

Feasts/Memorials

May

Tuesday 25 - St Mary Magdalen de' Pazzi, Virgin, Carmelite/
St Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor
Wednesday 26 - St Philip Neri, Priest
Thursday 27 - St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

Young Adults in the West Retreat Day

Bishop Alan Hopes will lead a Retreat Day for Young Adults at **St Jude's Shrine, Faversham** on Saturday 24 July from 9.00am – 6.00pm. Cost: £15, includes coach travel (bring your own lunch). All young adults (17-35 years) are welcome. For more information re booking etc. contact Dave Burke on 020-7798-9357 or email: davidburke@rcdow.org.uk

Spirit in the City Festival

Catholic Faith Celebration in the heart of London from Thursday 3 June-Saturday 5 June, with Masses and Ceremonies taking place in four West End Churches: Warwick Street Church; Soho Square; Notre Dame de France and Corpus Christi Church, Maiden Lane. The Festival will end on Saturday 5 June at Leicester Square with live music and street programme plus Workshops, Prayer and Reconciliation Tents. For full details of all these events, visit www.spiritinthecity.org (see also our notice-board)

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 **Latin Choir**
12.15pm, 6.00pm **Young Adults Choir**
Holy Day Masses 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Bank Holiday Masses: 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 Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 23 May 2010 - Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost

The first mention we have in the bible of the **Feast of Pentecost** is in the book of Exodus 23:14-17. Here it is listed as one of the three great Jewish feasts. Like most Jewish feasts, it is agricultural in origin and coincided with the beginning of the wheat harvest. [The other two feasts coincided with the barley harvest and the grape harvest]. Pentecost is sometimes also known as the **Feast of Weeks**. As history progressed, the celebration was fixed at 50 days after Passover [a week of weeks, hence the title "feast of weeks"]. The event we celebrate today took place when the first disciples of Jesus, like thousands of other faithful Jews, were gathered in Jerusalem for this festival. Today's first reading tells us that there were "*devout men... from every nation under heaven*" gathered in Jerusalem that day. It is into this scene of prayer, unity and celebration that the Holy Spirit manifests Himself in the form of wind and fire.

Christianity has traditionally seen today as the celebration of the beginning of the Church. Jewish people from "every nation under heaven" are gathered in prayer giving praise and thanks to God for his gifts and faithfulness. From this celebration there emerges the Church that will unite people of every race, language, culture and background in faith, prayer and thanksgiving.

The symbolism that underlies this feast is very powerful. We are shown that the Church is a continuation and fulfilment of all that God has revealed in the scriptures and is, at the same time, a new beginning for all humanity. The fire reminds us of God's first words in the story of creation: "*Let there be light*". The wind reminds us of the creation of humanity: "*God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life and thus man became a living being*".

The different languages remind us of the Tower of Babel – the story of how the family of humanity was divided.

The Church is destined to become the source of unity for all people: now we are all guided by a new light and are given the possibility of living the new life of grace. All the human race will be given the gift of understanding in their own language, culture and traditions, this one revelation of the true God.

The Holy Spirit comes upon the Apostles and gives them the power to speak the word of God and he gives everyone gathered there the power to understand. Later in the day the same Holy Spirit will come upon three thousand of these people, they will be baptised and become the first members of the Church. From ancient times the blessing of ears and mouth has been part of the baptism ceremony – our ears are opened to hear and understand the word of God, our mouth is opened to speak the word.

*I wish you all a very happy **Feast of Pentecost**. May the Holy Spirit give us light, strength and peace today.*

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

The Spirit

“The Spirit comes gently and makes Himself known by His fragrance. He is not felt as a burden for He is light, very light. Rays of light and knowledge stream before Him as He approaches. The Spirit comes with the tenderness of a true friend to save, to heal, to teach, to counsel, to strengthen and to console. The Spirit comes to enlighten the mind first of the one who receives Him, and then, through Him, the minds of others as well”. St Cyril

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome

The Carmelites first came here in 1862, therefore 2012 will be the **150th Anniversary of this Church**. We will have many events to celebrate this but to begin our year of celebration and thanksgiving we are organising a **Parish Pilgrimage to Rome**. The dates are 2-8 October, 2011. More details will be available very soon.

Children's First Holy Communion

On Sunday 13 June at the 10 o'clock Mass **31** young children from this Parish will receive **First Holy Communion**. We ask you to please remember them in your prayers and also their Catechists. You are all invited to be present at the Mass.

World Communications Day

We thank you for your contributions to the collection for Catholic Communications on Sunday last. The amount collected was **£546.80**.

Children's Painting Exhibition

A huge thank you to the children from our Parish who have done such imaginative drawings and paintings in an effort to raise funds for the **Catholic Children's Society**. These are now proudly displayed in the Church Corridor along Reception, and today we invite all our parishioners to come inside after Mass and admire the children's work, and hopefully make a donation to the CCS which does such wonderful work with needy children in London. (Fr Iain)

Coffee Morning by our Post-Communion Children

All our Parishioners are warmly invited by our Post-Communion children to join them in the Refectory at 11 am today (Sunday) for tea/coffee and delicious cakes. The children would be delighted to see as many as possible come, and please bring a friend !

Notices

- * We will have our **Carmelite Holy Hour** with emphasis on *Prayer for the gift of Vocations* tomorrow Monday 24 May from 6.30-7.30pm. All are invited.
- * Fr Matt will give the fourth and last in his series of lectures on **The Acts of the Apostles** on Tuesday next 25 May from 7.00-8.00pm.
- * The next **Gathering for Young Married Couples** will take place in the Priory on Wednesday next 26 May. All young married couples who come to our Church are warmly invited. The following session will be on Wednesday 30 June. Contact: Fr Iain 07776-457392

Solemnities in May/June

Today is **Pentecost Sunday** and is the second of four important Solemnities celebrated on four consecutive Sundays:- Sunday next 30 May, The Most Holy Trinity, and Sunday 6 June, Corpus Christi, Most Holy Body & Blood of the Lord.

Weekday Readings

Starting from tomorrow Monday 24 May, Weekday Readings at Mass will be taken from **Year 2** in the Lectionary, beginning with **Week 8**. Will readers please note.