

Feasts/Memorials

March

Tuesday 23 - St Turibius of Mongrovejo
Thursday 25 - Annunciation of the Lord - Solemnity

Preparing for Married Life

Courses for **Engaged and Recently Married couples** will take place at the following Churches and dates – open to all:-

Church of St Charles Borromeo, Ogle St., W1. Six Thursdays at 8.00pm beginning Thursday 22 April and finishing with a day together on Saturday 29 May. No fee, and no Registration necessary. Tel: 020-7636-2883.

Holy Apostles Church, 47 Cumberland St., Pimlico – 3-session course from 7.00-9.00pm on week-nights in May: Monday 17, Friday 21 & Monday 24 May. £30 per couple. Tel: 020-7834-6965 pimlico@rcdow.org.uk

St Mary Moorfields, 4-5 Eldon St., EC2: Saturday One Day Courses from 10.00am – 4.00pm. £50 per couple per course, including lunch: 22 May, 5 June and 26 June. Tel: 020-7247-8390 moorfields@btinternet.com

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.*

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 21 March 2010 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Religious Life

When we look at the history of the Church we see that nuns, monks, friars, brothers, sisters, hermits and many other forms of consecrated life have always formed part of it. In addition each new era of history gives birth to new forms and expressions. These are signs of the Holy Spirit's continued presence and work in the Church.

Every vocation is a call by God to live one's baptism in a particular way. A vocation is not the personal possession of the person called, rather every vocation is a gift of God to the Church to build up and enrich the life of the Church. A vocation is the fruits of a living and praying Church and a sign of God's care and concern for that Church. A vocation is also an answer to need – when we study the history of the Church, we see new religious families emerging where and when they are needed and to fulfil the needs of that particular Church in that particular historic situation.

At our **6.00pm Mass on Wednesday next 24 March**, **Sr. Camilla Oderling** will make her final profession as a member of the *Community of Our Lady of Walsingham*. Since I put this in the Newsletter a few weeks ago, I have been asked the following question a number of times: “*I have never been to anything like this, can I come along?*” The answer to that question is very definitely YES! This will be a unique experience and an opportunity not to be missed.

There are many good reasons to come and not just curiosity [though curiosity is not a bad reason!]. As Christians, we have a duty to encourage and support vocations – our presence, encouragement and prayers is one way of doing so. The Holy Spirit is constantly at work among us but his work only bears fruit with our co-operation, generosity and sacrifice.

As a Church we must be constantly encouraging, nurturing and supporting what is new; in this we are co-operating with the Holy Spirit and building a Church for those who will come after us. For many of us, our experience of Church can be limited – Wednesday's ceremony gives us all an opportunity to experience an unfamiliar but very alive dimension of the Church.

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On Wednesday next, Sr. Camilla will profess the three traditional vows of poverty, chastity and obedience [known as Evangelical Counsels] for the rest of her life. These vows or counsels set individuals and communities free to live the life of Christ, to be visible witnesses to his presence in the world and to be available to serve.

“From the God-given seed of the Counsels a wonderful and wide-spreading tree has grown up in the field of the Lord, branching out into various forms of religious life lived in solitude and in community. Different religious families have come into existence in which spiritual resources are multiplied for the progress in holiness of their members and for the good of the entire Body of Christ... this should be seen as a form of life to which some Christians are called by God so that they may enjoy a special gift of grace in the life of the Church and may contribute each in his/her own way, to the saving mission of the Church”. [documents of Vatican II]

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

P.S. Please note that because of Sr. Camilla’s Profession taking place on Wednesday next, we will not have the usual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.30-8.00pm that evening.

40 Hours Adoration – 18-20 April

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.

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*.

British Summer time begins on Sunday next 28 March. Please remember to put your clocks **forward** by one hour at Midnight on Saturday !!

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 – 28p for every £1 that you give - is a great financial help to our Church. Also I would like to invite others to consider donating in this way. All you have to do is complete a simple form, and we will give you a box of numbered envelopes for your weekly donation. Or if you prefer, you can donate by Bankers Order. Paying by either of these two methods will not cost you anything extra. The only requirement is that you are a British Tax Payer. Thank you. *Fr Matt*

Notices

- * We will have our *Parish Gathering* after the 10 o’clock Mass this morning. You are all invited downstairs to the Parish Centre for tea/coffee and friendly chat.
- * At 3.30 today Sunday 21 March, in our **Winter Cinema for Children** series, we will be showing the film ‘**Alvin and the Chipmunks**’. (Apologies for the incorrect announcement on Sunday last!)
- * **Lenten Alms** - There is a box at the back of the Church for your Lenten Alms contributions. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.
- * We have the **Stations of the Cross** after the 6.00pm Mass each Friday during Lent. You are all invited to take part.
- * Please note we will **not** have our usual bi-weekly **Holy Hour** in prayer *for the gift of Vocations to Religious Life*, tomorrow **Monday 22 March** from 6.30-7.30pm.

Archbishop’s Pastoral Letter

You will find in your Newsletter today a copy of **Archbishop Vincent Nichols’ Pastoral Letter**. There are some very important issues contained in this document - do please take it home with you and study it carefully.

Next Sunday 28 March is **Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion**. Palms will be blessed and distributed at all Masses, and the Solemn Entrance and Procession will take place at the 11.00am Mass.