

### Feasts/Memorials

#### April

Wednesday 28 - St Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr/  
St Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort, Priest  
Friday 29 - St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor,  
Patron of Europe  
Friday 30 - St Pius V, Pope  
Saturday 1 May - St Joseph the Worker

### Children's Painting Exhibition

*Children!* Once again it's time to prepare for our **Annual Children's Painting Exhibition** in aid of *The Catholic Children's Society*. We invite you to do a painting or drawing on one or two of the following themes: (1) *Jesus*; (2) *Thank you*; (3) *How can I Help?* (4) *Easter JOY*. Paintings can be handed in at any time c/o Fr Iain. Closing date: Ascension Sunday 16 May. Exhibition date: Pentecost Sunday 23 May, when our Parishioners will have the opportunity to view your work and make a donation to the CCS.

Important date for your diaries: **Parish Picnic** Sunday 20 June, in Kensington Gardens. More details later.

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 25 April 2010 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

### Vocations Sunday

At Baptism each one of us is anointed with the oil of Chrism: "The God of power and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and brought you to new life through water and the Holy Spirit. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, so that, united with his people, you may remain forever a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet and King".

These are the words of the *Rite of Baptism* and every time I have the privilege of pronouncing them, I am always astounded and humbled by them. What are these words going to mean for the life of this new Christian adult or baby, what is the potential contained in these words – this person's life is completely transformed by this anointing and is filled with possibilities and potential that can only be realised through the grace of God. Two important points we need to note:

1. It is **God the Father** who is doing the anointing – not the Church, nor the parents or godparents, nor the priest, nor the Holy Spirit, nor Jesus but **God the Father**. God has already freed this person from sin and brought the person to new life, now God the Father personally gives this person the capacity to partake in the life of his Son.
2. The specific way we, as baptised Christians, partake in the life of Jesus is by our sharing in his power and mission as **Priest, Prophet, and King**. This is not something we achieve by our own efforts, rather we grow into it when we open ourselves to the workings of God's grace in us and respond with generosity to the specific call God gives to each of us. A person's "vocation" is the relationship, situation, environment, way of life, mission or identity that enables that unique person to participate fully in the life of God's Son. When a person has grown into his/her vocation, then that person is fully alive, is true to their unique identity and communicates Jesus as priest, Prophet and King. I am not fully myself until I have grown into my "vocation" and am totally at peace with who I am, where I am and what life has brought my way. These three great titles of Jesus illustrate what this might mean.

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**Priest:** The priestly life is associated with prayer, worship, sacrifice and healing. A Christian in whom the priestly power of Jesus has grown and matured is a person in whose presence we feel better, a person whose presence lifts our hearts and a person to whom we feel drawn because of the inner peace they communicate.

**Prophet:** Prophets are great listeners and their most obvious characteristic is compassion. Our pain, our unanswered questions, our dreams, our hopes and our emptiness are heard and understood by these people. They rarely speak but when they do, their words, gestures, attitudes and example have an authority, influence and depth that is not found anywhere else in human life.

**King:** "My kingdom is not of this world" therefore Jesus has the freedom, detachment, love and generosity to lay down his life. These are the characteristics of those who are living the Kingly power of Jesus Christ: freedom, detachment, love and generosity. Only those who can give everything, even their own lives, have the authority of Jesus' kingship.

People who are living fully their baptism consecration are people of great peace, inner strength, freedom and love. These are the people who make our world a better place, they are the people this world most needs. They are found in every walk of life, most never become famous, many live life almost unnoticed but their influence, wisdom and power reaches multitudes, often without even being seen, heard or noticed.

The world needs more of these people, the Church needs them, we cannot become fully alive without them; *let us pray for them today.*

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

#### **Statement by the Catholic Bishops of England & Wales**

You will find in your Newsletter today a Statement by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales dealing specifically with **Child Abuse in the Catholic Church**. Please take the document home with you and study it carefully.

*Fr Matt*

#### ***World Day of Prayer for Vocations***

Today is **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. The Annual *Priest Training Fund Collection* will be taken up after all Masses. 50% of the money collected goes to the Archdiocese of Westminster and 50% to the Carmelite Order. Your kind generosity will be greatly appreciated.

A **Requiem Mass for the President of Poland** and all who died in the recent plane crash will be held at Westminster Cathedral this Thursday 29 April at 7.00pm. All are welcome.

#### ***Meeting on Child Abuse in the Catholic Church***

Following the meeting on **Child Abuse in the Catholic Church**, held in the Priory on 13 April, for those who were unable to attend, we have arranged a similar meeting for **Thursday 6 May at 7.30pm**. We are pleased to have Franca, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, with us again and myself. Those who attended the first meeting are very welcome to come again, especially those whose questions we did not have time to deal with.

All are reminded of the **Special Mass for Victims of Abuse** this Thursday 29 April at 7.30pm. I hope as many people as possible will be able to come to this Mass.

*Fr Matt*

#### ***RCIA Open Session this Evening***

You are all invited to an open meeting this evening from 7.00-8.00pm, (after the 6 o'clock Mass). This will be an opportunity to learn more about RCIA and get to know the new members of our Church who received the Sacraments at Easter and to share a little of their experience. This will be held in the Refectory.

#### ***Mass for Migrants***

On May Day Bank Holiday Monday 3 May, the annual **Mass for Migrants** will take place at Westminster Cathedral at 10.30am. It will be concelebrated by the Most Rev Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, Pat Lynch, Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark, and Thomas McMahon, Bishop of Brentwood. All are welcome to attend.

#### ***Gathering for Young Married Couples***

We will have a *Gathering for Young Married Couples*, in the Priory, this Tuesday 27 April at 7.30pm. The gathering is a time when couples come to the Carmelite Priory and enjoy friendly conversation over a glass of wine and cheese. We follow this with some input relevant to marriage or being parents (usually from a DVD), and discussion. All young married couples who come to our Church are warmly invited. Contact: Fr Iain 07776-457392 [iainmatthew@yahoo.com](mailto:iainmatthew@yahoo.com)

#### ***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.