

<u>February</u>	<i>Feasts/Memorial</i>
Monday 23	St Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
Wednesday 25	Ash Wednesday – Day of Fast & Abstinence

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. See also poster on our Church notice-board.

Faith Matters at Westminster Cathedral Hall

Faith Matters - a series of four lectures – will begin on Tuesday 10 March at 7.00pm at Westminster Cathedral Hall, Victoria Street. The first lecture is entitled *Faith in God? Does it Matter? The Existence and Nature of God*, by Peter Vardy. Three further lectures will follow on: 18 March, 25 March and 1 April. Admission by ticket only – to order your free ticket visit www.rcdow.org.uk/faithmatters or call Ausra Karaliute on 020-7931-6068.

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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 22 February 2009 – Seventh Sunday of the Year

Healing our Paralysis

In today's Gospel a paralytic is healed: someone who could not move or help himself and is trapped by his physical disability can now pick up his stretcher and walk freely. We can understand the people's astonishment – "We have never seen anything like this". To help us reflect on our Gospel today I suggest we each ask ourselves a question: *Where in my life do I feel paralysed?* Jesus wants his listeners to understand that their paralysis is not physical but Sin. That is certainly one possible answer to the above question but I guess most of us would give different answers. We would begin with whatever is in our lives that is limiting us, controlling us, compromising our freedom and that we feel helpless to change. We could argue that the feeling of inability to change the situation is the real paralysis. Both the paralytic and his friends had to overcome their "*feeling of paralysis*" in order to change the situation. The paralytic cannot move himself and so has to take the risk and trust his friends, even trust them to lift him up on to a roof and then lower him down – must be scary for someone who is paralysed! The friends could easily have given up; there is no way through the crowd, climbing on to the roof is too much trouble and too risky and the crowd or the scribes will try to stop them getting to Jesus. The heroes of this Gospel story must overcome many forms of "paralysis" in order to get to Jesus: fear insecurity, uncertainty, doubt, hopelessness, etc. So, based on this Gospel, let us do up a little list of how we can overcome the "paralysis" that afflicts us as individuals, society or human race.

Begin with myself: There is always something I can do, however small or insignificant that may seem, it is the essential starting point.

Take responsibility for the situation: Do not sit around doing nothing, blaming others or the situation, or expecting "someone else" to do it.

Seek help and trust others: The paralytic had to rely on the help of his friends, his friends needed each other's help, the whole enterprise depended on trust.

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We must not be trapped by yesterday's thinking or yesterday's answers: That is the problem the scribes have, they cannot see that everything has changed because Jesus is here.

Those who overcome their paralysis inspire others: The people are astonished and praise God when they see the paralytic walking and carrying his stretcher.

When we are really trying to help ourselves, God helps us: Jesus does what they cannot do for themselves; forgives sin and heals physical paralysis.

Fr Matt Blake

Mass in Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor will celebrate Mass in *Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes and her Patronage of the Sick* at 3.00pm in the Cathedral on Saturday 14 March. All parishioners with a devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes are invited to come together in her honour on this day.

Mind the Gap – 4 Stops to Easter

All Young Adults are invited to come along to the next series of Lenten talks at Corpus Christi Church, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, on Thursdays during Lent. Starting on Thursday 12 March, the subject will be *Money*, with Bishop John Arnold. The following three will take place on 19 March, 26 March and 2 April. All start at 7.00pm (refreshments at 6.30pm). For further details, ring: 020-7931-6078.

Kensington Council of Churches Lent Course 2009

“Sense Making Faith; Observing Lent through the senses”. KCC Lent Course will take place at Our Lady of Victories Church, Kensington High St. on Mondays at 7.00 for 7.30pm, from March 2-March 30. Course notes available at: <http://www.ctbi.org.uk> Further information also from: secretary@kensingtonchurches.org See poster on Church notice-board.

The Cardinal's Lecture

On Thursday next 26 February, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor will give a lecture at Westminster Cathedral, starting at 7.00pm. The theme will be *‘Gaudium et Spes - Joy and Hope – The Shape of the Church: Past, Present and to Come.’* Admission is free, no ticket required.

Fr Raphael O'Connell OCD

Fr Raphael died last Sunday night February 15th at Sobel House Hospice in Oxford. As many of you know, he had been ill for quite some time.

Fr Raphael was Prior and Parish Priest here from 1996 to 1999 and is remembered with great love by many people who come to this Church. His funeral is tomorrow Monday at 12 Noon at Gerrards Cross. We will celebrate a special Mass for him in this Church on Sunday 22 March at 11.00am. All are welcome.

Holy Hour on Monday 23 February

Tomorrow Monday from 6.30-7.30pm we will have the second of our Holy Hours in the Church with emphasis on ***Prayer for the gift of Vocations to Religious Life***. Everybody is welcome.

Lenten Daily Meditations & Group Reflections

Lord, Giver of Life is the title of our Reflections for Lent this year. The Booklets will be distributed at our Masses today. As usual we will give them free to our parishioners but those who wish to donate the £1 charge, may put it in the collection bag.

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Our **Young Adults Monday Group** will participate in the programme with Group Reflections throughout Lent, starting on Monday 2 March following the theme *“The Holy Spirit in the Life of Christ”*. All young adults who come to our Church are welcome to join them, 7.30pm on Mondays in the Parish Centre, entrance via Pitt Street.

RCIA – Right of Christian Initiation of Adults

We ask you please to remember in your prayers Riandra, Marian, Samorn, Sherez, Jeffrey, Gergely, Elena and Thomas as they prepare to receive the Sacraments this Easter. Yesterday they attended the *Rite of Election* at Westminster Cathedral, celebrated by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor.

Wednesday next 25 February is Ash Wednesday. It is a day of Fast and Abstinence. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.