

January 2010

Monday	25	Feast of Conversion of St Paul
Tuesday	26	SS Timothy & Titus, Bishops
Wednesday	27	St Angela Merici, Virgin
Thursday	28	St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor

Year of Priesthood – A Prayer for our Priests

Dear Lord,

We pray that the Blessed Mother may wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry. We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words, “Do whatever he tells you”. May your priests have the heart of St Joseph, Mary’s most chaste spouse. May the Blessed Mother’s own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross. May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love, seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls. Amen.

St John-Marie Vianney pray for us.

‘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.

Our Parish Newsletter on the Web: 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 24 January 2010 - Third Sunday of the Year

The Gospel According to Luke

Many of you will have been to the National Gallery to see the exhibition “**The Sacred made Real**”. You will have seen the painting by Francisco de Zurbarán of St Luke with paints and paintbrush in his hand looking up at Jesus on the Cross. Luke is the patron saint of artists and his Gospel has always been the artist’s favourite. Luke, through the words of his Gospel, paints a picture for us of who Jesus is.

Zurbarán is not implying that Luke is treating Jesus on the Cross as his muse. It is clear from the painting that Luke is engaged in prayer and contemplation. Luke is the contemplative artist who paints in words, prayers, stories and images the Jesus he has come to know through prayer. Luke’s Gospel has often been described as the “Gospel of Prayer” and Zurbarán’s painting is a timely reminder to us that this Gospel could only have been written by a person of deep prayer and contemplation.

Today as we begin the reading of Luke’s Gospel we need to be reminded of something else also: Luke is the Gospel of personal relationships. Luke knows Jesus through his deep personal relationship with Him. Luke also knows that the most effective way to pass on the Good News about Jesus is through personal relationships. Luke’s Gospel is a very personal account for Theophilus. [It is not clear who Theophilus is, the name implies that he is a high ranking Roman official who is possibly Luke’s patron or sponsor. The name literally means “*lover of God*” or “*Beloved by God*”, so it may not be an actual person but any Christian]. What is important is the personal nature of the account he is writing, and that is how we must listen to it also – one believer sharing with another, a fellow disciple guiding us, a shared experience of prayer and contemplation, a fellow traveller on the journey of Gospel living.

Theophilus is already a believer and Luke decided to write “an ordered account” for him so that he “may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received”. This principle applies to us and to all believers - the faith we have must be grounded in solid teaching. The Gospels are the main source of that teaching. In order to sustain and build our Christian lives we need an extensive and deep knowledge of the Gospels. Luke recognised this and therefore he sets out to write what he believes Theophilus needs to know. While this was necessary in Luke’s day, I suggest it is even more necessary today – if we do not know

our faith becomes shallow, distorted and lifeless. As we read Luke's Gospel this year, let us pray that our faith may be strengthened and deepened by our contemplation and study of Luke's Gospel. I finish with some words from Pope Benedict:

"The Church is a community that listens to and proclaims the Word of God. The Church does not live from itself but from the Gospel, and from the Gospel it draws direction for its journey ever and anew. This is the qualifying note that all Christians should accept and apply to themselves; only those who adopt the position of listeners to the Word can become its announcers".

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

The Gospel of Luke

There will be a series of **four lectures by Fr Matt** on the background and content of the Gospel of St Luke, in the Priory from 7.00-8.00pm on the following Tuesdays:-

2nd February, 9th February, 16th February and 23rd February. All are 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 next 31 January at 2.00pm here in our Church. The Celebrant will be Fr Matt Blake. A Reception will follow in the Parish Centre.

Mass in Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes

There will be **Mass in Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes** on Saturday 13 February, **World Day of Prayer for the Sick**, at Westminster Cathedral at 3.00pm, celebrated by Archbishop Vincent Nichols. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered at this Mass. All are welcome.

'Samuel' Lenten Retreat Day

A day to help young people [18-30s] move further on their journey of faith and vocation. Led by Fr Iain Matthew OCD and Sr Cathy Jones RA, on Saturday 20 February 10.30am-5.00pm, at the Convent of the Assumption, 20 Kensington Square, London W8. To reserve a place or for more information contact: samuel.group@yahoo.co.uk or 07503-241127.

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 or telephone: 020-7931-6078. Suggested donation per lecture £3.00.

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.

Young Married Couples Get-together

On Tuesday next 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: Tel: 07776 457392. iainmatthew@yahoo.com

Carmelite Holy Hour for Vocations

We will have our **Carmelite Holy Hour**, in prayer for vocations to religious life, with inspiration from St Teresa of Avila, tomorrow Monday 25 January, from 6.30-7.30pm. All are invited.

Next Sunday 31 January is **Education Sunday**. There will be a special collection after all Masses for the *Catholic Education Service*.