

# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

## Parish Newsletter

Sunday 9 November 2008

### Feasts/Memorials

Nov

Monday	10	St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor
Tuesday	11	St Martin of Tours, Bishop
Wednesday	12	St Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr
Friday	14	All Saints of the Carmelite Order - Feast
Saturday	15	Commemoration of all the Dead of the Carmelite Order

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**Readers required** for certain weekday 12.15pm Masses and also Sunday 8.30am Mass. If you would like to be considered for this very important ministry in the Mass, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554.

### Academic Mass at Westminster Cathedral

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor will celebrate the Academic Mass for Students and Staff of the London Universities, at Westminster Cathedral on Sunday 23 November at 12 Noon, followed by a Reception in the Cathedral Hall. All those involved in the work of the varied institutes of Higher Education in London are warmly invited. For enquiries, contact Chris Castell [chris@universitycatholic.net](mailto:chris@universitycatholic.net)

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:	8am, 12.15pm, 6pm
Saturday Masses:	8am, 12.15pm, 6pm ( <i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i> )
Sunday Masses:	8.30am, 10am, 11am <i>Sung/Latin</i> 12.15pm, 6pm <i>Young Adults Choir</i>
Holy Days:	8am, 12.15pm, 6pm
Bank Holidays:	9am, 12.15pm (no 6pm Mass)
Weekday Confessions:	5.30-5.50pm (Priest on duty except between 12 Noon-3pm)
Saturday Confessions:	10.30-11.45am, 3.30-5.50pm
<b>Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB</b>	
<b>Tel: 020-7937-9866 Fax: 020-7938-1470</b>	
<b>Registered Charity No: 253645.</b>	

### Remembrance Sunday

We welcome you all to our Mass today, **Remembrance Sunday**, as we remember and pray for those who gave their lives in two world wars and in other conflicts of our time. We pray for those who have been bereaved and we pray for peace.

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."*

### Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Today we have a change from our usual Sunday mass cycle and we celebrate the **Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome**, a feast traditionally celebrated, since the 12<sup>th</sup> century, on this day 9 November. This feast commemorates the dedication of the Basilica built by the Emperor Constantine on the Lateran Hill in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. This Basilica is considered to be the Mother Church of Christendom and is the seat of the Pope as Bishop of Rome.

I lived in Rome for three years and I have been back there a number of times since. I have studied and taken a keen interest in the history of early Christianity, especially when I lived and studied in Rome. In addition on numerous occasions I have showed visitors around the sights of Rome. Despite all this I could count on the fingers of one hand the number of times I have been in the Lateran Basilica. This fact keeps nagging and disturbing me as I reflect on what to write for this feast.

So I open the mass book to look at the readings and prayers for today's mass and I find another problem (see pages 116-119 of the parish mass book). Apart from the title given to the feast, there is no further mention of the Lateran Basilica! Among the many questions this raises I will single out two:

1. How important is the basilica Constantine built on the Lateran Hill in Rome to the worldwide Church of today? This is the easy question to answer: *not very much!!* It is a routine visit for pilgrims and tourists; occasionally it hosts liturgies and events of importance to the universal Church and it possesses many objects and records of historic and religious value. However, I guess its symbolic value has got lost somewhere in the midst of time.

2. What is it that we are really celebrating today? This is the difficult question to answer and any attempted answer runs the risk of getting bogged down in history, tradition and complex symbolism. I will pick out three directions to look in trying to understand this feast:
- (i) **God is present in our world.** The scriptures use many means to express the presence of God in our world and among his people - Ark of the Covenant, Tent, Jerusalem, Temple, Holy of Holies etc., places that give people a sense of being physically close to God.
- (ii) **Church as Building:** The New Testament often uses the image of a building to explain what the Church is. For example, in our second reading today, St Paul says to the Christians of Corinth “*You are God’s building*”.
- (iii) **Buildings as symbols of God’s Glory:** Architecture, art, music, ritual, prayers etc. remind us not only of the presence of God among us in this world but also of the heavenly world. For example, in the Preface of our Mass today we hear these words: “*Your house of prayer is also the promise of the Church in heaven. Here your love is always at work, preparing the Church on earth for its heavenly glory*”.
- The Opening Prayer of our Mass tries to pull these three themes together in a rather complex set of wording: *God our Father, from living stones, your chosen people, you built an eternal temple to your glory. Increase the spiritual gifts you have given to your Church so that your faithful people may continue to grow into the new and eternal Jerusalem.*

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

### November Dead List

A Mass will be said in this Church 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.

### Musicians Needed

Our **10am Sunday Choir** invites anyone with a talent for music (singing or playing a musical instrument - guitar, violin etc) to join them during the 10am Mass on Sundays. Please call Chelo on 07515-491407.

We thank you all for your generous contributions towards the collection for **Sick & Retired Clergy** last week-end. The amount collected was **£1,635.25**

### Children’s ‘All Saints’ Party

Our ‘**All Saints**’ Party on Monday last was a huge success. Congratulations to all the children (and parents!) who came dressed as saints. These included: Saints Bernadette (x2), Genevieve, Clare, Catherine Labouré (x2), Helen (x2), George (x3), Bd Eloise, St Isabel, Irene, Luke, Lucy, Gabriel, Peter, Blondine, Louis, Martha, Matthew, David, Joseph, Bd Mother Teresa, St Kateri Tekakwitha, and Our Lady. *Wonderful !* Fr Iain

### Young Children at The Carmelites

*Dear Friends* - Once a month on a Sunday afternoon during winter, there will be a children’s film showing at the Carmelite Priory. The first one will be today Sunday at 3.30pm, and the film will be ‘**Finding Nemo**’. The following one will be on 7 December, during our *Children’s Christmas Party* - either ‘**Mickey’s Christmas Carol**’ or ‘**101 Dalmatians**’. The idea is to give children and parents one more nice thing to do together during the beautiful British winter! *Parents* - you might like to see if it is the kind of film your child would like, and if so, just come along. Many thanks to Luciana and Rob for organising this [ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk)  
(PRS – Church Licence No: 1206400) (Fr Iain)

### Christmas Cards

On Tuesday next 11 November we will have a coffee morning in the Priory from 10.45am-12 Noon when we will have **Christmas Cards** for sale in aid of the *Catholic Children’s Society*. And they will also be available at our *Parish Gathering* on Sunday next, 16 November. So, a good opportunity to purchase quality cards and support the CCS who do such excellent work with needy children.

### Notices

- \* **Prisoners’ Week** takes place from 9-15 November, and Sunday next will be *A Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their dependants*.
- \* There will be a **Readers’ Meeting** in the Priory, chaired by Fr Michael, on Sunday 30 November at 4.00pm. ‘*Understanding the Lectionary*’ will be the main topic. All readers are invited to attend.

Readings at all Masses today will be those of the **Solemnity of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** – to be found on Pages 116-118 in our Parish Mass Books. (The 11am Mass will be a **Requiem Mass** for all who died in two World Wars and other conflicts of our time).