

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 26 July 2009 – Seventeenth Sunday of the Year

July		Feasts/Memorials
Wednesday	29	St Martha
Thursday	30	St Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor
Friday	31	St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

Aug		
Saturday	1	St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor
Tuesday	4	St John Mary Vianney, Priest
Wednesday	5	Dedication of Basilica of St Mary Major
Thursday	6	Transfiguration of the Lord
Friday	7	St Albert of Trapani, Priest, Carmelite/ St Sixtus II, Pope & Companions, Martyrs
Saturday	8	St Dominic, Priest
Monday	10	St Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr
Tuesday	11	St Clare, Virgin
Thursday	13	SS Pontian, Pope & Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs
Friday	14	St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr
Sunday	16	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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Please note **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will not take place on Wednesdays during August – this coming Wednesday 29 July from 6.30-8.00pm will be the final one till we resume on Wednesday 9 September.

Our Parish Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

Weekday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Saturday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (*Vigil for Sunday*)
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 between
12 Noon-3.00pm)
Saturday Confessions: 10.30-11.45am, 3.30-5.50pm
Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB
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Day for Life

For this year's **Day for Life** the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have chosen **Suicide** as the subject. This is a complex, painful and not well understood subject. It is impossible for me in this short reflection to deal with all aspects of the subject, so I will be selective.

Firstly I would like to make a distinction. We all know of, or have heard of, people who self harm, speak about or threaten suicide, even at times attempt suicide – rarely do these people actually carry it through or if they do, it is unintentional. Their words and behaviour is a deep and desperate cry for help and we must all do what we can to help and support these people.

The people I have in mind as I write this are people who have rarely or never cried out for help, people whose suicides are a total shock and surprise to family and loved ones. These situations are very difficult for family and loved ones to deal with. I would like to share some of the frequently asked questions and my replies.

Is there something I should have seen or done? Part of the “illness” is that the person cannot share or communicate in any way what is really troubling him. Frequently wives, parents, lovers, siblings, friends, have not seen even a sign or hint that something is wrong. So there is nothing you could/should have seen or done.

I never saw him as happy as he has been these past few weeks.

Some experts claim that the victim takes the decision a month to six weeks before carrying it out. This may help to explain why the person is relaxed, caring, in control, successful etc. in the weeks, days and hours before the tragedy.

He had everything: stable relationship, children he loved, successful career, good health etc. A large percentage of suicides take place when things are going well rather than when things are going badly. It would seem that when a person has everything he ever longed for and the inner emptiness or pain is as strong as ever, that is the most vulnerable time.

If only he had faith this would not have happened. There is no difference in the percentage of suicides between those who have Christian, or any other faith, and those who have no faith. Christian faith is not some kind of magic that solves everything, neither should it be used as an excuse for not facing difficult and painful issues.

Has he committed a grave sin? The answer to this is an emphatic NO.

We are speaking about someone who has suffered greatly, a suffering that was hidden and lonely. We believe in an understanding, loving and compassionate God and it is to Him we must now entrust a loved one.

Should we be open and talk about it? Yes; openness, talking and sharing is always better but sometimes we have to respect the decisions of those who choose not to talk. This is a difficult one; we can feel we know what is right for another person but we can never force that. This can be a very divisive issue among families and friends.

Why did he do it? Every spouse, lover, relative or friend longs for the answer to this question. Only the victim and God know the real and full truth. There is a great temptation to resort to theories, suppositions or conclusions for which there is little evidence – none of this is helpful. Difficult as it is, we must accept there are no satisfactory answers, and be prepared to say to people “I do not know”. Idle or groundless speculation is not helpful.

Conclusion: Some of you will find these questions and answers unhelpful or unacceptable, that is OK – each person’s experience is different and each person must own and be comfortable with their experience. I have simply drawn from my experience of a number of suicides I have been involved with over the years. The more experience I have the less comfortable I am with any “knowledge” or “theories”. Each situation is very personal, secret and sacred. We must tread carefully, love and support all who are in pain and leave the unanswered questions to God.

The following website may be of help: www.dayforlife.org

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

‘Day for Life’ Collection: There will be a special collection after all Masses today to go towards Catholic support groups who are there to comfort and assist families whose lives have been touched by **suicide**. Please show your support by making a donation.

Relics of St Thérèse

The Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux will be visiting our Church on **Sunday 11 October**, as part of their national visit to England and Wales. They will depart for Westminster Cathedral on Monday 12 October.

On Sunday 27 September we will have a **Day of Preparation** for the visit. More details later. In the meantime please put the date in your diaries.

First Holy Communion Catechesis 2009/2010

Children aged seven years upwards are welcome to our programme of preparation for **First Holy Communion**, beginning the new catechism year in September/October 2009. Registration forms are now available from the Reception desk and the back of the Church. We will also have a programme of Early Catechism for younger children (i.e. *5/6 and 6/7 year olds*) as well as Post-Communion Catechism classes. These classes will take place in the Priory on Sunday mornings after the 10 o’clock Mass.

Confirmation

Young people, 13 years and over, who wish to be prepared to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** next year are invited to pick up an application form from Reception or back of Church and complete and return to Fr Iain.

A Day with Mary

There will be ‘*A Day with Mary*’ in our Church on Saturday 8 August, starting at 10.00am with Entry Procession and prayers, followed by Mass celebrated by Fr Matt. A full programme will follow. All are invited.

Carmelite Youth Day

Our annual **Carmelite Youth Day** will take place on Saturday 3 October – the theme will be **St Thérèse** and preparation for the visit of her relics.

‘Mount Carmel’

We would remind you that the latest edition of ‘**Mount Carmel**’ is now available from Reception desk. This is a very special issue with emphasis on the life of **St Thérèse** and information on her relics etc. This is an excellent read designed to tie in with the arrival of her relics here in October. Highly recommended. Price £2.50.

St Thérèse Holy Hour

Tomorrow evening (Monday 27) from 6.30-7.30pm we will have our **St Thérèse Holy Hour** with emphasis on Prayer for the *Gift of Vocations to Religious Life*. All are most welcome.

Young Adults Monday Group

Our Young Adults Monday Group will meet tomorrow evening at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Please note this will be their last meeting till they return from their Summer break on Monday 7 September.

**Your Newsletter goes on holiday today – back on
Sunday 6 September**