

Feasts/Memorials

November

Monday 23 St Clement 1, Pope & Martyr
 Tuesday 24 SS Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, & Companions,
 Vietnamese Martyrs
 Wednesday 25 St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr

Carol Service

in aid of Children’s Charities in Latin America

On Monday 14 December at 7.00pm there will be a Carol Service with some Readings (in Spanish, Portuguese and English) here in our Church. Admission £5. for adults – children up to 12 years are free. The ticket price includes entry to the raffle for magnum of champagne! To book tickets, write to: Ms Luz Guerrero Burnett, Hillfield, Hammers Lane, Mill Hill, London NW7 4DJ. See also poster on Church notice-board.

Our Repository

Please note our Repository at the end of the Church has now got large stocks of Christmas Cards, Mass Cards, religious items and a wide range of suitable gifts for your family and friends for Christmas. All at very reasonable prices. Please feel free to take a good look round after Mass.

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 (*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 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 22 November 2009 – Solemnity of Christ the King

Jesus Christ, Universal King

“All who are on the side of truth listen to my voice”. These are the very profound words of Jesus with which our Gospel passage today ends. He is explaining to Pilate the nature of the kingdom He is king of. His kingdom is “*not of this world*” and therefore must be understood in a way completely different from how we understand human power, government or society.

This is a kingdom in which the battles fought are not for power, territory or wealth but for “*Truth*”. Those who fight this battle “*listen to Him*”.

I recommend you to read quietly and prayerfully this entire passage of John’s Gospel [John 18:18 – 19:16]. Better again act it out – it is written very much as a drama to be acted out. We see before us the battle between human power and the power of God. Watch carefully where the drama is taking place: inside and outside [Inside – Jesus, quiet, dignified, in control. Outside – the opponents, getting more noisy and out of control as the drama unfolds]. Moving between the two stages is Pilate becoming increasingly weak and frightened. Pilate decides to crucify Jesus because his fear of Caesar, the Jewish leaders and the crowd is stronger than his attraction to Jesus and his belief in Jesus’ innocence.

Pilate was afraid to be on “*the side of Truth*” and therefore takes a conscious decision not to “*listen to Him*”. The consequence is death – the death of Jesus, the death of truth, innocence, justice, freedom, human dignity etc. etc. The choice Pilate is faced with is the most fundamental choice of human existence and this drama shows us clearly and vividly the consequences of that choice.

Pilate is the mirror-image of each one of us. A little later in the drama Jesus will say to Pilate: “*You would have no power over me if it had not been given you from above*”. The most astounding fact about the Kingdom of God is not that it is freely offered to us but that we have the power and freedom to refuse it. This Kingdom does not come to us with a powerful army or great wealth but with a vulnerability that gives us the freedom and power to “*crucify him*”.

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The Kingdom of God is everything we most desire as human beings, it is human life as we would wish to live it: *truth, life, holiness, grace, justice, love, peace* [cf. Preface of today's Mass]. The tragedy of human life is that we allow other loud voices to instil sufficient fear in us that we fail to choose what we really desire.

The Kingdom of God is "*not of this world*" because it does not conquer us with power, wealth or any other type of force. The Kingdom of God must be freely chosen and only those who "*listen to His voice*" and are on the "*side of Truth*" have the freedom to make that choice.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

'Right to Life' Day of Fasting and Prayer

There will be a Day of **Fasting and Prayer for the Sanctity of Human Life** in our Church on Friday next 27 November from 10.00am – 6.00pm. The day will begin with Opening Prayers and meditation on the sanctity of human life, followed by the Rosary at 10.30am, and full programme for the remainder of the day. There will be Mass at 12.15pm and 6.00pm. All are invited to take part in this special day of prayer.

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.

Mind the Gap: Faith in Film

The next series of '**Mind the Gap**', the 2009 Advent Reflection Evenings for Young Adults (17-30sh) will take the form of 'Film nights' with refreshments and discussion. All on Tuesday evenings:-

24 November: 'Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story'

1 December: 'Molokai: The Story of Father Damien'

8 December: 'Bella'

15 December: 'St Thérèse of Lisieux', introduced by Fr Iain
Matthew OCD

Time: 7.00-9.15pm (6.30pm refreshments)

Please note the new venue: Our Lady of the Assumption & St Gregory Church, Warwick St., W1F 9JR (2 minutes from Piccadilly Circus).

For more information, contact daveburke@rcdow.org.uk

Carols at Kensington High St Tube Station

Our *Sunday evening Choir and friends* will be singing carols at Kensington High Street Tube Station on Saturday 5 December from 2.00-5.00pm. Please come along and support them. Money raised will go to the *Catholic Children's Society*.

Carol Service in our Church

There will be a Carol Service after the 6.00pm Mass on Sunday 6 December, organised by our *Sunday Evening Choir*. Everyone welcome. This will be followed by refreshments. For further information contact: danielamirai@hotmail.com

Children's Winter Cinema

Our popular *Parish Winter Cinema for Children* kicks off with our new season today Sunday at 3.00pm in the Priory, showing the film '*Cars*'. All children who come to our Church are invited – no need to book, just come along, accompanied by an adult. Enquiries: ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk (Luciana)

Children's 'All Saints' Party

Our '*All Saints*' Party on Sunday last was a huge success. Congratulations to all the children who came dressed as saints, and congratulations also to their parents for the very inspirational '*habits*'.

Christmas Carols at the Carmelite Church in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Trust

On Thursday 17 December at 7.00pm there will be Christmas Carols here in our Church in aid of the **Multiple Sclerosis Trust**, in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Kensington & Chelsea. Tickets cost £15.00 and all proceeds go to the MS Trust. The popular Mosaic Choir will be performing a blend of Christmas music and carols. For enquiries and tickets call: 01462 476700 or email: info@mstrust.org.uk

- * There will be a Meeting for *Parents of First Communion Children* after the 10 o'clock Mass this morning.
- * Today is **National Youth Day**. There will be a special collection after all Masses for the Catholic Youth Service.

Sunday next is the **First Sunday of Advent** when we begin **Year C** in the Lectionary for Sundays and Feasts; and for weekdays until Christmas, we follow the Advent daily readings. Will readers please note