

Preparing for Married Life

Courses for **Engaged and Recently Married couples** will take place at the following Churches and dates – open to all:-

Church of St Charles Borromeo, Ogle St., W1. Six Thursdays at 8.00pm beginning Thursday 22 April and finishing with a day together on Saturday 29 May. No fee, and no Registration necessary. Tel: 020-7636-2883.

Holy Apostles Church, 47 Cumberland St., Pimlico – 3-session course from 7.00-9.00pm on week-nights in May: Monday 17, Friday 21 & Monday 24 May. £30 per couple. Tel: 020-7834-6965 pimlico@rcdow.org.uk

St Mary Moorfields, 4-5 Eldon St., EC2: Saturday One Day Courses from 10.00am – 4.00pm. £50 per couple per course, including lunch: 22 May, 5 June and 26 June. Tel: 020-7247-8390 moorfields@btinternet.com

Lenten Alms

There is a box at the back of the Church (by the Repository door) for your *Lenten Alms* contributions. This year the money will be divided between the *St John Southworth Fund*, which makes grants to groups and individuals in need in the London area, and the *Thai Children's Trust* which supports the neediest children across Thailand. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

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 Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 28 March 2010 - Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

"He was a Great and Good Man"

We are at the beginning of **Holy Week**, the most important week in our Christian calendar. This is our annual celebration of all we believe in and the great reminder to us of why we believe. It can be summed up in the words of the Preface of our Mass today: "*Though he was sinless, he suffered willingly for sinners. Though innocent, he accepted death to save the guilty. By his dying, he has destroyed our sins. By his rising, he has raised us up to holiness of life*".

Today we listen with open hearts and minds to Luke's account of the death of Jesus. We are all familiar with this story – at least we think we are! Yet every time we hear it we hear something new and our reactions can vary or surprise us. Our personal reactions will depend on where and how each one of us is on this day in March 2010.

Luke, after he has told us that Jesus "*breathed his last*", gives three possible reactions to the death of Jesus:

1. We are told that the **centurion** saw what had taken place, gave praise to God and said "*this was a great and good man*". He becomes a believer and a witness to who Jesus truly is, the death of Jesus is the point of his conversion. It is clear and very public. He gives praise to God, in other words he prays and worships – this is what every believer in Jesus does.
2. The **people who had gathered for the spectacle** saw what had happened and they went home beating their breasts. The reaction here is one of remorse and repentance. They had gathered to see the execution [which they had probably done many times] but they go home with a totally unexpected and unprecedented reaction to this event. This execution was like no other they had ever seen and their lives are changed forever by it.
Repentance is the right reaction of all who come to know Jesus – there are so many examples of this throughout the Gospel.

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3. All his **friends** and the **women** stood at a distance and they saw all this happen. These are the people one would expect to react most positively and to understand the deeper meaning of what has taken place. The first two reactions are by people who did not previously know Jesus or were opposed to Him, now these are his friends and disciples. The reaction of these people is less visible, it is more hidden and mysterious. We must be careful not to judge or come to hasty conclusions. The fact that they stood at a distance and remained silent can have many interpretations, both positive and negative. Each of us would like to be numbered among his friends but this reaction invites us to look more closely at ourselves. Why do we remain at a distance? Why are we silent? Why are we not visibly changed by what is taking place? Each of us has his/her answer to these questions, they will vary as much as we vary as people.

There is one thing that each of the above people have in common - they saw. This is a very important word in Luke's Gospel. The meaning of this word takes us beyond the physical. The death of Jesus on the cross enables each of these people to see. The sighting or insight takes place deep within them. When the light of faith shines within, the person is changed forever. The death and resurrection of Jesus takes us on a journey from darkness to light, from blindness to sight, from sinfulness to repentance and from death to life. Our ceremonies this week help us to make that journey, we see it most visibly in the powerful symbolism of the Easter Vigil which we celebrate on Saturday night.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

At our Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday a group of young people from this Church who will receive the **Sacraments**. They are: *James, Sonali, Patrick, Margaret, Ellina and Christine*. Please remember them in your prayers.

Holy Week Chrism Mass at Westminster Cathedral

Most Rev Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, will celebrate the **Holy Week Chrism Mass** in the Cathedral this coming Tuesday 30 March at 12 Noon. This is a very special Mass and all parishioners wherever possible are encouraged to attend.

Final Profession of Sr Camilla Oberding

On Wednesday last 24 March, we had the lovely occasion here in our Church when **Sr Camilla Oberding** made her **Final Profession** as a member of the **Community of Our Lady of Walsingham**. I thank sincerely the huge numbers of people who came to celebrate and support Sr Camilla, and special thanks to Mgr. Christopher Brooks the main Celebrant at the Solemn Mass. Our prayers and good wishes go with Sr Camilla in the years that lie ahead. And thank you all for your generosity towards the collection for the *Community of Our Lady of Walsingham* – a total of **£1,763.71** was taken up. *Fr Matt*

40 Hours Adoration – 18-20 April

During this **Year for Priests**, the Diocese is organising a series of **40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration**. Ours will begin with the Sunday evening Mass on **18 April** [celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes] and end with the 12.15pm Mass on **Tuesday 20 April**. It is essential we have volunteers to pledge their presence at a convenient time throughout these 40 hours Adoration, and in this connection there will be a list at the back of the Church for completion nearer the time.

Notices

- * Friday next, **Good Friday**, is a day of **Fast and Abstinence**. There will be Confessions from 11.00-12 Noon and from 5.00-6.00pm
- * Please take a copy of our **Easter Programmes** as you leave after Mass. They contain full details of all Masses and Services in our Church during *Holy Week* and *Easter*.
- * A reminder re our *Babies & Toddlers Play Group* on Fridays: This is now closed for the Easter break and will resume on Friday 23 April.

Collections for Charitable Causes

On **Holy Thursday** of this week, at the 8.00pm *Mass of the Lord's Supper*, there will be a collection in aid of **The Passage**, which does such wonderful work with homeless people. And on **Good Friday**, during the Liturgy of the *The Passion*, there will be the customary collection for **Holy Places throughout the world**. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Father Prior and the Community wish you a Joyous and Blessed Easter