

September

Feasts/Memorials

Monday	14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross - Solemnity
Tuesday	15	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wednesday	16	SS Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
Thursday	17	St Albert, Patriarch of Jerusalem, Legislator of the Carmelite Order
Saturday	19	St Januarius, Bishop & Martyr, Carmelite

Notices

- * Sunday next 20 September is **Home Mission Sunday**. There will be a special collection after all Masses for the Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation (CASE).
- * You are all invited to our **Parish Gathering** on Sunday next after the 10 o'clock Mass.
- * Our **Parish Advisory Group** meeting will take place on Sunday next at 7.00pm.
- * Our next **St Thérèse Holy Hour** for the *Gift of Vocations* will take place on Monday 21 September from 6.30-7.30pm. All are invited.

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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:	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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OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

13 September 2009 – Twenty Fourth Sunday of the Year

'If you want to be a Follower of Mine'

On most Sundays of this year our Gospel reading is from the Gospel of St Mark. This gives us a unique opportunity to get to know one Gospel well. In addition we get an insight into how a particular Evangelist saw and understood Jesus. Today we reach the central point of the story as Mark presents it to us. For Mark, the whole story revolves around the question: *Who is Jesus and what does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?* [When we know who Jesus is, then we know what it means to be his disciple – mistakes in understanding discipleship are made when we do not understand and/or accept who Jesus is].

At this point in Mark's story, Jesus has begun his journey to Jerusalem – that is the journey to his suffering, death and resurrection.

Throughout this journey, Jesus is teaching his disciples, and his disciples are struggling more and more to understand and accept what he is reaching. The subject of this lesson is: *Who is Jesus?* and *what does it mean to be a disciple [follower] of Jesus?* We, in common with Christians of every era, ask the same questions. The journey that the disciples of Jesus are on is a symbol of the journey of faith that every disciple of Jesus goes on and it can end in only one place – **The Cross**. In Mark's story, Jesus is in a hurry to get there, the disciples are struggling and falling behind.

Peter is the first to confront the question. He gets his first answer right: *You are the Christ* (or Messiah or Saviour). We are all happy with that answer, we all want Jesus to save us. However, like Peter, we have a problem with the way he does it – *the way you think is not God's way but man's*. We all go wrong here – we want God to save us but he must do it my way.

Jesus then sums up what it means to be a Christian with these words: *If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it*. We all struggle with this answer – I guess few of us would give an answer like this when someone asks us what is Christianity about!

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Tomorrow, the Church celebrates the feast of **The Triumph of the Cross**. The cross is the symbol of Christianity, we use it to identify ourselves, our places, our buildings, our holy objects, etc. We make the sign of the cross at the beginning and end of prayer and so many other times. However, like the disciples in today's Gospel, we find the full reality and the deeper meaning of the Cross difficult to accept and understand. The cross is Jesus' great victory and it is also his deepest mystery. He is closest to us when he is on the cross but we pull back from that type of closeness, we want a different type of closeness.

St Edith Stein tells us that the little group of people gathered at the foot of the cross are the first true Christian community and the beginning of the Church. It is in the cross that we become fully Christian and it is in the cross that the Church discovers its true identity and mission. Like Peter, we all have quite a journey to go on before we really become his followers.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Catechism for Children - 2009/2010/Confirmation/RCIA

We are looking forward to the new season of Catechism classes for our children: **pre-Communion** (5/6 & 6/7 year olds); **First Holy Communion** (7 years upwards) and **post-Communion**. Special thanks to the catechists who are so dedicated. Parents and children are asked to come for a meeting in the Parish Centre after the 10.00am Mass on Sunday 27 September. Classes will begin on Sunday 4 October. (Enrolment forms, available from the back of the Church, should be completed and returned without delay. Thank you). Fr Iain

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 the back of the Church, and complete and return it to Fr Iain as soon as possible.

The **RCIA** programme will run in the Priory from October 2009 until Easter 2010. For details, contact Fr Matt matthewblake@rcdow.org.uk

Notices

- * Because of work going on in connection with the Fire Alarm System in the Church, our 8.00am and 12.15pm Masses tomorrow Monday will be celebrated in the Priory.
- * Today is **Racial Justice Day** – there will be a special collection after all Masses for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice.



Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux

The Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux will arrive in our Church on **Sunday 11 October**, as part of their national visit to England and Wales. Our programme is not finalised yet but will consist of the following:

- * 6.00pm Mass of Preparation, celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes.
 - * 7.30pm (approx) Arrival of the Relics and Welcoming Ceremony.
- The Church will remain open all night for private prayer and veneration.
- Monday 12 October:** 9.00am Closing Ceremony
9.30am Departure of the Relics

Events in preparation for the visit:

Sunday 27 September: Parish Open Day in preparation for the visit, 11.00am to 6.00pm:

- * An Exhibition on Thérèse's life and teaching
- * Children's activities – including storytelling at 11am on the **Life of St Thérèse**
- * Film showing on **St Thérèse**
- * Book Stall
- * Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day in the Hermann Cohen Chapel
- * 4.00pm - Talk by Fr Matt "*The greater significance of the visit*"
- * Refreshments throughout the day

Saturday 3 October: Carmelite Youth Day

An opportunity for all young adults to prepare for the visit.

- * 12.15pm Mass
- Lunch
- Talks, discussions, reflection, prayer
- 4.00-5.00pm Exposition and prayer in Church

Please spread the word around about all these activities.