

### Our Lady of Victories School - Wall Mural

The children, parents and staff at **Our Lady of Victories Primary School** (which is in Clareville Street, near Gloucester Road tube station) are working on a **large wall mural made from ceramic tiles**, from 22<sup>nd</sup> February until 5<sup>th</sup> March. If any parishioners are able to come along and join in, they will be very welcome. You don't need to be creative or to have any previous skills - we have very enthusiastic experts showing us what to do. Just phone the school (020-7373-4491) or Maud Milton, the artist leading the project (07958-911315) to let us know in advance. If the stairs are difficult for you, we can bring the materials to the ground floor but would need prior warning.

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

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

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

Three further talks will follow on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March.

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

### Kensington Council of Churches Newsletter for Spring 2010

The KCC Newsletter for Spring 2010 can be accessed by logging on to our Carmelite website [www.carmelitechurch.org](http://www.carmelitechurch.org) Highly recommended.

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 14 February 2010 - Sixth Sunday of the Year

## Lent

Wednesday next is **Ash Wednesday** – we are beginning the season of **Lent**. This time each year we are invited to examine who we are and how we are living. Let us remind ourselves of the famous words of Socrates: “*An unexamined life is not worth living*”. Our first reading today from the prophet Jeremiah gives us a very good starting point for our reflections this Lent: “*A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of the flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands; if good comes he has no eye for it, he settles in the parched places in the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited*”.

Our lives easily drift into wastelands, parched places, uninhabited places – places, circumstances, relationships, habits, lifestyles that are not healthy, life-giving or true to who we really are. As Jeremiah reminds us, we settle in these parched places, our lives become routine, compromised, empty, not what we would really like them to be. We need to be woken up, challenged, questioned and reminded of what life could really be, in other words what God wants our lives to be.

In Christian, and particularly Catholic circles, a frequently asked question is: What are you giving up for Lent? Lent is seen as a time for giving up, saying no, denying oneself, etc. This is all good, necessary, and in keeping with the spirit of Lent. However, perhaps we need to ask ourselves why. Perhaps we need to look a little more deeply at why we do these things.

We live in a world that is convinced that the more choice we have, the more freedom we have. Our Biblical and Christian tradition is always telling us that if we want true inner freedom, we need to reduce our external choices. “The more choice we have the less free we become” - it is very difficult to convince people of the truth of this idea! Freedom to choose is not true freedom, freedom [or detachment] from what we are choosing is true freedom. We only arrive at this true, inner, spiritual freedom when we can trust. There is no freedom without trust but all human and earthly trust is flawed, compromised and incomplete. Therefore, only trust in God can give us true freedom. The prophet Jeremiah is not saying that we must not trust other human beings – of course we must, we cannot live without people we can

human being can give us the security and freedom that trust in God can give. Let us listen to a little more from Jeremiah: "*A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord as his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside..... he has no worries in the year of drought and never ceases to bear fruit*".

Lent is a time to make decisions and choices that are not popular, fashionable or attractive but are made out of trust in God. Lent is a time to break free of external pressures and internal addictions. Lent is the time to discover the real, deep and lasting freedom that comes when we are living lives that are true to ourselves. Without this freedom, sooner or later we "cease to bear fruit" [Jeremiah's image].

Let us pray this Lent that God will give us the grace to see those parts of our lives where we have "ceased to bear fruit" and that we will have the courage, generosity and discipline to break free from this imprisonment and blindness.

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

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

On Tuesday next 16 February, **Fr Matt** will give the third 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 fourth and final one will be on 23 February. All are invited.

#### ***'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 next 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](mailto: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.

Our next **Carmelite Holy Hour**, in prayer for vocations to religious life, with inspiration from St Teresa of Avila, will be on Monday 22 February 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 next 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. [iainmatthew@yahoo.com](mailto:iainmatthew@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](mailto:danielamirai@hotmail.com)

#### ***RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults***

We ask you please to continue to pray for *James, Sonali, Patrick, Margaret, Ellina and Christine* as they enter the final stages of preparation to **receive the Sacraments at Easter**. On Sunday next 21 February they will attend Westminster Cathedral at 3.00pm, with their Sponsors, for the Rite of Election.

#### ***Notices***

- \* Commencing on Friday next 19 February, we will have the **Stations of the Cross** after the 6.00pm Mass each Friday during Lent. You are all invited to take part.
- \* Our next *Parish Advisory Group* meeting will take place on Sunday 28 February at 7.00pm in the Priory. If you have any items you wish raised at this meeting, please hand them in at Reception, attention Fr Matt.
- \* Our *Babies and Toddlers playgroup* is now closed for Half-Term, returning on Friday 26 February. New children always welcome. Contact: Segolene on 020-3062-2978

**Wednesday next 17 February is Ash Wednesday.** It is a day of Fast and Abstinence. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.