

Feasts/Memorials

Monday 25 - St Mary Magdalen de' Pazzi, Virgin, Carmelite/
St Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor
Tuesday 26 - St Philip Neri, Priest
Wednesday 27 - St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

Readers Required

We need some more Readers for certain 12.15pm and 6.00pm Weekday Masses. If you would like to be considered for this very important ministry in the Mass, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554.

Diocesan Young Adult Pilgrimage to Taize, France

Young Adults (18-30) are invited to join Bishop John Arnold and other young adults from around the Diocese on a **Pilgrimage to Taize**, 8-16 August, for a 'Holiday' with a difference. Meet other young people from around Europe and the world; a time for prayer, space and reflection, and spend time with the Taize brothers. Total price: £220. For further details contact: Dave Burke: 020-7798-9357, davidburke@rcdow.org.uk

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 (*Vigil Mass for Sunday*)
Sunday Masses: 8.30am, 10am **Sung**, 11am **Sung/Latin**
12.15pm, 6pm **Young Adults Choir**
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 24 May 2009 – Ascension of the Lord

Ascension

I guess there are two problems with Ascension: Firstly it is vague and difficult to fit it into the jigsaw puzzle of our Christian understanding. Secondly it is about loss and responsibility – a combination that makes us particularly uncomfortable!

It must have been very difficult for Jesus to leave. His disciples are clearly not ready to take up their responsibilities. However, he must go, it is essential for his disciples that his earthly mission ends, otherwise they will never grow and mature. Jesus could not go on “holding the hands” of his disciples. We could argue that the Ascension is the last lesson in human life that the life of Jesus teaches us. When to let go and hand over responsibility is one of the most difficult decisions faced by parents, teachers, mentors, leaders, priests etc. It takes real wisdom to know the right time to go, most of us make the mistake of staying too long.

Did the disciples put pressure on Jesus to stay longer? The Gospels do not tell us but my guess is that they did, it is the natural human thing to do. Jesus had to teach them to let go, not only to let him go but that letting go would be an essential part of the spreading of the Gospel. The relationship between loss, growth and responsibility is crucial for the growth of the Church just as it is an essential dynamic of all human growth.

How did his disciples feel at the Ascension? ‘*Scared*’ I guess is the first word they would use if we asked them. Jesus is no longer around to run to and ask questions. They must now “stand on their own feet”, take decisions, face risk, accept failure and trust Jesus more than ever.

Mark, writing 25-30 years after the event, describes it like this: “*And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven; there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it*”.

Mark is not just describing an event, he is describing 25-30 years of history and Christian experience. How long did it take them to discover that the Jesus they saw leave was with them now in a new and much more powerful way? The answer to this is not measured in days, weeks, years but in the ever deeper and more painful process of letting go that the

Christian journey calls us to. The call to discipleship is a call to “*leave everything and follow Jesus*” and it takes a lifetime to discover the depth and breadth of all that this implies.

In order to feel and experience **Ascension** we need to revisit the painful, confusing and frightening experiences of loss in our lives. These same experiences are the seeds of new life, wisdom and growth. It is difficult for us to see this at the time and sometimes for a long time after the experience. We need to see the reality of Ascension in our own lives, otherwise it remains remote and vague. Great things happened in the lives of the disciples after the Ascension, great things happen in our lives too when we accept change, loss and new challenges.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Adoratrices, Handmaids of the Blessed Sacrament and of Charity - 50th Anniversary (1959-2009)

On Saturday 20 June our 6.00pm Mass will be a **Thanksgiving Eucharist** celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Faustino Sainz Muñoz, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Adoratrices, Handmaids of the Blessed Sacrament and of Charity, based in Kensington Square. You are all invited to be present at this Mass.

World Communications Day

Today is **World Communications Day**. The Catholic Communications Network provides support for the Bishops of England and Wales in promoting the gospel in the media. This work involves engaging with the press in the UK and abroad, dealing with requests for information, and offering a Catholic voice. There will be a **Special Collection** after all Masses for *Catholic Communications*. Your kind generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2009

The Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place this year from 25 July – 1 August. The cost is £690. Further details can be obtained from Fr Michael Dunne at Clergy House, Westminster Cathedral, on 020-7931-6041.

Archbishop Vincent Nichols

We ask you to join us in our congratulations and prayers for The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols, who was installed as our new **Archbishop of Westminster** on Thursday last 21 May 2009.

Children's First Holy Communion

On Sunday 14 June at the 10 o'clock Mass, 29 young children from this Parish will receive First Holy Communion. Their names are:-

Angela	Anna	Anton
Antonietta	Bijan	Cara
Cecilia	Dexter	Edoardo
Edoardo	Elighene	Ella
Emma	Eugenia	Félicie
Frances	Gaia	Hadrien
Lucien	Maximilian	Miguel
Oliver	Saverio	Timothée
Tommy	Trinity	Trixccl
Victoire	Zara	

You are all invited to be present at the Mass and to pray for these children on this special day in their lives, and also their Catechists.

Notices

- * Tomorrow, **Monday**, is a **Bank Holiday**. Masses will be at 9.00am and 12.15pm. The Church will close at 1.00pm – there will be no 6.00pm Mass.
- * Our **Young Adults Monday Group** will not meet tomorrow evening. They will resume on Monday 1 June at 7.30pm.
- * Please note the next **Holy Hour** with emphasis on *Prayer for the Gift of Vocations* will be on Monday 8 June from 6.30-7.30pm.
- * Our next *Parish Advisory Group* meeting will take place on Sunday next 31 May at 7.00pm, immediately after the 6.00pm Mass. If anyone has any items they would like raised at the meeting, do please hand them in at Reception, attention Fr Matt.
- * Will Readers please collect their new **Rota** as they leave after Mass today.

Solemnities in May/June

Today, the Solemnity of **The Ascension of the Lord**, is the first of four important Solemnities celebrated on four consecutive Sundays:- Sunday next 31 May is *Pentecost Sunday*; Sunday 7 June, *The Most Holy Trinity*, and Sunday 14 June, *Corpus Christi*, *Most Holy Body & Blood of the Lord*.