

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 8 February 2009 – Fifth Sunday of the Year

<u>February</u>		<i>Feasts/Memorial</i>
Tuesday	10	St Scholastica, Virgin
Wednesday	11	Our Lady of Lourdes – World Day for the Sick
Saturday	14	SS Cyril, Monk, & Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe

The Sacrament of Matrimony - Thanksgiving Mass

Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 30 May 2009 at 3.00pm. Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th+ Wedding Anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2009. If you qualify, please tell your parish clergy without delay. You will need to provide: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email or telephone number.

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.

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.	

A True Disciple of Jesus

Our Gospel today begins with an incident at the house of Simon and Andrew. The location of Gospel stories are often important pointers to the meaning – a meeting in a private house tells us that this is personal and intimate. This is a story about what happens when Jesus chooses to enter people's lives. The facts are simple – Simon's mother-in-law is ill, they tell him about her, he goes to her, she is healed and she begins to serve them.

To help us understand what this Gospel is really telling us, I will quote two other lines from Mark's Gospel: "*If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all*". (Mark 9:35).

"*Anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*". (Mark 10:44-45)

Reading about Simon's mother-in-law with these two passages in mind helps us understand that this is not simply a story about a miracle or a healing, it is the story of a person becoming a disciple. Let us read more carefully what happens:

1. Jesus comes to the woman.
2. Jesus touches the woman.
3. He lifts her up.
4. He heals her.
5. She becomes servant, she becomes like Jesus, she becomes what a disciple is meant to be.

The actions of Jesus would be very surprising to the onlookers. Though they have told him that the woman is ill, they would have been very surprised that Jesus would enter a woman's bedroom and even more surprised that he would touch her.

A disciple is a person into whose life Jesus has come, a person who has been touched and healed by Jesus and a person who becomes the person Jesus wants him/her to become. We must contrast this with the attitudes and actions of the crowd and Simon and his companions in the two stories that follow this one. Their reaction is to want Jesus to do more, they treat him as some kind of visiting miracle worker. In other words they try to turn Jesus into someone they can exploit for their own purposes or ends. That is why

Jesus has to move on elsewhere and it is the reason we all get it so wrong. The gifts of God are given freely, when God chooses and to whom He chooses. God is not a resource to be exploited, Jesus did not come to serve us or to make life easier for us – Jesus came to inspire us to service, generosity and responsibility. The right reaction to an experience of Jesus' healing, mercy or love is to go out and do something, take the initiative to make the world a better place. The mistake we make and is being made by people in the Gospel is to keep asking him for more and trying to exploit him and failing to see what he is really asking for. The woman gets it right and so becomes a model for all true disciples of Jesus.

Fr Matt Blake

Samuel Group

Making important decisions about career, study or a gap-year? Wondering whether marriage, priesthood, single life or consecrated life is for you?

Why not join a **Samuel Group**? For young adults [20-30s] open to listening to the Word of God speaking to their life. Contact: samuel.group@yahoo.co.uk

The Cardinal's Lecture

On Thursday 26 February, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor will give a lecture at Westminster Cathedral, starting at 7.00pm. The subject will be his reflections on the Church and its Mission in England and Wales. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Pre-Marriage Procedure

If there are any couples planning to get married within the next year, it is very important they come and see Fr Iain or Fr Matt without delay so that marriage preparation and all the paperwork can be completed well in advance.

Sr Begona

This week **Sr Begona** of the Adoratrices Convent, Kensington Square, returns to Spain after many years here. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sr Begona for all her work and generosity and particularly for all she has contributed to this parish. We will miss you Sister and we wish you many blessings for the future. *Fr Matt*

Holy Hour on Monday 9 February

Tomorrow, Monday, from 6.30-7.30pm, there will be a Holy Hour in the Church, with emphasis on ***Prayer for the gift of Vocations to Religious Life***. The prayer will be guided by the message of St Thérèse, whose relics will be coming to England in September this year. This prayer time for the gift of vocations will happen at regular intervals over the next nine months.

An Evening for Recently Married Couples

Recently married couples are invited to another evening of sharing here at the Priory, this coming Tuesday 10 February, from 7.30-9.00pm. The evening includes refreshments and chat, some DVD input, and discussion. For details, contact Luciana: lundefazio@yahoo.co.uk

Young Adults Monday Group

Our Monday Group meets tomorrow evening at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, when David Burke, Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry, will speak to the group. All young adults are very welcome. Entrance via Pitt Street.

Bible Studies at the Prayer Centre, Nazareth House

On Tuesday 3, 10 & 17 March, from 7.30-9.00pm, there will be Bible Studies, led by Fr Peter Burrows, at the Prayer Centre, Nazareth House, Hammersmith Rd., W6. All are welcome. For more information call 020-7931-6078.

The Beginning Experience

The Beginning Experience are holding a weekend for those who find themselves alone again through bereavement, divorce or separation. This will take place from 27-29 March, 2009, at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham. For details, telephone Mary on 01296-487634.

Education Sunday

Today is Education Sunday – there will be a special collection after all Masses for the *Catholic Education Service*.

Wednesday next 11 February, **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes**, is *World Day of Prayer for the Sick*.