March Feasts/Memorial

Monday 2 St Casimir

Saturday 7 SS Perpetua & Felicity

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.

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.

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, 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 1 March 2009 - First Sunday of Lent

Lord, Giver of Life

This year, during our Season of Lent we are invited by the Diocese to use the specially prepared booklet *Lord*, *Giver of Life* for our personal, family or group prayer and reflection. The theme is the **Holy Spirit** and his active presence in our lives as individuals and in the Church.

In today's Gospel we see the Holy Spirit active in the life of Jesus: The <u>Spirit</u> drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts and the Angels looked after Him. We may feel disturbed by the idea of the Spirit <u>driving</u> Jesus out into the wilderness - it implies that the Spirit forces or compels Jesus. We prefer to see the Spirit as one who is gentle and peaceful. Yet this is what the Gospel tells us; that very difficult and challenging experience of Jesus in the wilderness was a work of the Holy Spirit.

How do we respond to the question? What does the Holy Spirit do in our lives? One of the best summaries I know of the purpose and action of the Holy Spirit is found in the words of the 4th Eucharistic Prayer: "That we might live no longer for ourselves but for him, he sent the Holy Spirit from our Father, as his first gift to those who believe, to complete his work on earth and bring us the fullness of grace". Here in this most solemn prayer of the Church we acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is a gift, and the first and most important gift of Jesus to all who believe in him. We have received this gift at Baptism and Confirmation and this gift is constantly being given to us through our prayer and Christian living. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to live. He is constantly guiding and challenging us to live no longer for ourselves but for Him. That phrase is a summary of the whole purpose of Christianity - to set us free from our self-centred, inward looking and limited way of living and open us up to the limitless beauty, freedom and love enjoyed by the children of God.

The work of Jesus in this world is completed by those who live lives under the influence, guidance and protection of the Holy Spirit, people whose lives are truly Spiritual.

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The Holy Spirit *brings us* the fullness of grace. What does this term mean? We are all familiar with the prayer, Hail Mary full of grace. In this prayer we celebrate the fact that Mary is fully open, willing and prepared to respond to the call of God. Grace is that special gift that God gives to enable us to live as he wants us to live, and to carry out the work he calls us to do. Grace is the gift that makes us holy and inspires us to live lives no longer for ourselves but for Him.

As we reflect on the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our Church during this season of Lent, let us pray that we may be inspired, encouraged and given the strength to *live lives no longer for ourselves but for Him.*

I encourage everyone who has not yet taken the booklet, *Lord, Giver of Life*, to please take one today [they are given out free].

Fr Matt Blake

Lenten Group Reflections

Our **Young Adults Monday Group,** for the next six weeks will follow the Lenten programme, **Lord, Giver of Life**, starting tomorrow evening with 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 in the Parish Centre each Monday, entrance via Pitt Street.

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

We ask you to please continue to pray for our group of young people who are preparing to receive the Sacraments this Easter. They are: Riandra, Marian, Samorn, Sherez, Jeffrey, Gergely, Elena and Thomas.

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 <u>Saturday 14 March</u>. All parishioners with a devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes are invited to come together in her honour on this day.

Fr Raphael O'Connell OCD

There will be a special Mass in our Church on <u>Sunday 22 March at 11am</u> for the repose of the soul of **Fr Raphael** who died on Sunday 15 February. As many of you will remember, Fr Raphael was Prior and Parish Priest here from 1996 to 1999, and you are all invited to come to the Mass to remember him in prayer.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament All Night Vigil

The Adoratrice Sisters at 38/39 Kensington Square, invites you to an *All Night Vigil* on Tuesday next 3 March, in honour of the **Bicentenary of their Foundress, St Maria Micaela.** The Vigil will start at 6.00pm and end with Holy Eucharist at 8.30am. You are invited to come and spend some quiet time in prayer at whatever time is convenient to you. If anyone would like to request prayers or further information, please contact: 020-7937-5237.

Young Adults in the West

The next *Young Adults in the West* gathering with Bishop Alan Hopes will take place in our Church on Sunday 29 March starting with Mass by Bishop Alan at 6.00pm. The focus of the evening, centred on the Gospel, is *Believe & Live*. Mass will be followed by a time of food, reflection and discussion. All young adults (17-35) who come to our Church are invited. It is also hoped as many of our parishioners as possible will attend the 6.00pm Mass that evening, celebrated by Bishop Alan.

Notices

- * We will have **The Stations of the Cross** after the 6.00pm Mass each Friday during Lent. You are all invited to take part.
- * Our *Parish Advisory Group* meeting will take place this evening at 7.00pm in the Priory.
- * The *Brown Scapular Devotions* in Honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel will take place on Saturday next 7 March after the 6.00pm Mass. All are invited to stay on for the special prayers.
- * Friday next 6 March is Women's World Day of Prayer.

Lenten Fast Day for CAFOD

Friday next is **Lenten Fast Day**, and on Sunday next 8 March, there will be a collection after all Masses when your fast day offerings for **CAFOD** will be taken up. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

