

Feasts/Memorials

Monday 22 February Chair of St Peter, Apostle – Feast

Faith Matters, Lent 2010 Series – Westminster Cathedral Hall

The Year of Priesthood: 7.00-8.30pm from 23 February -16 March

Tuesday 23 February: *The Priest: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*
by Fr Aidan Nickols, OP

Three further talks will follow on Tuesday 2nd, 9th and 16th March.

Please see full details on our Church notice-board. These are public lectures to which all are welcome. Registration is required to guarantee a place. e-mail faithmatters@rcdow.org.uk or telephone: 020-7931-6078. Suggested donation per lecture £3.00.

Lenten Alms 2010

In recent years the custom throughout the Diocese has been to raise money during Lent to support charitable causes at home and overseas. This year, Archbishop Vincent, with his Council, commends the **St John Southworth Fund** (as last year) and the **Thai Children's Trust**. The St John Southworth Fund is a grant-giving scheme created from existing legacies and trusts within the Diocese. Its overall purpose is to assist homelessness, migrants and refugees, youth education, disability support etc.

The Thai Children's Trust supports the neediest children across Thailand – orphans, the poor and the hungry, some fleeing from violence and persecution in Burma, others abandoned as babies by parents too poor to care for them. Throughout Lent there will be an **Alms Box** at the back of our Church for your donations.

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 **Sung/Latin**

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 21 February 2010 - First Sunday of Lent

Living as One

I begin today by quoting a few short passages from the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**:

* *God 'desires all people to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth', that is, of Jesus Christ.*

* *God graciously arranged that the things he had once revealed for the salvation of all peoples should remain in their entirety, throughout the ages, and be transmitted to all generations.*

* *The holy Spirit, through whom the living voice of the Gospel rings out in the Church – and through her in the world – leads believers to the full truth, and makes the Word of Christ dwell in them in all its richness.*

* *Sacred Scripture is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit. And Holy Tradition transmits in its entirety the Word of God which has been entrusted to the apostles by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit.... Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honoured with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.*

* *Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to man. We can lose this priceless gift.... To live, grow and persevere in the faith until the end, we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase our faith; it [our faith] must be "working through charity", abounding in hope, and rooted in the faith of the Church.*

I share these passages because they remind us of the gift God has given to us in the scriptures and in the teaching we have received from the Church. Our faith is nourished, sustained and built up by this teaching. Without constant prayer, reflection and study, our faith becomes weak and complacent and can even die. In addition, without this constant formation in our faith, we are not equipped to pass on the faith to others.

It is not possible for most of us to go on courses or engage in regular reading or study [but hopefully we are all able to do a little]. We are fortunate that our Diocese twice each year produces a programme of daily reading and reflections for us. These booklets are very carefully and expertly put together, giving us a combination of scripture, Church teaching and prayer. Five minutes each day is probably enough to read what is given but I would recommend at least ten to fifteen minutes to pray and reflect. This is possible for everyone to do without too much difficulty. If we follow these twice yearly programmes, then over time we will have built up a vast richness of knowledge on scripture and Church teaching.

Our booklet this Lent is entitled “**Living as One**” and the overall theme is the Church as One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. If you have not done so already, please take a booklet [we give them out free – we see this as an important part of the parish’s commitment to the building up of the faith of all who come to this Church].

“Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
[from St Thomas Aquinas – quoted in the booklet]

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Our Monday Group - Lenten Group Reflections

Our Young Adults Monday Group, for the next six weeks, will follow the **Lenten** programme ‘**Living as One**’, starting tomorrow, Monday evening. All young adults who come to our Church are invited to join them – 7.30pm in the Parish Centre each Monday, entrance via Pitt Street.

Monday Group Retreat

In preparation for Easter, Fr Matt will lead our Monday Group on a **Retreat** from **Friday 26 - Sunday 28 March** at Boars Hill, Oxford. All Young Adults (20-35) who come to our Church are very welcome to join this Retreat. For more information and to book a place, contact Gary Clarke garyclarke2006@yahoo.co.uk

The Gospel of Luke

On Tuesday next 23 February, **Fr Matt** will give the fourth and final talk on the background and content of the **Gospel of St Luke**. This will take place in the Refectory from 7.00-8.00pm. You are all warmly invited to this.

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

We ask you please to continue to pray for *James, Sonali, Patrick, Margaret, Ellina and Christine* as they enter the final stages of preparation to **receive the Sacraments at Easter**. Today, Sunday, they will attend Westminster Cathedral with their Sponsors at 3.00pm for the Rite of Election.

Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage

Westminster Cathedral – Saturday 22 May at 3.00pm

Archbishop Vincent Nichols would like to personally invite all married couples who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th **Wedding Anniversary of Marriage in 2010**. If you qualify and would like an invitation, please give me your names, address, email and wedding date before the end of February. *Fr Matt* - matthewblake@rcdow.org.uk

An Evening for Young Married Couples

All *Young Married Couples* from the Parish are invited to an evening of sharing here in the Priory this Wednesday 24 February from 7.30-9.00pm. The evening will include refreshments and friendly conversation. Enquiries: Fr Iain: Tel: 07776-457392. iainmatthew@yahoo.com

Search Weekend

A weekend to explore the possibility of a vocation to the **Disalced Carmelite Friars**, at the Carmelite Priory, Boars Hill, Oxford, OX1 5HB, from 10.00am on Saturday 6 March – 2.00pm Sunday 7 March. For more information, contact Fr Michael McGoldrick OCD on 07786-830924.

Carmelite Holy Hour

Tomorrow evening, Monday 22 February, we will have our **Carmelite Holy Hour**, in prayer for vocations to religious life, with inspiration from St Teresa of Avila, from 6.30-7.30pm. All are invited.

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Each Friday during Lent we will have the **Stations of the Cross** after the 6.00pm Mass. You are all invited to take part.

Lenten Fast Day for CAFOD

Friday next 26 February is **Lenten Fast Day**, and on Sunday next there will be a collection after all masses when your fast day offerings for **CAFOD** will be taken up. Your generosity towards this very worthy cause will be greatly appreciated.