

Feasts/Memorials

May

Monday 3 - SS Philip & James, Apostles - Feast
Tuesday 4 - The English Martyrs

Mass for Migrants

There will be the annual **Mass for Migrants** at Westminster Cathedral at 10.30am tomorrow Monday, May Day Bank Holiday. 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.

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
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Our Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 2 May 2010 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

“Everyone will know that You are my Disciples”

“*When Judas had gone, Jesus said....*” What a chilling introduction to Jesus’ teaching in our Gospel today. As we all know, Judas has gone to betray Jesus and to help bring about his execution. We are at the Last Supper and the sequence of events is as follows: Jesus washes his disciples’ feet – Jesus predicts that one of his disciples will betray him – Judas leaves – today’s Gospel passage with its beautiful teaching – Jesus predicts that Peter will deny knowing him before the cock crows – Jesus begins his long farewell discourse.

We are in the season of Easter and from early Christian times this has been the season when we enter more deeply into the mystery of who Jesus is and what it means to live Christianity. We are celebrating the Resurrection but it is a celebration that is haunted by the thought of Jesus being absent. We are assured of the Holy Spirit’s presence while at the same time we are faced with the reality of living in a hostile, unbelieving and sinful world. We receive instructions from Jesus but are left confused by what they mean and how to put them into practice in our lives.

So do not be surprised if you are confused. The reaction of Jesus to hurtful and menacing events is to see them as the “glorification of God” and to invite us to “love one another just as I have loved you”. What is the point we may well ask? How is God given Glory through betrayal, denial, rejection, suffering and very cruel death? Why does he tell us to love one another just after he has washed his disciples’ feet and one of them walks out and betrays him? So what is the message of scripture during this Easter time? Here are a few samples:

- * God is glorified in what the world sees as defeat and humiliation.
- * The cross is the greatest manifestation of God’s power.
- * Christians will suffer, will be humiliated, rejected, betrayed, misunderstood etc. All of this is to be expected and must never be a reason to be despondent or to give up.
- * We get to know God more deeply through our love for each other.
- * The risen Jesus is present in our world and will be found in the midst of pain, darkness, sin, death. That is where Christians must be also.

Continued.....

- * The deepest experiences of God and the most profound understanding of God will emerge in what we would consider the most unlikely and adverse circumstances.
- * Love always wins even if it is rejected, abused or appears to be defeated.
- * The Holy Spirit is always with us leading us to deeper truth and fuller knowledge of God and nothing can change this.

Conclusion: Who would want to be a disciple of Jesus? No one if discipleship is judged by the standards of this world, but to a person of faith this is what makes discipleship attractive. This is what makes the Gospel message real and relevant. Faith in the Resurrection brings God into the drama of human life with all its pain, contradictions and uncertainties. This is where the Christian lives and this is what fills Christian life with power, meaning and dynamism.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration

My thanks to all who came to the recent **40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration**. It was very encouraging to see so many people here at all hours especially late at night. A special thanks to all who helped in any way with the practical arrangements.

Fr Matt

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 this Tuesday 4 May from 7.00-8.00pm. and continuing on Tuesday 11th, 18th and 25th May. You are all invited.

Notices

- * Our next *Holy Hour* with emphasis on *Prayer for the Gift of Vocations*, will be on Monday 10 May from 6.30-7.30pm.
- * We will have our Parish Advisory Group meeting on Sunday next 9 May at 7.00pm in the Priory. If you have any issues for discussion please hand them in at Reception, attention Fr Matt.
- * Tomorrow Monday is a Bank Holiday. Masses will be at 9.00am and 12.15pm. The Church will close at 1.00pm.

We thank you for your contributions to the collection last week-end for the *Priests' Training Fund* – the amount collected was **£1,200.35**.

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 next 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.

In your Newsletter on Sunday last you received a Statement by the Catholic Bishops of England & Wales on **Child Abuse in the Catholic Church**, inviting all Catholics to make the four Fridays in May special days of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, *to pray to God for healing and forgiveness and to pray for all who have suffered abuse*. The following prayer is given as an aid:

Prayer of Sorrow and Rededication

Almighty Father,

Your Son Jesus Christ rebuked the disciples when they kept the children from him, healed the boy possessed of the unclean Spirit and raised Jairus' daughter from the dead.

In the Temple, children hailed him as the Son of David and it is to such as these that your Kingdom belongs.

As we dedicate ourselves to the care and well-being of the young and vulnerable, we beg you to grant to your bishops, priests, deacons, and all the lay faithful, the grace of welcoming the young as you welcomed them and of affording them the protection and care which their rights and dignity demand.

May our sorrow and our tears, our sincere effort to redress past wrongs, and our firm purpose of amendment bear an abundant harvest of grace; that in our homes, parishes, schools and communities our young people may flourish, realise their potential, and name you as Father in the midst of the Church.

This we ask through your Son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit One God, for ever and ever.

Amen