

Feasts/Memorial

Dec

Wednesday	3	St Francis Xavier, Priest Migrants' Day
Thursday	4	St John Damascene, Priest & Doctor
Saturday	6	St Nicholas, Bishop

The Passage

A Night Under the Stars – the annual fundraising event in aid of The Passage, will take place at the Royal Festival Hall on Tuesday next 2 December at 7.30pm. This year the theme of the concert is “Rising Stars” and will feature some well known young musicians along with well established stars such as Sir Roger Moore, Aled Jones and Gloria Hunniford. HRH Princess Michael of Kent is guest of honour. Tickets from £10-£50. To book, email: tickets@passage.org.uk Tel: 020-7592-1856.

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

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 30 November 2008 – First Sunday of Advent

Prophet Isaiah

Today we begin the **Season of Advent** and our first reading is from the prophet Isaiah. Apart from the Gospels and Psalms, more of our Sunday Mass readings come from Isaiah than from any other book of the bible (in fact its nearest rival is a long way behind!). There is a variety of reasons why Isaiah is chosen so often but the most important is Isaiah's influence on Christian thinking and particularly the influence of this book on our understanding of who Jesus is.

Let us illustrate this with two examples: At Christmas we hear of Jesus as **Emmanuel** (meaning ‘*God with us*’) and in Holy Week we hear of Jesus as the **Suffering Servant** – these two very important understandings of the identity of Jesus come from Isaiah. From the book of Isaiah we learn a little of who Isaiah was: He was called to be a prophet “in the year King Uzziah died” 742BC. He is married to a woman who is designated as a prophetess and has two sons. He exercised his prophetic ministry in and around Jerusalem and from his writing style and other evidence it would appear that he was highly educated and from the upper classes. The main political power in the region was Assyria, and Isaiah ministered in a period when Assyria was threatening and taking over control of its neighbours.

Isaiah's ministry probably ended around 701BC when King Hezekiah, whom Isaiah strongly opposed, led a disastrous revolt against Assyria, resulting in humiliating defeat and economic ruin.

The book of Isaiah as we have it in the bible is a rather complex book written over almost three centuries. What Isaiah himself wrote is found in the first 39 chapters and the rest is written by later authors, some (chapters 40-55) during the period of exile in Babylon and some later again when the exiles have returned to Judah.

Isaiah contains some of the most beautiful and profound writing in scripture and has some of the bible's finest poetry. It is difficult to summarise the teaching of Isaiah but the following points are to be noted:

- * There is one God and he is the ruler of all.
- * All earthly power is vastly inferior.
- * The people of God have cut themselves off from God by sin.
- * Pride is the greatest of all sin.
- * God wants his people to repent and open their hearts to him.

- * God is faithful to his people and will not let them down.
- * The people must put total trust in God.
- * The people's future destiny is in God's hands and God is already preparing that future.

We see most of these themes and much more woven together in our extract today. As we go through Advent and into Christmas, Isaiah will challenge us, guide us and inspire us to prepare more fully for the coming of the Messiah.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Our Repository

Please note our Repository at the back 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.

(Regrettably the '*Westminster Year Book 2009*' will not be available for about three weeks, due to despatch problems at the printers).

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 Tel: 020-7361-2431

Mind the Gap - Four Stops in Advent

The second in the 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, on Tuesday next 2 December - talk entitled '*Journeying Together – A Focolare Perspective*', given by Noreen Lockhart. See poster on our Church notice-board for details. Start time: 7.00pm (refreshments 6.30pm).

We thank you for your contributions to the collection for *the Catholic Youth Service* last week-end. The total collected was **£621.35**.

Carmelite Carol Service

Members of our Sunday evening choir are organising a **Carol Service** in aid of the *Catholic Children's Society*, to take place after the 6.00pm Mass on **Sunday next, 7 December**. Do please come along and support them. A collection will be taken up for the CCS. After the Carol Service there will be drinks and refreshments and an opportunity to meet and socialise.

Christmas Celebration for Children

Our annual **Christmas Celebration for Children** will take place in the Priory on Saturday next 6 December, starting at 3.30pm with our second Winter Cinema showing - the film will be '**101 Dalmatians**'. After that there will be some activities celebrating the **Birth of Jesus**, followed by Games and Music. Please bring along a snack to share. All children who come to our Church are warmly invited. (Please note the change of date – it will take place on Saturday next – not Sunday!).

Young Adults Monday Group

Our Monday Group have now very successfully completed the 6-week season of *Meditations and Reflections on the life and ministry of St Paul*, following the programme '**Appointed by God**'. Commencing tomorrow Monday 1 December, they will begin a journey through Advent concentrating on the weekly Gospels. On the following Monday, 8 December, Fr Matt will give a talk on the significance of Mark's Gospels. All young adults who come to our Church are very welcome to attend. 7.30pm in the Parish Centre – entrance via Pitt Street.

Notices

- * We will have the *Brown Scapular Devotions to Our Lady of Mount Carmel* after the 6.00pm Mass on Saturday next. All are invited to stay on after the Mass for the Rosary and special prayers.
- * Our monthly *Parish Advisory Group Meeting* will take place this evening at 7.00pm in the Priory.
- * Will all Readers please collect their Rota for *Advent and Christmas* from our Reception Desk today.

Today, **First Sunday of Advent**, we begin **Year B** in the Lectionary for Sundays and Feasts; and for weekdays until Christmas we follow the Advent daily readings.