

Feasts/Memorials

Nov

Monday	24	SS Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, & Companions, Vietnamese Martyrs
Tuesday	25	St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr
Saturday	29	Blessed Denis & Redemptus, Martyrs, Carmelites

The Passage

A Night Under the Stars – the annual fundraising event in aid of The Passage, will take place at the Royal Festival Hall on Tuesday 2 December at 7.30pm. This year the theme of the concert is “Rising Stars” and will feature some well known young musicians along with well established stars such as Sir Roger Moore, Aled Jones and Gloria Hunniford. HRH Princess Michael of Kent is guest of honour. Tickets from £10-£50. To book, email: tickets@passage.org.uk Tel: 020-7592-1856.

November Dead List

A Mass will be said in this Church every day during the month of November for your departed relatives and friends. Names and donations accepted at Reception Desk. Special forms are available at the back of the Church.

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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
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Registered Charity No: 253645.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 23 November 2008 – Solemnity of Our Lord
Jesus Christ, Universal King

The Last Judgement

Michelangelo spent five and a half years painting this Gospel scene on the end wall of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. He is not the first to depict this scene in art, in fact it has been drawn, painted and sculptured so often by famous and not so famous artists. It is a scene that almost cries out to be painted.

It has often been suggested that Matthew's Gospel was written by a teacher and this scene is such an effective teaching aid. It is ideal for drawing, painting, acting and illustrating the teaching of Jesus. To understand the power and significance of this passage we must remember where it is situated in Matthew's Gospel. It is the conclusion of the public ministry and teaching of Jesus and is immediately before the story of his suffering and death. The very next line in Matthew's Gospel reads: *Jesus had now finished all he wanted to say....*

This then is not just the story of the Last Judgement – it is also Jesus' Last Words. Jesus is the one who will take his seat to judge all humanity but in the meantime human beings are going to make this same Jesus suffer and then kill him on a cross.

Michelangelo had completed the painting of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in 1512 but it would be 1541 before his *Last Judgement* scene would be unveiled. In the meantime two very important events have taken place: the “Sack of Rome” in 1527 and the Reformation. *The Last Judgement* then is painted amid a backdrop of violence, destruction, chaos and division. Looking at our Gospel today we see that *The Last Judgement* does not have the language of the courtroom. It could more accurately be entitled *The Parousia* – this is a Greek term meaning “presence” or “arrival” and is used technically for the ceremonial visit of a ruler to a city or country, or the apparition of a helpful or sympathetic god. The term is used in the New Testament to describe the “second coming” of Jesus. The language and imagery is taken principally from the prophet Daniel – in Daniel, the coming of the Son of Man is the last act of human history.

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This final scene of Matthew's Gospel is a reminder to us and all humanity of who our true ruler is and what is expected of us his subjects. Jesus Christ our judge and ruler expects just one thing of us: **Charity**. That is the message of this Gospel passage and Jesus teaches it to us just before he personally experiences just how uncharitable human beings can be.

This is the message Jesus wanted his disciples to hear and remember before he died; it is the message the Pope wanted to proclaim to the world by asking Michelangelo to paint this scene and it is the message we Christians must return to over and over again and in every situation of human history.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

'Right to Life' – Day of Fasting and Prayer

There will be a Day of **Fasting and Prayer for the Sanctity of Human Life** in our Church on Friday next 28 November from 10.00am – 6.30pm. The day will begin at 10.00am with opening prayers and meditation on the sanctity of human life, followed by the Rosary at 10.30am, and full programme for the remainder of the day. There will be Mass at 12.15pm and 6.00pm. All are invited to take part in this special day of prayer.

Our Repository

Please note our Repository at the end of the Church has now got large stocks of Christmas Cards, Mass Cards, religious items and a wide range of suitable gifts for your family and friends for Christmas, all at very reasonable prices. Please feel free to take a good look round after Mass.

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

Mayor's Charity Christmas Carols

On Monday 15 December at 7.00pm here in our Carmelite Church we will have the **Mayor's Charity Christmas Carols**, followed by wine and mince pies in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall, Hornton Street. The carol singers will be accompanied on the organ by our Choir Master & Director of Music, Bruce Ogston. Celebrity readers include: Betty Boothroyd, Joanna David, Sebastian Faulks, Diana Rigg and other well-known speakers. Ticket prices are £20, and all proceeds go to **The Multiple Sclerosis Trust**. All are welcome. Details of how to apply for tickets are available on special leaflets at the back of the Church. Please take one. You may also email your request for ticket forms to: mayor@rbkc.gov.uk Tel: 020-7361-2431

National Youth Day

Today is **National Youth Day**. There will be a special collection after all Masses for the Catholic Youth Service.

St Edmund Campion Pilgrimage Walk

June-November 2008

We welcome to our 6.00pm Mass this Saturday evening pilgrims who have walked the 15th stage of the walk from **Ealing Abbey to the Carmelite Church**. This walk began in **Oxford in June** and pilgrims have walked a stage every weekend, taking in various special places on the route including some places associated with St Edmund Campion [*Oxford, Lyford Grange, Stoner and Tyburn*]. The final stage will leave our Church next Sunday 30 November at 9.45am and walk to Tyburn, and then on to Farm Street Church, arriving at Farm Street for 12.15 Mass. Anyone who would like to join this final stage of the walk is welcome to do so.

[Edmund Campion (1540-1581) was an English Jesuit priest martyred at Tyburn].

Mind the Gap - Four Stops in Advent

A series of four Advent Talks for young adults (17-30) - under the heading '**Mind the Gap -Four Stops in Advent**' - will take place at Corpus Christi Church, Maiden Lane, starting on Tuesday next 25 November. The first talk will be given by **Fr Iain Matthew OCD** - talk entitled '*Let nothing frighten you – A Carmelite Perspective*'. The remaining three '*stops*' will follow on consecutive Tuesdays - see poster on our Church notice-board for details of speakers etc. Start time: 7.00pm (refreshments 6.30pm).

Carol Singing at Kensington High St. Tube Station

On Saturday next 29 November a group of young people from our Church will be singing carols and Christmas songs at Kensington High Street tube station, in aid of the *Catholic Children's Society*. They will be singing from 2.00pm-5.00pm. Do please pop along and offer your support.

Notices

- * Our monthly *Parish Advisory Group Meeting* will take place on Sunday next, 30 November, at 7.00pm in the Priory.
- * *Reminder*: Will Readers please collect their new Rota as they leave after Mass today.

Sunday next is the **First Sunday of Advent** when we begin **Year B** in the Lectionary for Sundays and Feasts; and for weekdays until Christmas we follow the Advent daily readings.