

### *Feasts/Memorials*

Wednesday 12 - SS Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs/St Pancras, Martyr  
Thursday 13 - Our Lady of Fatima  
Friday 14 - St Matthias, Apostle – Feast

### *Prayer of Sorrow and Rededication over Child Abuse in the Catholic Church*

*O God, in whose enduring love we trust,  
bind up the wounds of those abused.  
Heal them and make them whole,  
that they may once more receive and give love  
with confidence in their dignity as your sons and daughters.*

*Touch the hearts of all members of your Church  
and convert us to yourself.*

*Where sin has divided and scattered,  
may your love make one again;  
Where sin has brought weakness,  
may your power heal and strengthen;  
Where sin has brought death,  
may your Spirit raise to new life.*

*Give us a new heart to love you, so that our lives  
may reflect the image of your Son.*

*May the world see the glory of Christ and  
come to know that he is the one whom you sent,  
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.                      Amen*

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

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**Registered Charity No: 253645**

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

### Parish Newsletter

Sunday 9 May 2010 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

## Church

In our first reading today we find the Church having to deal with a particular problem – must a Christian converted from paganism embrace the practices of Judaism? This is a good question and one that obviously had to come up at some stage in the development of the Church. What may be surprising to us in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is that Jesus did not leave instructions in this matter! To think like this is to misunderstand the nature of Church. The Church is not an organisation of people who follow a lifestyle laid down by Jesus or in imitation of how he lived.

The Church is a living body that is constantly evolving, changing and growing and is the living Body of Jesus in our world today. Sometimes the growth is difficult, painful, slow, confusing and even divisive. This particular issue was difficult and painful even for Peter and those who were closest to Jesus. They had to learn that membership of the Church required an ability to change, grow, make decisions and to be guided by the Holy Spirit in ways one would have never chosen or predicted.

In the *Acts of the Apostles* we see patterns emerging which will form the basis of the Church's decision-making ever since: *a new issue or problem arises – the situation is discussed and studied – the people who are directly affected are listened to – the whole Church is involved – the mission and unity of the Church is given priority – the Apostles [and their successors] are asked to decide – the entire Church accepts the decision – the decision leads to new life and growth in the Church, it is seen as a sign of the presence and work of the Holy Spirit.*

This may appear a simple and logical process, but looking at the history of the Church we can see how complex and painful it can be – sometimes it has taken centuries for this process to happen! In each era of history, the Church has faced new challenges - while the issues are different, the pain, struggles and confusion keep repeating themselves. Only the conviction that the Holy Spirit was guiding them has got the Church through many struggles down the centuries. This is a conviction that is becoming increasingly difficult to hold onto. There are real and pressing questions today about what membership of Church really means.

The crisis in the Church today is not just about some mistakes made or sins committed or ignored [they are symptoms, not causes]. Today we tend to forget or ignore what being a disciple of Jesus means and implies.

I want to conclude with a question: Less than 50 years ago the Church wrote the following: *“The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts. For theirs is a community composed of people, united in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, pressing onwards towards the Kingdom of the Father and are bearers of a message of salvation intended for all people”*. How many people today really believe this and are prepared to take creative, courageous and prophetic decisions to make it happen?

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

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

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

### **‘Samuel’ Afternoon of Prayer in Preparation for The Feast of Pentecost**

**Samuel** events are for young adults [18-30], open to listening to the Word of God speaking to their journey of faith and vocation. On Saturday 22 May, from 12.30pm to 5.00pm there will be time for prayer and reflection in *preparation for the Feast of Pentecost* at the Convent of the Assumption, 20 Kensington Square, W8. For more information or to reserve a place contact [samuel.group@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:samuel.group@yahoo.co.uk) Tel: 07503 241127

### ***World Communications Day***

Sunday next 16 May is **World Communications Day**. The Catholic Communications Network provides support for the Bishops of England and Wales in promoting the gospel in the media. This work involves engaging with the press in the UK and abroad, dealing with requests for information and offering a Catholic voice. There will be a collection after all Masses for **Catholic Communications**. *Your kind generosity will be appreciated.*

### ***Children's Painting Exhibition in aid of The Catholic Children's Society***

*Children!* Hope you are progressing with your painting/drawing for our **Annual Children's Painting Exhibition** in aid of *The Catholic Children's Society*, following any one 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.

### ***Notices***

- \* We will have our **Carmelite Holy Hour** with emphasis on *Prayer for the Gift of Vocations* tomorrow Monday 10 May from 6.30-7.30pm. All are invited.
- \* On Sunday next 16 May, we will have our *Parish Gathering* after the 10am Mass, when you are all invited downstairs for tea/coffee and chat with your friends.
- \* Grateful thanks to all who came to our **Gathering for young Married Couples** on Tuesday last – a very successful and worthwhile evening. We will have two similar meetings on the following dates: Wednesday 26 May and Wednesday 30 June at 7.30pm.
- \* Important date for your diaries: **Parish Picnic** Sunday 20 June, in Kensington Gardens. More details later.

### ***Solemnities in May/June***

Sunday next 16 May is the **Solemnity of The Ascension of the Lord** and is the first of four important Solemnities celebrated on four consecutive Sundays:- Sunday 23 May is *Pentecost Sunday*; Sunday 30 May, *The Most Holy Trinity*, and Sunday 6 June, *Corpus Christi, Most Holy Body & Blood of the Lord*.

At 9.30am tomorrow Monday 10 May, there will be a **Funeral Mass** for **Luzimenda Gindoy RIP**