

### Feasts/Memorials

#### April

Tuesday 28 - St Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr/  
St Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Priest  
Wednesday 29 - St Catherine of Siena, V. & D. Patron of Europe  
Thursday 30 - St Pius V, Pope

#### May

Friday 1 - St Joseph the Worker  
Saturday 2 - St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor

### Preparation for Marriage Course

The Parish of St Charles Borromeo, Ogle St., London W1, will begin a **Preparation for Marriage Course** on Thursday 7 May which will run for five Thursday evenings. The meetings will take place in the crypt room at 8.00pm, and will be led by two married couples and the Parish Priest. Engaged and recently married couples will also be very welcome. There is no registration and no fee. For further details, contact Fr Alan Fudge, Parish Priest, 020-7636-2883 or email: [oglestreet@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:oglestreet@rcdow.org.uk)

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**Family Life International** Conference will take place on Saturday 9 May at Westminster Cathedral Hall, 9.00am – 6.00pm. Family Life International is an international partnership of Catholics working to promote and defend the sanctity of Life and the family. Please see poster on Church notice-board.

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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](http://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 26 April 2009 – Third Sunday of Easter

### *You are Witnesses to this*

At this time of Easter our readings often astonish us – take for example this statement from our first reading today: “*God raised Him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses*”. Peter (or anyone else) did not see God raising Jesus from the dead, so how can he speak with such conviction? He is not telling lies or exaggerating. What fact is it that he is a witness to? He is a witness to the truth of all that God has revealed about himself, about humanity and about his relationship with us.

Peter is not claiming to be a witness to an event but to a truth - a truth that is fully revealed in the Resurrection. Light is the great symbol of the Resurrection and the witnesses are those who live in this light.

In our Gospel we read: “*He told them: ‘Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled’. And he opened their minds to understand the scriptures*”.

We find this idea repeated a number of times in the accounts of the Resurrection – the Resurrection leads to a deeper and fuller understanding of the scriptures. Everything that God has revealed about Himself over the centuries through the scriptures has been a preparation for this and is only fully understood when Jesus rises from the dead.

There are two points to remember here: The full reality of who Jesus is, is revealed in the Resurrection and, secondly, the Resurrection shows us that Jesus is the fulfilment of all that the scriptures wrote about and promised. In other words, everything that God wants to tell us about Himself is now complete. We find this idea expressed many times in the New Testament. For example, the opening of the *Letter to the Hebrews*: “*At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our times, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God’s glory and the perfect copy of his nature....*”

We have been told about the disciples’ experience of meeting with the risen Jesus and the fruit or consequence of this experience is that they now understand the scriptures better. We have no way of fully understanding

their experience but from what we are told we can see that it is real (not a ghost), physical (they touch him, he eats) and changes them profoundly (their minds are opened).

This may all seem very remote to us but it is not. We all have experiences (usually surprising or unexpected) that are real, that are part of our human, physical lives and that change us. These are life-giving experiences and so can be called “resurrection” experiences. Like the disciples of Jesus, when we bring our life-changing experiences to our reading of scripture, we see the truth that God reveals in a new, clearer and more life-giving way. These ideas are beautifully put into prayer in our alternative opening prayer for today’s Mass:

*Father in heaven, author of all truth, a people once in darkness  
has listened to your Word and followed your Son as he rose  
from the tomb. Hear the prayer of this newborn people and  
strengthen your Church to answer your call. May we rise and  
come forth into the light of day, to stand in your presence until  
eternity dawns. Amen* Fr Matt Blake, Prior

#### ***Newly Baptised Catholics***

As you know, eight adults were baptised at our Easter Vigil this year. They have followed the **RCIA** programme. Those of you who attend the Sunday evening Mass have been present for various ceremonies and supported them with your prayers. This Sunday evening, after the 6 o’clock Mass, we will have an **Open RCIA Session** to which everyone is invited. It is your opportunity to meet the new Catholics and welcome them into our parish community. It is also an opportunity to learn more about the RCIA programme. Everyone is welcome.

#### ***Men’s Pilgrimage in honour of St Joseph***

There will be a **Men’s Pilgrimage in honour of St Joseph**, on Friday 1 May from 2.00pm-5.00pm, at the **National Shrine of St Joseph, Farnborough Abbey**, led by Fr Iain Matthew ODC. (Train to Farnborough: 35 mins from Waterloo).

2.15pm ... Mass of St Joseph the Worker

3.00pm ... Tour of Church and Crypt

3.45pm ... Talk on St Joseph

Adoration and Benediction

For further information contact: Edmund Adamus (Dept of Pastoral Affairs, Westminster Diocese) [edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk)

#### ***Praying the Scriptures***

All are invited to **Praying the Scriptures** with Fr Iain Matthew ODC and Fr Michael McGoldrick ODC on Saturday 9 May from 11.00am to 3.00pm at the Carmelite Priory. Sessions on Scriptural Prayer and Lectio Divina (Holy Reading). Please see poster on Church notice-board.

#### ***Our Easter Sunday Party***

Our **Easter Sunday Party** for children and families was a huge success, and we would like to thank the large numbers of adults and children who supported it and made it such a happy occasion. A special word of thanks to all who helped in any way and contributed towards the food and refreshments, and those who worked so hard in the Priory beforehand making the preparations. Also, heartfelt gratitude from the **Mission of the Adoratrices Sisters** for your generous donations.

#### ***Mass in Support of Migrant Workers in London***

On Monday 4 May, Bank Holiday Monday, there will be a Special Mass at Westminster Cathedral for **Migrant Workers**, starting at 10.30am. All are warmly invited to attend the Mass which will embrace the diversity of London’s migrant communities, many from Catholic countries. The *Feast of St Joseph the Worker* falls on Friday next 1 May.

#### ***Marriage Preparation Sessions***

**Our Lady of Victories** Parish, Kensington, is offering a course of three Preparation Sessions for couples planning to marry in the Catholic Church., beginning tomorrow Monday 27 April at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, 16 Abingdon Rd. For details of cost and to book, telephone 020-7937-4778.

#### ***Vocations Sunday***

Sunday next 3 May is **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. There will be a special collection after all Masses for the **Education of Priests**. 50% of the money collected goes to the Archdiocese of Westminster and 50% to the Carmelite Order. Your kind generosity will be greatly appreciated.

#### ***John McCarthy RIP***

On Sunday 10 May the 11.00 Mass in this Church will be for the repose of the soul of **John McCarthy OBE**, a past Director of our Carmelite Choir, who died on 8 April, and whose funeral takes place tomorrow Monday at 11.30am at St Teresa’s Catholic Church, Warwick Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks.