

### Feasts/Memorials

#### Nov

Monday	17	St Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
Tuesday	18	Dedication of the Basilicas of SS Peter & Paul
Wednesday	19	St Raphael Kalinowski, Priest, Carmelite
Friday	21	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday	22	St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr

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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.

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### 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 next 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)

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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:	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

**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 16 November 2008 – Thirty Third Sunday  
of the Year

### *The Perfect Wife*

In our modern enlightened world our first reading today will seem dated, patronising and not politically correct. It comes from very different times and culture and its way of expression is very foreign to us. [*The Book of Proverbs* contains various collections of teachings and sayings; some were compiled during the reign of Solomon (961-921BC), others during the reign of Hezekiah (700BC approx), and others that cannot be dated. The collection contain wisdom drawn from much older sources both Jewish and non-Jewish].

However, let us look a bit more closely at what is being said. This is ancient wisdom gathered together by a man for men to help them live their married lives well or, to put it differently, to help them live their married lives as God intends them to live. We can look at what is being said here under four headings:

**Relationship:** *'Her husband's heart has confidence in her; from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she will bring him all the days of her life'*. What is being emphasised here is the depth of relationship – union of hearts and minds. Husband must listen to his wife, open his heart to her and trust her [it is assumed that wife listens and trusts husband and so is not stated!]. In a society where marriage was seen as an economic contract, where women had very limited legal rights and the wife was the husband's chattel, this is very radical thinking.

**Work:** The woman works with enthusiasm and skill and that fact is acknowledged and praised. What is most radical here is the last sentence: *'Give her a share in what her hands have worked for and let her works tell her praises at the city gates'*. In other words the woman must be paid a fair and just wage for her work and her work must be acknowledged in public.

**Charity:** *'She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy'*. Here we come to a whole other set of feminine skills: caring for the sick, elderly, needy, etc. To which we can add the nurture and education of children. In every age and culture these have been left principally to women. This text of scripture is putting the caring, nurturing and charitable gifts of women on an equal level with the more "professional" gifts.

**Wisdom:** ‘*The woman who is wise is the one to praise*’ In the bible, wisdom is God’s greatest gift, in fact it is more than a gift, it is the very presence and voice of God in human beings. Wisdom is normally associated with kings, priests and prophets. Here a woman who fulfils her vocation to be a wife is seen as a person of wisdom. She is the presence of God and the voice of God for her husband, family and all who come into contact with her. The person of wisdom in the scripture must be listened to as one would listen to God. Therefore husband must listen to his wife as he would to God.

This is very close to our understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church: husband and wife give the sacrament to each other, are the source and channel of God to each other and through listening and sharing they communicate holiness, life and wisdom.

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

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### **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 are available at the back of the Church.

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### **‘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 28 November from 10.00am – 6.30pm. The day will begin at 10.00am 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.

### **Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea**

#### **Mayor’s Charity Christmas Carols**

On Monday 15 December at 7.00pm here in our Carmelite Church we will have the **Mayor’s Charity Christmas Carols**, followed by wine and mince pies in the Mayor’s Parlour at the Town Hall, Hornton Street. The carol singers will be accompanied on the organ by our Choir Master & Director of Music, Bruce Ogston. Celebrity readers include: Betty Boothroyd, Joanna David, Sebastian Faulks, Diana Rigg and other well-known speakers. Ticket prices are £20, and all proceeds go to **The Multiple Sclerosis Trust**. All are welcome. Details of how to apply for tickets are available on special leaflets at the back of the Church. Please take one. You may also email your request for ticket forms to: [mayor@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@rbkc.gov.uk) Tel: 020-7361-2431

### ***Mind the Gap - Four Stops in Advent***

A series of four Advent Talks for young adults (17-30) - under the heading ‘**Mind the Gap -Four Stops in Advent**’ - will take place at Corpus Christi Church, Maiden Lane, starting on Tuesday 25 November. The first talk will be given by **Fr Iain Matthew OCD** - talk entitled ‘*Let nothing frighten you – A Carmelite Perspective*’. The remaining three ‘stops’ will follow on consecutive Tuesdays - see poster on our Church notice-board for details of speakers etc. Start time: 7.00pm (refreshments 6.30pm).

### ***The New Parish Winter Cinema for Children***

Our monthly film show for children started on Sunday last with the film ‘*Finding Nemo*’. It was great to see so many children present. Thank you all for coming ! The next one will be on Sunday 7 December. All children who come to our Church are warmly invited. (Fr Iain)

### ***Parish Gathering/Sale of Christmas Cards***

We will have our **Parish Gathering** this morning after the 10 o’clock Mass when you are all invited downstairs for tea and to meet your friends. There will be **Christmas Cards** for sale in aid of the *Catholic Children’s Society* – a good opportunity to purchase quality cards at reasonable prices and at the same time support the CCS who do such excellent work with needy children.

### ***Prisoners’ Sunday***

Today is a **Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependants**. We pray for the men, women and teenagers held in our prisons today. We pray also for prisoners’ families, their mothers, fathers, children, wives and husbands, that they may be given the strength to deal with the stigma and pain of separation.

### ***The Cardinal’s Advent Lecture***

*The Cardinal’s Advent Lecture* will be given by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor at Westminster Cathedral on Monday 1 December at 7.00pm. This is a public lecture to which all are welcome. For queries, email: [lectures2008@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:lectures2008@rcdow.org.uk)

Sunday next 23 November, *Feast of Christ the King*, is **National Youth Day**. There will be a special collection after all Masses for the Catholic Youth Service.