

January 2010

Sunday	17	Peace Day
Tuesday	19	St Wulstan, Bishop
Wednesday	20	St Fabian, Pope & Martyr/ St Sabastian, Martyr
Thursday	21	St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
Friday	22	St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr

***Serving the Irish Community in London***

Do you know any Irish person who is elderly, lonely, maybe suffering from deteriorating health? The London Irish Centre can help! For over fifty years the Centre has been dedicated to serving the Irish community in London by providing advice, advocacy and support services. If you, or anyone you know, is in difficulty, please contact us. If you have trouble getting to us, we can come to you. Contact: The London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB. Tel: 020-7916-2222.

***Junior Readers for the 10 o'clock Sunday Mass***

Children who have made their First Communion might like to be considered for the very important role of **Reading** at the 10 o'clock Mass on Sundays. If interested, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554. Also, we need some more adult readers for our Sunday Masses, particularly the 8.30am.

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Our Parish Newsletter on the Web: [www.carmelitechurch.org](http://www.carmelitechurch.org)

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 LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**

**Parish Newsletter**

Sunday 17 January 2010 - Second Sunday of the Year

***Wedding at Cana in Galilee***

*“This was the first of the signs given by Jesus, it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen and his disciples believed in him”.*

Today we read one of the best known stories of all the Gospels: **The Wedding at Cana in Galilee**. I have begun by quoting the conclusion which is the key to understanding the story and seeing its importance. We need to read this passage remembering how John concludes his entire Gospel: *there were many signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name”.*

I have underlined the key word in these quotes to help us reflect on the deeper meaning of this story. John's Gospel is a gradual unfolding of two mysteries: the mystery of who Jesus is and the mystery of belief in him. The appearance of 180 gallons of the finest quality wine might seem important, or at least interesting or attractive to us, but in this story it gets forgotten about immediately. Our attention is called to the real importance of the story: it is part of the gradual revealing of who Jesus is [*“He let his glory be seen”*] and it is a sign that helps lead the disciples to belief [*“His disciples believed in him”*].

We are told this story by John so that we [the readers] may believe and that believing we may have life through him. There is one other word I could have underlined in these quotations: saw, see, seen. At the end of the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks these words to Thomas: *You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe*. The Gospel is written for those who have not seen Jesus in the flesh and have not seen the signs like the miracle at Cana.

The Gospel writers are not just concerned with communicating to us information about Jesus, they are also concerned with helping us to believe and strengthening the faith we already have. The Gospels are the fruit of the prayers, reflection and experience of Christian living of the early Church. We need this story and stories like it to help us build up our faith

This story invites us to reflect on how we use the Gospels, the use we make of them in our personal prayer and the choices of text we make when we have to choose for a special occasion - marriage, anniversaries, baptisms, other celebrations. I guess one of the reasons this Gospel is so familiar is because it is so frequently chosen for special occasions. It is also very familiar because every catechism programme, RCIA programme, prayer group and faith sharing group will make use, and often frequent use, of this passage. In doing so we are using it for what the author intended it to be used for.

The early Church learned through experience of the type of stories and reflections that were needed to help build and sustain the faith of believers – the same stories and reflections can build and sustain our faith also.

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

### ***The Gospel of Luke***

We are now reading Luke's Gospel in our Sunday Masses. There will be a series of **four lectures by Fr Matt** on the background and content of this Gospel, in the Priory from 7.00-8.00pm on the following Tuesdays:-

2<sup>nd</sup> February, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 16<sup>th</sup> February and 23<sup>rd</sup> February. All are invited.

### ***Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity*** – 18-25 January

Tomorrow January 18 will begin the **Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity**. Kensington Council of Churches will mark the occasion with a talk by Dr Peter Vardy entitled “**Genetic Engineering – the Ethical Challenges Ahead**”, at Kensington United Reformed Church, Allen Street, W8, this Tuesday 19 January, starting at 7.00pm. Peter Vardy is Vice-Principal, Heythrop College, University of London, and author of many books. Refreshments will follow the meeting. Admission is free and we are all invited.

### **The Feast of Sto Niño** (Divine Infant of Prague)

The Carmelite Filipino Choir invites you all to attend the annual Celebration of **The Feast of Sto Niño** on Sunday 31 January at 2.00pm here in our Church. The Celebrant will be Fr Matt Blake. A Reception will follow in the Parish Centre.

### ***Funeral Mass***

The 12.15 Mass on Friday next 22 January will be a **Funeral Mass** for **Margaret Mary Campbell RIP**.

### ***Faith Matters, Lent 2010 – Westminster Cathedral Hall***

**The Year of Priesthood:** Tuesdays, from 23 February –16 March,  
7.00-8.30pm

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

2 March: *The Priest & the Universal Baptismal Call*  
by Dr Clare Watkins

9 March: *The Call to Priesthood in a Global City*  
by Fr Andrzej Forys, MS

16 March: *The Priest as Witness* by Archbishop Vincent Nichols.

These are public lectures to which all are welcome. Registration is required to guarantee a place. Please e-mail [faithmatters@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:faithmatters@rcdow.org.uk) or telephone: 020-7931-6078. Suggested donation per lecture £3.00.

### ***‘Mount Carmel’***

Please note the Spring edition of ‘*Mount Carmel*’ is now available from Reception desk. This issue contains some in-depth articles on **St Teresa of Avila** and **John of the Cross**, and much more. An excellent read and highly recommended, price £2.50.

### ***‘The Priests’ in Concert***

The very popular Irish Fathers, ‘*The Priests*’ will appear in Concert with the Schola of the London Oratory School, at Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace, SW1, on Friday 12 February at 7.30pm. Karl Jenkins’ ‘*The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*’ will also feature. Tickets: £45, £30 and £20 from the Box Office. Book online at [www.cadoganhall.com](http://www.cadoganhall.com) or call 020-7730-4500 (Proceeds in aid of the London Oratory School, Schola Foundation).

### ***Young Married Couples Get-together***

On Tuesday 26 January a group of **young married couples** from the Parish will meet in the Priory from 7.30-9.00pm to enjoy conversation, and share about important issues. Enquiries: Fr Iain: [iainmatthew@yahoo.com](mailto:iainmatthew@yahoo.com)  
Tel: 07776 457392.

Our next **Carmelite Holy Hour**, in prayer for vocations to religious life, with inspiration from St Teresa of Avila, will be on Monday 25 January, from 6.30-7.30pm. All are invited.