

<u>January</u>		<i>Feasts/Memorial</i>
Tuesday	13	St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor
Saturday	17	St Anthony, Abbot
Sunday	18	Peace Day Sunday

The Westminster Year Book 2009

The 2009 edition of the *Westminster Year Book*, the official Directory of the Diocese of Westminster, is now available from our Repository, price £4.00 (£5.00 ring bound). This Year Book contains listings for all parishes and schools in the Diocese, plus the Liturgical Calendar for the year. It is an invaluable reference book for every Catholic household.

Feast of Santo Niño

The Santa Niño Group of the Carmelite Church, Kensington, invites you all to a Concelebrated Mass in celebration of the **Feast of the Santo Niño** (Divine Infant of Prague) on **Sunday 25 January at 2.00pm** in this Church. There will be a reception in the Parish Centre after the Mass.

Visiting the Sick

If you know of any sick, elderly or housebound parishioner who would like a visit from a priest, please tell **Fr. Iain** at the Priory. He will be very pleased to pay a visit.

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Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays from 6.30-8.00pm.

Our Parish Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

Weekday Masses:	8am, 12.15pm, 6pm
Saturday Masses:	8am, 12.15pm, 6pm (<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>)
Sunday Masses:	8.30am, 10am, 11am <i>Sung/Latin</i> 12.15pm, 6pm <i>Young Adults Choir</i>
Holy Days:	8am, 12.15pm, 6pm
Bank Holidays:	9am, 12.15pm (no 6pm Mass)
Weekday Confessions:	5.30-5.50pm (Priest on duty except between 12 Noon-3pm)
Saturday Confessions:	10.30-11.45am, 3.30-5.50pm
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 11 January 2009

Baptism of the Lord

Today we celebrate the **Baptism of the Lord**. The Gospels leave us in no doubt how important this event is. For Jesus it is a “*Rite of Passage*” from the private, anonymous life of a carpenter in Nazareth to a very public life of preaching, teaching and healing, a life that will lead to his death. Jesus’ life changed forever when he entered the waters of baptism in the river Jordan but what is more important is that the whole story of humanity and its relationship with God is changed forever by the revealing of who Jesus is. Last Sunday, the *Feast of the Epiphany*, the child Jesus was shown to the world, now today an adult Jesus is introduced to the world. Furthermore, the world is introduced to the radical changes the presence of Jesus is going to bring about.

In our Gospel today we have two “introductions” to Jesus, one by *John the Baptist* and one by *God the Father*. Let us look at each separately:

- 1. John the Baptist tells us:** *Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.*

He does not name Jesus or say who Jesus is. He emphasises the mystery of Jesus; Jesus is different, greater, beyond our control or understanding. John knows the right attitude to Jesus – *humility*. John speaks of his baptism as one with water but the baptism of Jesus will be with the “*Holy Spirit*”.

John is addressing those whose lives are being changed by his baptism and he is preparing them for the even greater change the baptism of Jesus will bring about.

- 2. God the Father tells us:** *You are my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on you.* Now we are told who Jesus is and we are told about his relationship with God the Father. Jesus is the Son who is loved, who is specially favoured by the Father – this we must keep in mind as we read the Gospel, particularly as we read about Jesus’ suffering and death.

When we put these two introductions together, we begin to build a picture. John the Baptist knows Jesus in a human way, therefore he can be known by all human beings if we are prepared to have the same attitude as John. God knows Jesus, therefore if we listen to God, then we will c

We get to know Jesus by listening to human beings who know Him and by listening to God. The baptism of Jesus is a meeting between the human and the divine. Jesus, the Son of God, joins sinners in the waters of baptism. Every person who is baptised becomes aware that he/she is a beloved child of God and every baptised person must remember that most especially when life is difficult, challenging or painful. The baptism of Jesus reveals Jesus to the world and it also reveals the dignity, beauty, mystery and importance of baptism to all who are baptised and to all who are considering baptism.

Fr Matt Blake

Parish Information Sessions

We welcome everybody to our ***Parish Information Sessions***. Particularly welcome are new parishioners, people who wish to know more about the Carmelite Church and those who would like to be more involved. There will be introductions, sharing of information and an opportunity to ask any questions you may wish to ask. The first Session is on Sunday next 18 January at 11.00am (after the 10.00am Mass). The next one is on Sunday 25 January at 7.00pm (after the 6.00pm Mass).

'What St Paul tells us of the Cross'

Tomorrow evening, Monday 12 January, at 7.00pm, there will be a Lecture at Our Lady of Victories Church, High St. Kensington, given by Fr John Hemer MHM (Professor of Scripture, Allen Hall Seminary) entitled '**What St Paul tells us of the Cross**'. All are invited.

Society of the Holy Child Jesus

January 15th 2009 marks the 200th Anniversary of the birth of **Cornelia Connelly**, who founded the **Society of the Holy Child Jesus**. In the year ahead we would like to join with the Society, whose Sisters come to our Church, in giving thanks to God for Cornelia Connelly's life and work.

Visiting Choir from Australia

We are pleased to announce that on Saturday next 17 January we will have a visiting **school choir from Australia** performing at our 6.00pm Vigil Mass. We do hope as many of you as possible can be present to make them welcome and to enjoy their music.

The 12.15 Mass on Friday next 16 January will be a Funeral Mass for
Eileen Mitchelmore RIP

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

From 18-25 January we will celebrate a **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. This year Kensington Council of Churches have organised '**A Celebration of Prayer and Reflection**' to take place at St Mary Abbot's Church, Kensington High St. on Thursday 22nd January, at 7.00pm, to which we are all invited. The Week of Prayer offers an opportunity for us to meet and pray with Christians of different denominations in our Kensington locality.

'Mothers Prayers' Meeting

On Thursday 5 February at 11am, there will be a '**Mothers Prayers**' Meeting in our Carmelite Priory. 'Mothers Prayers' unites all mothers to pray for their children. **Veronika Williams**, its founder, will be present to explain how she came to start 'Mothers Prayers' 12 years ago, how it is prayed all over the world without any advertisements or fundraising. She will lead the meeting in praying the 'Mothers Prayers' together and teach us how to continue at home. All women and mothers who come to our Church are invited. There will be refreshments at 10.30am prior to the meeting.

Notices

- * *First Holy Communion* and *Children's Catechism* classes will recommence today after the 10 o'clock Mass.
- * Fr Matt will give the second of his four talks on the **Gospel of St Mark** this Tuesday evening 13 January at 7.30pm. The remaining two talks will take place on 20 and 27 January. All are welcome.
- * We will have our **Parish Gathering** after the 10 o'clock Mass on Sunday next 18 January. You are all invited to join us downstairs in the Parish Centre for tea/coffee and friendly chat.
- * Our *Young Adults Monday Group* meets tomorrow, Monday, at 7.30 for 8.00pm in the Parish Centre, when they will reflect on the theme for our upcoming Sunday Mass - *vocation*. All young adults (18-30sh) are warmly invited to come along (entrance via Pitt Street).

Readings till Beginning of Lent

From tomorrow Monday 12 January until Ash Wednesday, Weekday Readings will be taken from **Year 1** in the Lectionary, starting with the First Week in Ordinary Time. And on Sunday next 18 January we continue with **Year B**, for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Will readers please note