

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 29 November 2009 – First Sunday of Advent

Feasts/Memorials

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| <u>November</u> | | |
| Monday | 30 | St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland |
| <u>December</u> | | |
| Thursday | 3 | St Francis Xavier, Priest/ Migrants' Day |
| Friday | 4 | St John Damascene, Priest & Doctor |

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 look round after Mass.

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The Westminster Year Book 2010 - 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.

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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

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| Weekday Masses: | 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm |
| Saturday Masses: | 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (<i>Vigil for Sunday</i>) |
| 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: | 9am, 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 |

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Advent

Today we begin the **Season of Advent**. Listening to the prayers and readings of our Mass today, it is clear that, among other themes, Advent is about the future. As human beings, the future is a constant concern for us. We need to plan ahead, keep diaries, make decisions etc. Depending on age or stage in life, major decisions have to be thought about; education, career, marriage, children, retirement etc. Looking forward to the future can be exciting and life-giving, it can also be worrying and burdensome. Advent is the Church's season for looking forward to the future. We are looking forward to the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas but much more importantly we are looking forward to the future that Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection guarantees for us. As Christians we live life with our eyes and hearts set on the future, a future that will never end, a future of love, peace and happiness in God's presence forever.

Our Christian faith poses the following question: Does our belief in the Resurrection and heaven make us more confident, secure, less prone to worry and anxiety etc. That is a difficult question but one that needs asking. There are two more immediate and possibly more relevant questions we could reflect upon today:

What is the biggest, most important and most far-reaching decision I am facing in my life at present?

What is the issue, concern or question that most worries or burdens me at present?

The answers to these two questions are not necessarily the same - in fact, very often they are not. The first question concerns the big, life-changing decisions. These have long-term implications not only for the person taking the decisions but often for many other people also. The second question concerns what we might call the every-day issues of life. Often these can cause us more pain and anxiety than the really big decisions. Many people believe that they do not have a future - a future that they can look forward to, a future they are motivated to work for and a future in which their dreams and ambitions can be fulfilled. In addition many people look forward to the future with fear, anxiety and indifference. This is the cause of so many of the problems of our world and society.

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The message of **Advent** is filled with hope – not a hope that can easily turn to illusion but a hope that is grounded in our faith in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Advent speaks so often about how near God is – if God is near, then we have nothing to fear and every encouragement to be creative, courageous, innovative and industrious. A Christian can never sit back and be indifferent or despondent when God is so near.

During Advent we are encouraged to witness to our Christian faith by our confidence in the future, by the hope we share with others and our efforts to encourage, challenge and enlighten those around us.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Mind the Gap: Faith in Film

The new season of ‘**Mind the Gap**’, the Advent Reflection Evenings for Young Adults (17-30sh) is now taking place at the Church of Our Lady of Assumption & St Gregory, Warwick St., W1. Time: 7.00-9.15pm (6.30pm refreshments), and takes the form of ‘Film nights’ - all on Tuesdays:-

1 December: ‘Molokai: The Story of Father Damien’

8 December: ‘Bella’

15 December: ‘St Thérèse of Lisieux’ introduced by Fr Iain Matthew OCD

For more information contact daveburke@rcdow.org.uk

A Talk for Young Adults at Westminster Cathedral by Fr Matt Blake OCD

There will be a talk for young adults (aged 18-38) entitled ‘**Doubts along the Vocational Journey**’ – from the Perspective of St John of the Cross, given by Fr Matt Blake OCD on Friday 11 December from 7.30-9.00pm in the Hinsley Room, Westminster Cathedral. For further details visit www.free2become.org or call 01277 373848.

Carmelite Prayer Hour

Our next **Carmelite Prayer Hour** will be on Monday 7 December from 6.30-7.30pm. **Odile** of the Secular Institute Notre Dame de Vie will be leading the prayer with words from Pere Marie-Eugene, Discalced Carmelite. All are warmly invited.

Readings for today, the **First Sunday of Advent**, are taken from **Year C** in the Lectionary (page 26 in the Parish Mass Books). For weekdays until Christmas, we follow the Advent daily readings. Will readers please note.

Carols at Kensington High St Tube Station

Our *Sunday evening Choir and friends* will be singing **Carols** at **Kensington High Street Tube Station** on Saturday next, 5 December from 2.00-5.00pm. Please come along and support them. Money raised will go to the *Catholic Children’s Society*.

Carol Service in our Church

There will be a **Carol Service** in our Church after the 6.00pm Mass on Sunday next 6 December, organised by our *Sunday Evening Choir*. Everyone welcome. This will be followed by refreshments. For further information contact: danielamirai@hotmail.com

More Dates for your Diaries

Nativity Play - On Sunday 13 December, after the 10.00am Mass, we will have a **Nativity Play** in the Parish Centre, performed by a group of children from the Parish. All are welcome.

Children’s Christmas Party - Also on Sunday 13 December, at 3.00pm, we will have our **Children’s Christmas Party** in the Parish Centre. *Children:* why not come dressed as one of the **Nativity** characters? All children who come to our Church are invited, together with parents. For details contact: Luciana: ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk or Inma: inmacasa@yahoo.com

Readers for the 10 o’clock Mass

Children who have made their First Communion might like to be considered for the very important role of **Reading** at the 10 o’clock Mass on Sundays. If interested, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554.

- * A big thank-you to the children who swelled our 10 o’clock Choir on Sunday last. We look forward to the next time we hear their lovely voices!!
- * We thank you for your contributions to the Collection for the *Catholic Youth Service* on Sunday last. The amount collected was **£703.42**.

On Wednesday next 2nd December, the 12.15pm Mass will be a **Funeral Mass for Antonia Young RIP**