mass for **Carlotta Cabourn-Smith R.I.P.**

On Friday next 6th November, the 12.15pm Mass will be a Funeral Mass for **Mary [Mariquita] Purcell-Annis RIP**

Collection for the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund

There will be a Special Collection after all Masses today for the **Sick and Retired Priests' Fund**. The number of sick and elderly priests who need our support is growing and we need your help. 50% of the money that you give goes to Westminster Diocese and 50% to the Carmelite Order. We ask you please to contribute as much as you can afford to this collection.

Children's 'All Saints' Party

There will be a Children's '**All Saints**' Party here in the Priory on Sunday 15 November from 3.00pm to 5.00pm. *Children!* we would like you to come dressed as your favourite saint - all ages are welcome. For assistance or for ideas on saints and get-up, please contact Fr Iain: iainmatthew@yahoo.com

Notices

- * We will have our *Parish Advisory Group* meeting on Sunday next 8 November at 7.00pm.
- * Our *Babies & Toddlers Group* returns on Friday next 6 November, following their half-term break. New children welcome. Contact: Segolene on 020-3062-2978
- * Our *Monday Group* will meet in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm tomorrow evening when they will continue with the autumn programme of Meditations and Group Reflections, following the booklet '**Your Kingdom Come**'. All young people (18-35) who come to our Church are warmly invited to join them. Entrance to the Parish Centre via Pitt Street.
- * On Saturday next 7 November we will have the *Brown Scapular Devotions to Our Lady of Mount Carmel* after the 6.00pm Mass. All are invited to stay on for the Rosary and special prayers.

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday next 8 November is **Remembrance Sunday**. The 11.00am Mass will be a **Requiem Mass** for all who died in two World Wars and other conflicts of our time. As is customary, the doors of the Church will close promptly at one minute to 11 o'clock for the **two-minute silence** before Mass. *So please remember to be on time.*