

April

Tuesday 13 - St Martin I, Pope & Martyr

***Supporting our Church by Gift Aid***

As the new **Gift Aid** year commences, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who donate in this way. Being able to claim the tax back – 28p for every £1 that you give - is a great financial help to our Church. Also I would like to invite others to consider donating in this way. All you have to do is complete a simple form, and we will give you a box of numbered envelopes for your weekly donation. Or if you prefer, you can donate by Bankers Order. Paying by either of these two methods will not cost you anything extra. The only requirement is that you are a British Tax Payer. Forms available from Reception. Thank you. *Fr Matt*

***Mount Carmel***

We would remind you that the latest edition of “**Mount Carmel**” - *A Review of the Spiritual Life* - is now available from Reception. This is a very special issue with emphasis on **The Year for Priests**. It is an excellent read and highly recommended. Price £2.50

***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.

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 **Latin Choir**  
12.15pm, 6.00pm **Young Adults Choir**  
Holy Days: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm  
Bank Holidays: 9.00am, 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  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Wednesdays from 6.30-8.00pm  
**Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB**  
**Tel: 020-7937-9866 Fax: 020-7938-1470**  
**Registered Charity No: 253645**  
Our Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: [www.carmelitechurch.org](http://www.carmelitechurch.org)

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**

**Parish Newsletter**

Sunday 11 April 2010 - Second Sunday of Easter

***Year for Priests***

It is more than a year ago now since Pope Benedict announced the **Year for Priests** [June 2009 to June 2010]. The purpose of the year is to give all members of the Church an opportunity to reflect on the place of priests and the priesthood in the life and mission of the Church. It is an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the priesthood, to reflect on the changing role of the priest in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Church and to become more aware of how we pass on the gift to future generations. In addition we are all asked to pray for priests, for those preparing for the priesthood and for those God will call in the future to this vocation.

One of the initiatives of our Diocese has been to organise **40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration** in each Deanery of the Diocese and these have been going on throughout the Diocese over the past year. As you are already aware, our Church was chosen to host the “**40 Hours**” for the parishes of Kensington and Chelsea. It will begin with the **6.00pm Mass next Sunday 18 April**, and **end with the 12.15pm Mass on Tuesday 20 April**. During this time [except for the times of our usual scheduled masses] the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed and people are welcome to spend time in our Church praying. Most of the time will be silent prayer but sometimes individuals and groups will lead prayers and reflections.

You are welcome to come anytime you wish, day or night, and I hope there will be people of this parish present all the time throughout the 40 hours. However, each of the parishes involved and other groups have been assigned times to ensure that there are always sufficient people present.

**The time assigned to this Carmelite Parish is Sunday night 11.00pm to Monday morning 3.00am.** A list will be at the back of the Church for people to sign up for these hours. We hope and pray that these days of prayer will be a time of great grace and blessing for everyone involved.

When this “**40 Hours**” was first organised, no one could have predicted that it will take place in the context of all the news we are hearing of horrific abuse of children by priests, religious and others in the Church. There is so much being said about this, I would like just to share a few comments and reflections on three aspects:-

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Firstly we are speaking about horrendous crimes that have done tragic and lasting damage to the lives of many innocent people. We must apologise to the victims and do everything we possibly can to help and support them. However, we must also seek to understand what has happened and why it happened. We do not conquer evil just by ignoring it or condemning it, we must also seek to understand it – otherwise we make the same mistakes again in different ways [just like one oppressive regime is often replaced by another, which often turns out to be just as oppressive].

Secondly, very often the victims did not receive the listening ear, understanding and help they should rightly receive from the Church. Healing the sick, caring for the hurt and wounded, being a voice for the oppressed, welcoming, caring for and educating children are all basic to the Church's mission. Therefore this is a failure of the Church to carry out its primary mission.

Thirdly, these crimes were deliberately and systematically covered-up by the Church. The reasons for this are complex but among them are the following: fear and misunderstanding of these crimes and their consequences, a strong desire to avoid scandal and uphold the “good name” of the Church, and a defective and naïve understanding of the nature of the Church and of what loyalty/obedience to the Church means.

To help explore these issues further and the many other questions and concerns people have, I would like to invite you all to a **meeting here at the Priory this Tuesday 13 April at 7.30pm**. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to come to this meeting.

The **40 Hours** is an opportunity to bring all these issues to God in prayer. In addition we are also organising a **Special Mass for victims of abuse on Thursday 29 April at 7.30pm**. Please pass the word around about these events.

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

#### ***Year for Priests - A Prayer for Our Priests***

*Heavenly Father,*

Grant that our Priests be strengthened and healed by the power of the Eucharist they celebrate. May the Word they proclaim give them courage and wisdom. We pray that all those whom they seek to serve may see in them the love and care of Jesus, Our Eternal High Priest, who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen

*Mary, Mother of the Church, look tenderly upon your sons, our Priests.*

*Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, pray for us all.*

#### **Holy Week and Easter**

I would like to thank all who attended our **Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies**. A special thanks to our various Choirs, readers, altar servers and all who contributed in special ways to make our ceremonies the very rich experience that they were. Thanks also to all who contributed to the collection for flowers and those who gave Easter donations. *Fr Matt*

#### ***RCIA Open Session, Sunday 25 April***

As you know, six adults have received Sacraments this Easter. They have been prepared through the **RCIA** programme and have been supported by the prayers and welcome they receive from the parish and particularly by those who attend the Sunday evening Mass. You are all invited to this open meeting on Sunday 25 April from 7.00-8.00pm, which is an opportunity to learn more about RCIA and get to know the new members of our Church and to share a little of their experience.

#### ***The Acts of the Apostles***

Fr Matt will give a series of four lectures on *St Luke's Second Volume* known as **The Acts of the Apostles**, beginning on Tuesday 4 May and continuing on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May, from 7.00-8.00pm. You are all invited.

#### ***Notices***

- \* We will have our **Parish Gathering** after the 10.00am Mass on Sunday next 18 April. Please join your friends downstairs in the Parish Centre for tea/coffee and friendly chat.
- \* Our next **Carmelite Holy Hour**, in prayer for vocations to religious life, will be on Monday 26 April at 6.30pm.
- \* Our next *Parish Advisory Group* meeting will take place on Sunday 9 May at 7.00pm in the Priory. If you have any issues for discussion, please hand them in to Reception, attention Fr Matt.

#### **Funerals**

1. On Thursday next 15 April, at 10.30am there will be the Funeral of **Robert Miller RIP**.
2. On Wednesday 21 April, at 12.15 there will be the Funeral of **Susan Kavanagh RIP**.