

Feasts/Memorials

October

Monday	26	St Chad & Cedd, Bishops
Wednesday	28	SS Simon & Jude, Apostles - Feast
Thursday	29	Blessed Martyrs of Douai College

Film on the Life of St Thérèse of Lisieux

There will be a screening of the film on the **Life of St Thérèse** in our Parish Centre at 3.30pm today Sunday. This is in response to the many requests received following the screening at our 'Open Day' recently. It is a delightful film, on the life of St Thérèse from childhood to Carmel - 45 minutes in length - and all are warmly invited. Please feel free to bring a friend. No need to book, just come along. There will be refreshments afterwards.

Readers Required

We need more readers for our Sunday Masses, particularly the 8.30am. If you would like to be considered for this very important ministry in the Mass, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554, or leave your details at Reception and we will get back to you.

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.

* * * * *

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

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

25 October 2009 – 30th Sunday of the Year

He followed Him along the Road

We are reading Mark's Gospel this year. Over recent Sundays we have been meeting Jesus at various stages of his journey to Jerusalem. Today he is leaving Jericho for the last stage of the journey [next Sunday he will be in Jerusalem]. Jerusalem, as we well know, is where his suffering and death takes place. That is the background to the story of Bartimaeus which we have today – one of the most beautiful and well known of Gospel stories. When this story is read outside of its Gospel context, that is what it remains – a beautiful, attractive and uplifting Gospel story. At the beginning of the last stage of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, Mark's Gospel poses the most difficult and challenging of all questions: "How can one joyfully and enthusiastically become a disciple [a follower] of Jesus knowing that the cross is around the next corner?" We are confronted with that most thought-provoking of questions in this carefully constructed story.

When we first meet Bartimaeus he is "*sitting at the side of the road*". In other words he is not part of the crowd who are following Jesus, he is not yet a disciple. All changes when he "hears" that he is in the presence of Jesus.

The prayer of Bartimaeus is: "*Son of David have pity [mercy] on me*". Bartimaeus recognised what he really needs from Jesus: mercy, forgiveness, salvation, wisdom, spiritual sight. We are told that Bartimaeus *threw off his cloak, jumped up and went [rushed] to Jesus*. He comes to Jesus naked, vulnerable, open, enthusiastic, joyful and courageous. His faith has been awakened and he is open to and ready for a complete change of life.

Bartimaeus receives his sight from Jesus and he follows Jesus along the road – that is how the story ends. He can see through the eyes of faith who Jesus is. With eyes open he can embrace the challenge, power and joy of discipleship. Bartimaeus can see the full meaning of this when the eyes of his faith are opened. The journey to the cross is the journey of true discipleship.

/Continued.....

When a child is baptised, the ceremony begins with the placing of the sign of the cross on the child's forehead. Those who are at our evening Mass this Sunday will see our new **RCIA candidates** signed with the sign of the cross. It is the beginning and end of our faith journeys and our source of strength along the way. Once Bartimaeus has met Jesus and had his eyes opened, there is nowhere else for him to go except follow Jesus "*along the road*". For Bartimaeus, Jesus is not some wonder-worker, magician or benefactor. Jesus has come to give him life, light, love, wisdom and strength, and the source of all this is the cross of Jesus.

This story beautifully illustrates to us that there is no contradiction between the joy, wonder and peace of following Jesus and the cross of Jesus. In fact the two are the one reality. Those who generously and courageously embrace the cross are the most joyful, courageous and peace-filled Christians.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

'The Mystery of Faith' – Art Exhibition

The **Exhibition of Elizabeth Wang Pictures** comes to a close at the end of the month. On Saturday next 31st October, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, there will be an afternoon of reflection and worship here in the Church. It will include a talk by Elizabeth Wang on the Exhibition theme, the Celebration of Holy Mass, and refreshments in the Refectory. All are welcome – no tickets required. (Fr Matt)

Christmas Cards in aid of the Catholic Children's Society

On Tuesday 3 November from 10am–12 Noon, we will have Christmas cards on sale in the Priory in aid of the *Catholic Children's Society*, which reaches out to children and families in need in London. We will have a further sale on Sunday 8 November from 11.00am-1.00pm. A good opportunity to purchase quality cards at reasonable prices and support the CCS. Enquiries: Elizabetta: emedata@toucansurf.com

November Dead List

A Mass will be said every day during the month of November for your departed relatives and friends. Names and donations accepted at Reception Desk. Special forms and envelopes are available at the back of the Church.

World Mission Sunday

We thank you for your contributions to the collection for *Overseas Missions* on Sunday last. The amount collected was **£1,245.37**.

Collection for the Sick and Retired Priests Fund

There will be a Special Collection after all Masses on Sunday next 1st November, for the **Sick and Retired Priests Fund**. The number of sick and elderly priests who need our support is growing and we need your help. 50% of the money that you give goes to Westminster Diocese and 50% to the Carmelite Order. We ask you please to be as generous as you can.

Children's 'All Saints' Party

There will be a Children's '**All Saints**' Party here in the Priory on Sunday 15 November from 3.00pm to 5.00pm. *Children!* we would like you to come dressed as your favourite saint - all ages are welcome. For assistance or for ideas on saints and get-up, please contact Fr Iain: ianmatthew@yahoo.com

Thanksgiving Prayer

This is the official prayer from the Bishops Conference in thanksgiving for the **Visit of the Relics of St Thérèse**, composed by our Carmelite Fathers, Fr Michael McGoldrick and Fr Iain Matthew:-

Loving Father,

We thank you for the visit of the relics of St Thérèse to our country.

We ask you to draw us more deeply into your love

And to fill us with confidence in your mercy.

Help us to become, like St Thérèse, love at the heart of the Church.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

Who lives and reigns, forever and ever, Amen.

An Hour's Prayer and Adoration

Tomorrow, Monday 26 October, from 6.45-7.45pm there will be an hour's Prayer and Adoration *in thanksgiving for the visit of the Relics of St Thérèse*. All are invited.

All Saints Day and All Souls Day

The **Solemnity of All Saints** will be celebrated on Sunday next, 1st November, and the **Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed** (All Souls Day) will be celebrated on Monday 2^d November. (Mass times on Monday will be at the usual times: 8.00am, 12.15 and 6.00pm)