

# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

## Parish Newsletter

Sunday 28 June 2009 – Feast of SS Peter & Paul

<u>June</u>	<i>Feasts/Memorials</i>
Tuesday	30 - Protomartyrs of the Holy Roman Church
<u>July</u>	
Friday	3 - St Thomas, Apostle
Saturday	4 - St Elizabeth of Portugal

### 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. You will find full details of the various venues involved in the visit if you go to our website: [www.carmelitechurch.org](http://www.carmelitechurch.org) Details of arrangements for the visit to our Church will be given nearer the time.

### Brown Scapular Devotions

On Saturday next 4 July we will have the Brown Scapular Devotions in honour of our Lady of Mount Carmel, after the 6pm Mass. You are all invited to stay on for the rosary and special prayers

### The Sick, Elderly & Housebound

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.

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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](http://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 <b>Sung</b> , 11.00am <b>Sung/Latin</b> 12.15pm, 6.00pm <b>Young Adults Choir</b>
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

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**Registered Charity No: 253645.**

### Year of St Paul

Today, **Feast of St Peter and Paul**, we celebrate the closing of the **Year of St Paul**. One of the most striking features of Paul's letters is **Prayer**. His letters begin and end in prayer, several times during his letters he breaks into prayer and his letters are obviously the fruit of an intense prayer life.

Paul saw prayer as his first duty to his Christian Churches: *I thank my God whenever I think of you; and every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy.* [Philippians]. Paul's newly-founded Churches are never out of his thoughts and prayers. I would like to pick out some aspects of prayer which we find in Paul's letters and let Paul teach us about prayer through his own words:

**Greeting:** Paul's relationship with his Churches is centred on their relationship with Jesus Christ: *We wish you the grace and peace of God our Father and of the Lord Jesus Christ.* [Philippians].

*The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. My love is with you in Christ Jesus.* [1 Corinthians].

**Thanksgiving:** Paul is always thanking God. Whenever he thinks about his fellow Christians whom he loves so much, he turns to God in thanksgiving – *I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways.* [1 Corinthians]. *We have never failed to remember you in our prayers and to give thanks for you to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.* [Colossians].

**Praise:** We could argue that Paul's letters are written, first and foremost, to give praise and glory to God. They are acts of worship. Though they deal with many practical issues and questions, their main focus is the love, mercy and generosity of God revealed through Jesus Christ and giving praise, thanks and worship to God for this – *Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach .... He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.* [Romans].

*Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings.* [Romans].

**Intercession:** *My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving and especially for Kings and others in authority... To do this is right and will please God our Saviour. In every place, then, I want men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.*

[1 Timothy]

**Holy Spirit:** *The Spirit too comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts, knows perfectly well what he means and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.* [Romans]

**Growth in Jesus:** *This, then is what I pray, kneeling before the Father. Out of his infinite glory, may he give you the power through his Spirit for your hidden self to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled with the utter fullness of God.* [Ephesians]

This is just a taste of the richness of prayer and teaching on prayer to be found in Paul's letters. *Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

### ***Closing of The Year of St Paul***

You are warmly invited to our celebration to mark the end of the **Year of St Paul**, tomorrow Monday 29 June. We shall celebrate the 12.15 Mass in the Saint's honour and then have some light refreshments in the priory. It would be great if you could come! *St Paul, pray for us.*

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Let your gentleness be known to all.

The Lord is near. Do not be worried about anything, but in every prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your petitions be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Philippians 4:4-7)

### ***Adoratrice Sisters Celebration***

My thanks and congratulations to the Adoratrice Sisters for the very beautiful Mass and celebration they organised for last Saturday, their Golden Jubilee of residence in London. It was great to see so many people present – thank you all for coming and for all your support. A special thanks to Daniela and the choir who, as usual, were excellent. Thanks also to the altar servers, readers and all who partook in special ways in the ceremony. The total collected for the **Rahab Project** was **£1,324.53** – thank you all for your generosity. *Fr Matt*

### ***Catechism Parents and Children***

After the 10 o'clock Mass this morning Fr Iain and Catechists will meet Catechism Parents and children for the Presentation of their Certificates for the completion of this Catechism Year. This will take place in the Refectory.

### ***Bright Lights Festival***

*Brightlights*, the annual festival in the Diocese of Westminster, bringing together hundreds of young adults for quality music, inspirational speakers and opportunities for worship, will take place at St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, Hendon from Friday 10 – Sunday 12 July. For full details of the programme visit [www.brightlights.org.uk](http://www.brightlights.org.uk)

### ***Notices***

- \* To prepare for the Solemnity of *Our Lady of Mount Carmel* on 16 July, we will have a Triduum in our Church, beginning after the 6.00pm Mass on Monday 13 July. You are all invited to take part.
- \* The next Holy Hour with emphasis on Prayer for the *Gift of Vocations to Religious Life* – guided by *the Message of St Thérèse* – will be on Monday 6 July from 6.30-7.30pm.
- \* Our monthly *Parish Advisory Group* meeting will take place on Sunday next 5 July at 7.00pm. If you have any items you would like raised at the meeting, please hand them in at Reception, attention Fr Matt.

### ***Peter's Pence Collection***

There will be the customary Collection for **Peter's Pence** after all Masses today, Feast of St Peter & Paul – for the special charities of our Holy Father, the Pope.