

Feasts/Memorials

March

Monday	1	St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales - Feast
Thursday	4	St Casimir
Friday	5	Women's World Day of Prayer

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

Assumption Together - Lent Retreat Day

There will be a *Lent Retreat Day* at the Convent of the Assumption, 20 Kensington Square, W8, on Saturday 20 March from 10.30am – 5.00pm. All are welcome. For more information or to reserve a place, email: assumptiontogether@gmail.com or Tel: 07503-241127. Simple lunch provided – no charge, donations only.

Carmelite Holy Hour

Our next **Carmelite Holy Hour**, in prayer for vocations to religious life, with inspiration from St Teresa of Avila, will be on Monday 8 March from 6.30-7.30pm. All are invited.

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

Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB

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Registered Charity No: 253645

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

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 28 February 2010 - Second Sunday of Lent

This is my Son, the Chosen One, Listen to Him

Traditionally on this Second Sunday of Lent we read the story of the Transfiguration. It was a unique, profound and never to be repeated experience that three of the disciples of Jesus had. Peter obviously liked the experience and wished it could go on forever: “*Master, it is wonderful for us to be here*”. The Gospel rightly tells us: “*He did not know what he was saying*”.

To understand we must look at this Gospel in its context. Eight days earlier Peter is asked who Jesus is and he professes faith that Jesus is the “*Christ of God*” - in other words, God’s chosen one, the Messiah. Jesus gives the first prophecy of his passion and then gives some very strong teaching about what it means to be a disciple. Now Jesus takes the three disciples to the top of the mountain. They see Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah “*of his passing [or Exodus] which he is to accomplish in Jerusalem*”. The disciples are given this very special spiritual experience in order that they will have the strength and courage to deal with the suffering and pain of his passion and death.

We can now ask ourselves the question: What was Peter really saying? Firstly he addresses Jesus as “*Master*” [or *Rabbi* or *Teacher*], in other words he has forgotten who Jesus is, he has forgotten the words he himself spoke eight days earlier. Secondly he is ignoring the teaching Jesus has given them concerning his forthcoming death in Jerusalem and the demands of discipleship. Thirdly, and most seriously, he has become an obstacle in the way of the work Jesus has come to accomplish. [We could link this story with the story of the temptations of Jesus that we had last Sunday and see Peter putting the final temptation in the way of Jesus]. The trap that Peter has fallen into is one that disciples of Jesus frequently fall into. We fall into this trap when we give importance to how we feel in our prayer and spiritual lives, when we chase after “spiritual experience”, when we try to shape our religion to satisfy our needs, wants or preferences and when we give up when things do not go our way or turn out as we want or expect. What has happened is that we have forgotten who Jesus really is, we are ignoring what he is saying and our self-interest or self-centredness has become an obstacle to what he wants to do in our lives.

This situation is so serious that God the Father must speak: *“This is my Son, the Chosen One, Listen to Him.* God the Father is repeating the identical words that Peter used earlier but has now forgotten, and he is reminding Peter [and all of us] that we must listen to him [or obey Him]. Let us now listen to some of what Peter and the other disciples have forgotten or are ignoring: *“The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected... to be put to death...” “If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me”.*

I recommend you read all of Chapter Nine of Luke’s Gospel and see this very well known and important story in its context. In doing so it becomes clear why the Church has chosen this Gospel for the Second Sunday of Lent.

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RCIA: Last Sunday some of us were privileged to be at the Cathedral for the **Rite of Election**. We are all asked to pray for the 800 or so adults who are preparing to receive the Sacraments this Easter. The following prayer is being prayed throughout the Diocese:

God of love and power, it is your will to establish everything in Christ and to draw us into his all-embracing love. Guide these chosen brothers and sisters of ours, strengthen them in their vocation, build them into the kingdom of your Son, and seal them with the Spirit of your promise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Our Monday Group - Lenten Group Reflections

Our Young Adults Monday Group will meet tomorrow evening when they will continue with the **Lenten** programme ‘**Living as One**’. 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

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 next 6 March – 2.00pm Sunday 7 March. For more information, contact Fr Michael McGoldrick OCD on 07786-830924.

Young Adults in the West - All I have is yours.....

There will be a *Young Adults in the West* faith-sharing evening at Our Lady of Grace & St Edward, Chiswick, on Sunday 14 March, starting at 6.30pm. The theme for the evening – centred on the Gospel of the day is: ***All I have is yours...*** As usual, this will be led by the Right Reverend Alan Hopes, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster. All young adults (aged 17-35) who come to our Church are warmly invited. For more information contact David Burke on 020-7798-9357 or email davidburke@rcdow.org.uk

New “Association of Catholic Professionals”

The **ACP** has been formed to promote and support the Catholic viewpoint in every area of society, particularly via the media. Members are Catholic men and women from the professions and the world of business. If you are interested in joining the Association or would simply like more information, please contact Bernard Keigher bk@tektrans.com

‘Living as One’ Lenten Booklet online

Many of you received a copy of the booklet “**Living as One**” which we distributed on the last two Sundays. However, we ran out of copies and the Diocese has no more left. Those who did not receive a copy can download it from the Diocesan Webpage using this link:

http://issuu.com/exploringfaith/docs/living_as_one

Notices

- * We will have the **Stations of the Cross** after the 6.00pm Mass each Friday during Lent. You are all invited to take part.
- * On Saturday next 6 March, the **Brown Scapular Devotions** in honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel will take place after the 6.00pm Mass. All are invited to stay on for the Rosary and special prayers.

Lenten Fast Day for CAFOD

Friday last was **Lenten Fast Day**, and today 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.