

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 7 March 2010 - Third Sunday of Lent

Feasts/Memorials

March

Monday 8 St John of God
Tuesday 9 St Frances of Rome

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

Distribution of Lenten Alms

This year our Lenten Alms will be divided between the *St John Southworth Fund*, which makes grants to groups and individuals in need in the London area, and the *Thai Children's Trust*, which supports the neediest children across Thailand – orphans, the poor and the hungry. You will find a box at the back of the Church by the Repository door, for your donations. Your kind generosity will be greatly appreciated.

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

This is Holy Ground

In today's first reading we find ourselves on Mount Horeb [otherwise known as Mount Sinai]. No one could ever forget a trip to Mount Sinai, it is one of earth's truly special places. It is a place of beauty, remoteness, adventure, risk and mystery. It is nearly 25 years now since I was there but it is a pilgrimage I will never forget [everyone else I have ever met who has been there would say the same]. Because of the heat it is not possible to climb the mountain during the day, so one climbs during the night and arrives at the top more or less at daybreak – a spectacular sight to behold. Pilgrims since the time of Moses have been climbing this mountain during the night and so I guess the event we have in our first reading today took place at dawn, when Moses arrived at the top of the mountain. Instead of just seeing the beautiful and spectacular light of a new day, Moses sees a very strange fire in a small bush. This he will discover signifies God's presence. Though this light is small, Moses understands that it is more important than the light of the rising sun that is showing the beauty and splendour of this special place.

Moses begins to understand that the true God reveals himself in little things. Centuries later Elijah will be on the same mountain and will see that God is not in the earthquake, fire or wind but in a silent gentle breeze. This is a consistent theme in the bible and we see it most visibly in the birth of Jesus – God is born in a humble stable. God shows himself to us too in the little things and therefore we need time, patience and silence to see Him. It is no accident that in the scriptures God likes to reveal himself on the tops of mountains – there are no distractions to prevent us seeing his presence.

God tells Moses that he is the "*God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob*". This is who God is and how he wants to be known. God refuses to give Himself a name or to be known by some powerful deeds or victories over other gods [which was the common way gods were known in those times]. God is and wants to be the God of relationships and that is how we will come to know him. God wants to be and is part of our history, our relationships, our life stories and our personal experience.

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God is about to become an intimate part of the story of the people of Israel. In the story of the *Exodus*, God's commitment to his people will be demonstrated. However, for us this story only prefigures the greatest of all proofs of God's commitment to us in the life, death and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 24 March, 6.00pm Mass: During this Mass, Sr Camilla Oberding of the newly formed Community of Our Lady of Walsingham will make her final profession. All are welcome. More information later.

April 18-20: During this **Year for Priests**, the Diocese is organising a series of **40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration**. Ours will begin with the Sunday evening Mass on 18 April [celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes] and end with the 12.15pm Mass on Tuesday 20 April. More details nearer the time.

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

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.

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

We ask you please to continue to remember in your prayers our group of young people from this Church who are preparing to receive the **Sacraments this Easter**. They are: *James, Sonali, Patrick, Margaret, Ellina and Christine*.

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

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 next 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

Flowers for the Church for Easter

Your contributions towards **Flowers for the Church for Easter** will be greatly appreciated. You may leave your donations at Reception in an envelope marked "Flowers for the Church". *Thank you.*

Choir: Sunday Evening Mass

Our 6.00pm Sunday evening choir would like to invite **new members** to join. If you are interested in serving the Church through music and singing, please speak with Daniela or any other member of the choir, or email: danielamirai@hotmail.com

St Patrick's Day at St Patrick's Church, Soho Square

On Tuesday 16 March there will be a 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Patrick's Church, Soho Square. And on Wednesday 17, Feast of St Patrick, there will be Masses at 8.00am, 12.45pm and 6.00pm. Shamrock will be blessed and distributed at all Masses. All are warmly invited to come and celebrate the Feast. (Please note major works will begin at St Patrick's Church on 18 March lasting one year, during which time Masses will not be said in the Church).

Lenten Fast Day for CAFOD

We thank you for your Lenten Fast Day contributions to **CAFOD** on Sunday last. The amount taken up was **£1,737.79**.

Carmelite Holy Hour

We will have our **Carmelite Holy Hour**, in prayer for vocations to religious life, with inspiration from **St John of the Cross**, tomorrow Monday 8 March from 6.30-7.30pm. All are invited.