

Feasts/Memorials

March

Wednesday 17 - St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland - Feast
Thursday 18 - St Cyril of Jerusalem
Friday 19 - St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Patron of the Universal Church & Protector of the
Carmelite Order) - Solemnity

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

On Tuesday next 16 March there will be a 6.00pm Vigil Mass of the Feast of St Patrick at St Patrick's Church, Soho Square. And on Wednesday 17 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).

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*.

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Our next **Carmelite Holy Hour**, in prayer for vocations to religious life, will be on Monday 22 March from 6.30-7.30pm. All are welcome.

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
Tel: 020-7937-9866 Fax: 020-7938-1470

Registered Charity No: 253645

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

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 14 March 2010 - Fourth Sunday of Lent
(Laetare Sunday)

Forgiveness

“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”

We pray these words every time we pray the “**Lord’s Prayer**”. In fact these words are the centre or heart of that prayer. The possibility of forgiveness, the understanding of forgiveness and the help with forgiveness is Jesus Christ’s greatest gift to humanity. Without forgiveness we have no future, sooner or later we become trapped in anger, hurt, hatred and all kinds of self-centredness. Our lives become stagnant, lacking creativity, initiative and hope.

With forgiveness, we always have a future whatever may have happened in our lives. When we can forgive and we know we are forgiven, then there is new life to be lived – the past cannot control, imprison or destroy the future.

The first person we must forgive is **God**. He must be forgiven for all the gifts He has not given us, for what he has allowed to happen that should not have happened and for His failure to give us what we want or expect. That is the fault of the elder son in the parable of the *Prodigal Son*. He is so obsessed with what he has not got that he cannot see that “*all I have is yours*”. The father [who is God] has given him everything but he cannot see this and so is locked in the prison of anger, jealousy and inability to love.

The second person I must forgive is **Myself**. We all make mistakes, we get things wrong, we make bad decisions, we commit sins; sometimes it is very difficult to accept this and so we “run away” and hide in a godless, loveless place. That is where the younger son has gone – *to feed pigs* [unclean animals symbolising that he has left his religion]. We are told “*He came to his senses*” [or “*to himself*”]. In other words he must face up to what he has done, he must live with it and be reconciled with what he has done. The past cannot be undone or denied but this must not stop a future life being lived. This is something we all find very difficult. If I succeed in forgiving God and myself, then I have little difficulty in forgiving the next person who needs to be forgiven: **the other person**.

The roots of my inability to forgive others is my inability to forgive God and myself. It is much easier to blame the other person rather than face up to my defective image, or understanding of God and my lack of true self-knowledge.

Now we can pray the words of the Lord's Prayer as they are meant to be prayed. We can ask for forgiveness because we are people who forgive. We have received God's greatest gift and so we can appreciate, treasure and celebrate every other gift God has given us.

Let us remind ourselves again of the words of Jesus after he has given us this prayer in St Matthew's Gospel: *"If you forgive others their failings, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours; but if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive your failings either"*. This is not a threat or an unwillingness on God's part to forgive us. Rather it is an expression of the true dynamics of forgiveness.

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

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.*

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

J S Bach's St John Passion

The *Schola Cantorum of the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School*, with the *Belgravia Chamber Orchestra*, will perform **J S Bach's St John Passion** at Our Lady of Victories Church, High Street, Kensington, on Tuesday 23 March, starting at 7.30pm. All are warmly invited to support this beautiful Lenten event, at which some children from our Church will be performing. Tickets £12, concessions £8, available from Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School. Tel: 020-7605-0009 or pay at the door.

Gift Aid

Will those who donate to the Church by **Gift Aid**, please collect their envelopes from Reception for the coming year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who donate in this way. Being able to claim the tax back is a great financial help to us. Also I would like to invite others to consider donating in this way. All you need to do is fill in the form, and we will give you the envelopes, or if you prefer, you can donate by Bank Standing Order. It does not cost you anything, the only requirement is that you are a British Tax Payer. Thank you. *Fr Matt*

Gathering for Young Married Couples

We will have another of our Gatherings for Young Married Couples on Tuesday 27 April at 7.30pm. The gathering is a time when couples come to the Carmelite Priory and enjoy friendly conversation over a glass of wine and cheese. We follow this with some input relevant to marriage or being parents (usually from a DVD), and discussion. All young married couples who come to our Church are warmly invited. Contact: Fr Iain 07776-457392 iainmatthew@yahoo.com

Notices

- * At 3.30 today Sunday, in our **Winter Cinema for Children** series, we will be showing the film **'Alvin and the Chipmunks'**. All children who come to our Church are invited. No need to book, just come along, accompanied by an adult.
- * On Friday next 19 March we will celebrate the **Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Masses at the usual times, 8.00am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm.

Today is Mother's Day. *We wish all mothers who come to our Church a very happy day.*