

Feasts/Memorials

February 2010

Tuesday	2	Presentation of the Lord – Candlemas Day - Feast
Wednesday	3	Sts. Lawrence, Dunstan & Theodore, Bishops/ St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr
Friday	5	St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
Saturday	6	SS Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs (in Japan)

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 Forsys, 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.

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

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OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 31 January 2010 - Fourth Sunday of the Year

Jesus at Nazareth

In today's Gospel we have Jesus in the synagogue of his home village of Nazareth. The congregation is filled with his relatives, friends, neighbours – those whom he played with as a child, those with whom he was educated, those with whom he prayed and worshipped and those for whom he worked as a carpenter. Jesus gets up to read the scriptures and to speak, something he regularly did. We are told “*he won the approval of all and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips*”. Then it all changes: “*everyone in the synagogue was enraged, they sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town....*”

What is our reaction to the behaviour of his people; perhaps we might say it is “over the top”, excessive, unwarranted, irrational etc. I guess we would be quick to condemn them. Yet this passage challenges us to try to understand and explain their violent treatment of him and their attempt to murder him?

This is the opening of the public ministry of Jesus in Luke's Gospel. Therefore it has particular importance, it is crucial to our understanding of the entire Gospel message. The people gathered in that synagogue are a caricature of the people for whom Luke is writing his Gospel – that is all of us! The people gathered in that synagogue are all of us, we are his family, his disciples, his Church – the people who know him best or think we know him!

The message of Jesus is very attractive, we really like most of what we hear and we want what he promises. However, when we hear anything that is demanding, challenging or threatening to our self-interests or security, we are very quick to reject or ignore what he is saying. Like the people in the synagogue, we are very happy with our lives and our religion just as it is – do not try to change anything or draw our attention to what we are ignoring or avoiding. The story concludes with the author telling us that Jesus “*slipped through the crowd and walked away*”.

Perhaps we could express the message of this story something like this: *If you want to control Jesus, manipulate his message or use it for your own self-interest or your own agenda, then there is no need to read any further. If the people closest to Jesus cannot manipulate him or*

control him, then you are not going to either. Do not read any further unless you are prepared to be changed by the message you are hearing.

The word of God is being fulfilled today “even as you listen” but it is your choice if you wish to be part of this or not. Just remember one thing, you are not going to stop it. This is the power of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, no human force can get in its way.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

The Gospel of Luke

Commencing this Tuesday 2nd February, **Fr Matt** will give a series of **four lectures** on the background and content of the Gospel of St Luke. These will take place in the Refectory from 7.00-8.00pm. The following three will be on Tuesday 9th February, 16th February and 23rd February. All are invited.

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.

Young Adults Monday Group

Our *Young Adults Monday Group* will meet tomorrow evening at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All young people (18-30) who come to our Church are very welcome to join them. An opportunity to share the faith, reflect on scripture, participate in lively debates and pray together, plus some socialising. Entrance to the Parish Centre via Pitt St. For further details contact: Gary Clarke, Email: garyclarke2006@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Mass for the Sick and Elderly

We will have a *Mass for the Sick and Elderly* of the Parish at 12.15pm on Saturday 20 February. The **Sacrament of the Sick** will be administered during this Mass. Please encourage all who are sick and/or elderly to come to this Mass.

An Evening for Recently Married Couples

Recently married couples are invited to another evening of sharing here in the Priory on Tuesday 24 February from 7.30-9.00pm. The evening will include refreshments and friendly conversation. Enquiries: Fr Iain: Tel: 07776-457392. iainmatthew@yahoo.com

Church Notices

- * Tuesday next 2 February is the *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas Day*. There will be the blessing of candles at all Masses.
- * On Wednesday 3 February we celebrate the *Feast of St Blaise*. There will be the usual blessing of throats at all Masses.
- * We will have the *Brown Scapular Devotions to Our Lady of Mount Carmel* after the 6.00pm Mass on Saturday next 6 February. All are invited to stay on after the Mass for the Rosary and special prayers.
- * The next *Carmelite Holy Hour*, in prayer for vocations to religious life, with inspiration from St Teresa of Avila, will be on Monday 8 February, from 6.30-7.30pm. All are invited.
- * The Carmelite Filipino Choir invites you all to their annual Celebration for **The Feast of Sto Niño** today Sunday at 2.00pm here in our Church. A Reception will follow in the Parish Centre.
- * Our next *Parish Advisory Group* meeting will be on Sunday 28 February at 7.00pm. If there are any items you would like discussed at this meeting, kindly hand them in at Reception, attention Fr Matt.

Education Sunday

Today is Education Sunday - there will be a special collection after all Masses for the work of the *Catholic Education Service*.