

Feasts/Memorials

February 2010

Monday	8	St Jerome Emiliani, Priest/ St Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
Wednesday	10	St Scholastica, Virgin
Thursday	11	Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes – World Day for the Sick

Mind the Gap : Faith in Film

The next series of 'Mind the Gap' – a Lenten series for Young Adults (17-35sh), will take the form of 'Film Nights' with refreshments and discussion, and will take place at Our Lady of the Assumption & St Gregory Catholic Church, 13 Warwick St, W1, (2 mins. from Piccadilly Circus), from 7.00-9.30pm. Refreshments at 6.30pm.

Monday 22 February: Faith like Potatoes (2006)

Monday 1 March: Maximilian Kolbe: Saint of Auschwitz (1995)

Monday 8 March: The Pursuit of Happiness (2006)

Monday 15 March: The Fourth Wise Man (1985)

All young adults very welcome. For more information, contact:
daveburke@rcdow.org.uk

Readers Required

We need more readers for our weekday 12.15 and 6.00pm Masses. If you would like to be considered for this very important ministry in the Mass, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554, or leave your details at Reception and we will get back to you.

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 (<i>Vigil for Sunday</i>)
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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Registered Charity No: 253645

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 7 February 2010 - Fifth Sunday of the Year

'Here I am, send Me'

Our Gospel today invites us to reflect on the call of the first disciples and our own personal calls to discipleship. We are told that Jesus is preaching and then we hear about the miraculous catch of fish. This is the preparation; Peter and the other future disciples listen to the word of God and have some personal, intimate experience of God's love and generosity symbolised by the enormous catch of fish. In other words they experience the reality and power of God's word – a reality and power that can be accepted or rejected but not ignored.

Peter and his companions were "completely overcome by the catch they had made". What may surprise us are the words of Peter "leave me Lord, I am a sinful man". Peter, despite being "completely overcome", is very tempted to reject the call of Jesus. His reason is his fear of facing up to his own sinfulness and accepting the implications of change and conversion. It would be much easier to use his sins and unworthiness as an excuse to reject the invitation that Jesus is giving.

Peter has had a very profound meeting with God, has received exceptional generosity from God and knows deep down that God is calling him to something different, new and challenging. However, Peter is overcome by fear, shame and guilt because of his past life. Peter is afraid of the implications, challenges and consequences of what Jesus is calling him to. This is a very familiar pattern, we find it in all the great vocation stories of scripture. We have a very good example in our first reading today. The prophet Isaiah says: "*What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips....*" God replies: "*See now, this has touched your lips, your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged*". The call of God is not an escape from our sinfulness but a facing up to the real truth of who we are. The pattern is something like this:

1. Hear the word or call of God.
2. The deep and painful realisation that one is a sinner, a sense of unworthiness, guilt and shame [this is the time that is most painful when many give up and walk away].
3. Accepting the truth and true repentance.
4. Saying yes to the call of God.

The prophet Isaiah can answer with strength and confidence: “*Here I am, send me*”.

This is certainly the experience of St Paul and he describes it to us in our second reading today in what could be called his spiritual autobiography: “*I am the least of the Apostles, in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God’s grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is in me, have worked harder than any of the others*”.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

The Gospel of Luke

On Tuesday next 9 February, **Fr Matt** will give the second in his series of **four lectures** on the background and content of the Gospel of St Luke. This will take place in the Refectory from 7.00-8.00pm. The next two will be on Tuesday 16 February and 23 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 next 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 [18-30sh] 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.

Search Weekend

A weekend to explore the possibility of a vocation to the **Discalced Carmelite Friars**, at the Carmelite Priory, Boars Hill, Oxford, OX1 5HB, from 10.00am on Saturday 6 March – 2.00pm Sunday 7 March. For more information, contact Fr Michael McGoldrick OCD on 07786-830924.

Carmelite Holy Hour

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

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 Young Married Couples

All *Young Married Couples* from the Parish are invited to an evening of sharing here in the Priory on Wednesday 24 February from 7.30-9.00pm. The evening will include refreshments and friendly conversation. Enquiries: Fr Iain: Tel: 07776-457392. ianmatthew@yahoo.com

Choir: Sunday Evening Mass

Our excellent Sunday evening choir would like to invite **new members** to join. If you are interested in serving the Church through music and singing, please speak with Daniela or any other member of the choir, or email: danielamirai@hotmail.com

Santo Niño Celebration

Thanks to everyone who came to the **Santo Niño** celebration on Sunday last and to everyone who worked so hard to make it such a special occasion. A special thanks to Chelo and the choir for all their work and generosity. The total collected for the Church was **£1,231.28** – thank you all for your generosity.

Assumption Together - Lent Retreat Day

There will be a *Lent Retreat Day* at the Convent of the Assumption, 20 Kensington Square, W8, on Saturday 20 March from 10.30am – 5.00pm. All are welcome. For more information or to reserve a place, email: assumptiontogether@gmail.com or Tel: 07503-241127. Simple lunch provided – no charge, donations only.

Collections

Our Crib: Thank you for your donations towards our Crib Collection this year. The total collected was **£864.15**. This has been given to the Catholic Children’s Society.

Catholic Education Service: Thank you also for your contributions to our collection for the *Catholic Education Service* on Sunday last. The total collected was **£494.05**.