

<u>January</u>		<i>Feasts/Memorial</i>
Wednesday	7	St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
Thursday	8	St Peter Thomas, Bishop, Carmelite
Friday	9	St Andrew Corsini, Bishop, Carmelite
Sunday	11	Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord

Mount Carmel: A Review of the Spiritual Life

Please note that the Spring edition of **Mount Carmel** – “*Pillars of Carmel: Teresa & John*” is now available from Reception – price £2.50. This issue contains a wealth of articles on *St John of the Cross* and *Teresa of Avila*, by some well known writers - an excellent and spiritually uplifting read.

The Westminster Year Book 2009

The 2009 edition of the *Westminster Year Book*, the official Directory of the Diocese of Westminster, is now available from our Repository, price £4.00 (£5.00 ring bound). This Year Book contains listings for all parishes and schools in the Diocese, plus the Liturgical Calendar for the year. It is an invaluable reference book for every Catholic household.

Visiting the Sick

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

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OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 4 January 2009

The Epiphany of the Lord

Today we are told of “*wise men*” coming from the “*East*” to see Jesus. Who were these people? Scholars, explorers, scientists, religious leaders, elders of some distant tribe??? We do not know, there is a certain mystery about these visitors. Perhaps we are not meant to know, we can draw our own conclusions.

What we do know is that these people came from a distant land and are not Jewish, therefore they do not know the scriptures and are unfamiliar with the religion, culture and traditions Jesus is born into. This means these “*wise men*” have quite a lot in common with all of us. These are people of learning, people searching for truth and meaning, people who are prepared to take risks and go any distance necessary in order to discover and learn. These people value knowledge, education and new discovery.

One could argue that with the visit of the “*wise men*” there begins what will become a very important tradition in the Church: learning, research, exploration, scientific study [for example, almost all the great universities of Europe began either as monasteries or theological colleges]. The search for God and the search for the truth about all he created are one and the same work. The “*wise men*” understood this and that is why their search led them to the stable in Bethlehem. They fall on their knees and do homage before the child “*through whom all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him* [words of John’s Gospel].

So the “*wise men*” see that everything they study, research, explore and wonder about has been created by this child and could not stay in existence one moment without His sustaining power. The “*wise men*” know something else also and once more we will let John’s Gospel express it for us: “*All that came to be had life in him, and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower*”. Put simply, this means we need Jesus in order to discover truth and in order not to be deceived – Jesus is the light that guides humanity in its search for the truths, mysteries and treasures hidden in his creation. The “*wise men*” represent all human beings who are genuinely searching for truth, meaning and knowledge. Their search led them to the source of truth itself. All that scientists, researchers, explorers and scholars discover has been designed and created by God and the end point of their journey is

God Himself. The well known words of St Edith Stein put this very well for us: “*God is truth. Those who seek truth, seek God, whether they know it or not*”.

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We give thanks to the Lord for the year that has just ended, we look back with gratitude at all the graces, blessings and strength He gave us. We pray for forgiveness of the sins of the past year and healing of all the year's wounds.

May God in his mercy give us a peaceful, joyful and blessed 2009. We pray for the strength, courage and hope to serve God better in the coming year. We pray for World Leaders, the Church and all people, may the human race be open to the inspiration, guidance and light of the Holy Spirit at this turning point in human history.

Fr Matt Blake

Fr Livinus Donohoe OCD

Fr Livinus of our Order died in Oxford on 31 December. Those of you who had been on retreat at Boars Hill, Oxford, would have known Fr Livinus well. He had just celebrated his 90th birthday. *May he rest in peace.*

The Gospel of St Mark

We will be hearing the **Gospel of St Mark** at most of our Sunday masses during the coming year. To help introduce us to this Gospel, **Fr Matt** will lead four sessions in the Priory, all on Tuesday evenings at 7.30-8.30pm. The first session will take place this coming Tuesday 6 January, followed by three consecutive Tuesdays, 13, 20 & 27 January. All are welcome.

Feast of Santo Niño

The Santa Niño Group of the Carmelite Church, Kensington, invites you all to a Concelebrated Mass in celebration of the **Feast of the Santo Niño** (Divine Infant of Prague) on **Sunday 25 January at 2.00pm** in this Church. There will be a reception in the Parish Centre after the Mass.

Society of the Holy Child Jesus

January 15th 2009 marks the 200th Anniversary of the birth of **Cornelia Connelly**, who founded the **Society of the Holy Child Jesus**. In the year ahead we would like to join with the Society, whose Sisters come to our Church, in giving thanks to God for Cornelia Connelly's life and work.

Thank you

I would like to thank all who were here for our services over Christmas, and a special thanks to all who contributed in any way to making them such a success. A very warm welcome back to those who celebrated Christmas in other parts of the world.

And on behalf of the Community I would like to offer sincere thanks for your greetings, gifts and prayers. *May you all have a blessed and happy New Year.*

Fr Matt

Parish Information Sessions

We welcome everybody to our **Parish Information Sessions**. Particularly welcome are new parishioners, people who wish to know more about the Carmelite Church and those who would like to be more involved. There will be introductions, sharing of information and an opportunity to ask any questions you may wish to ask. The first Session is on Sunday 18 January at 11.00am (after the 10.00am Mass). The next one is on Sunday 25 January at 7.00pm (after the 6.00pm Mass).

Notices

- * *Parish Winter Cinema for Children* - today at 3.30pm all children are welcome to see the film ‘*Ratatouille*’. No need to book, just come along, accompanied by an adult.
- * Our *Young Adults Monday Group* resumes tomorrow, Monday 5 January, at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All young adults (18-30sh) who come to our Church are warmly invited to come along.
- * Our *Babies and Toddlers playgroup* resumes on Friday next 9 January, 3.45-5.15pm in the Parish Centre. All regular children are welcome back and new children are also very welcome. Contact: Segolene on 020-3062-2978.
- * *First Holy Communion* and *Children's Catechism* classes will recommence on Sunday next 11 January after the 10am Mass.

Our Crib

As is customary, each year donations placed in the box by the Crib go to a particular charity. Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor has stipulated that this year the ***The Catholic Children's Society*** shall be the beneficiary.