

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

5 October 2008 – Twenty Seventh Sunday of the Year

Feasts/Memorials

Monday	6	St Bruno, Priest
Tuesday	7	Our Lady of the Rosary
Thursday	9	SS Denis, Bishop, & Companions, Martyrs/ St John Leonardi, Priest
Friday	10	St Paulinus of York, Bishop

The Passage

The annual meeting of friends and supporters of The Passage will take place in Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, SW1, on Tuesday 14 October at 6.45pm. There will be an update on the work of The Passage with homeless people over the last year. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. All welcome.

There will be a **Readers' Meeting** in the Priory, chaired by Fr Michael, on Sunday 19 October at 4.00pm. '*Understanding the Lectionary*' will be the main topic. All readers are invited to attend.

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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The Vineyard of the Lord

Vineyards, vines, vineyard workers, wine, etc. feature very frequently in the scriptures. All the events of scripture take place in a winemaking part of the world. It would be impossible to count all the stories – this for example is the third Sunday in a row that the Gospel has a story about a vineyard. To these we could add the story of the *Wedding at Cana* in Galilee with its vast quantity of wine or Jesus' teaching about the vine and the branches, or the most important of all *The Last Supper* with the wine becoming the blood of Christ. These are just a few of the Gospel stories, there are many others and we have not gone near the Old Testament. '*Wine making in the scriptures*' might be a good title for a book!

We see in our first reading from the prophet *Isaiah* that the vineyard is a symbol of Israel, our psalm continues with the same theme and it is clear that Jesus is referring to this in the Gospel. That is why today's parable is considered the most provocative of all Jesus' parables and some scholars believe that this is the story that sealed Jesus' fate. Jesus is already in Jerusalem, the triumphal entry of Palm Sunday has already taken place and everything is building up to his death. Interestingly Jesus' quote '*It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see*' is from the same psalm 118 that the people were chanting as he entered Jerusalem: '*Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord*'. This parable is addressed to the chief priests and elders of Israel, and the next line of Matthew's Gospel reads: '*When they heard this, the chief priests and the scribes realised he was speaking about them, but though they would like to arrest him they were afraid of the crowds, who looked on him as a prophet.*'

Stories about vineyards, wine and winemaking are on a completely different level to stories about agriculture in general and other parables. Wine is the symbol of God, God's generosity and the life that God gives – therefore it is the liquid through which Jesus reveals his glory at Cana and the drink that becomes the blood of Jesus. The vineyard, as we have already seen, is the symbol of Israel and any story about vineyards will be understood by his hearers in this way.

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The owner of a vineyard is someone specially favoured by God and this special gift brings with it responsibility and expectations. The final lines of our first reading sum up what God expects of workers in his vineyard – *He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress*. Justice and integrity are God's expectation of us also in whatever "vineyard" we are asked to work.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

After Parliament resumes on 6 October, the House of Commons will be debating the final stages of the *Human Fertilisation & Embryology Bill*. The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued a leaflet offering guidance on the issues and what you can do. This leaflet is being distributed in all Churches throughout the country this week-end, and you are all invited to take a copy from the back of the Church as you leave after Mass today.

Mass for the Sick and Elderly

Our next Mass for the sick and elderly will be at **12.15pm on Saturday 18 October**. The Sacrament of the Sick will be given during this Mass. Please pass the word on to all who are ill or elderly. (During the Mass, Bruce, our Choir Master, will be treating us to some beautiful organ music).

Mass Count

Each year for four Sundays of October we are asked by the diocese to count those who are at Mass. So if you see someone walking around the Church with a counter in his or her hand, do not worry, nothing suspicious is going on!

Beginning Experience

The Beginning Experience are holding a weekend for those who find themselves alone again through divorce, separation or bereavement. This will take place from 5th – 7th December 2008, at Aylesford Priory, Kent. For details telephone Mary on 01296-487634.

Confirmation

Young people aged 13 years and over who wish to be prepared to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** next year are asked to complete and return their application forms to Fr Iain without delay.

Carmelite Youth Day – Saturday 11 October 2008

On Saturday next 11 October, we will celebrate our **Carmelite Youth Day** here in this Church. This is a day for the youth of our parish and other parishes in the Diocese to come together in prayer. Our inspiration this year will be the Carmelite, **St Edith Stein**, Patroness of Europe and Patroness of World Youth Day. The programme for the day will be as follows:

- 12.15pm Special Mass of St Edith Stein (everyone welcome)
- 1.15-4.00pm Prayer, Talks, Reflections, Sharing, Refreshments etc.
for our Young People.
An opportunity to get to know Edith Stein better and to learn more about World Youth Day.
- 4.00-5.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church and concluding liturgy (everyone welcome).

Please invite all the young people you possibly can, and please support the day by your presence, especially at the Mass and the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. And above all, please pray for the success of this day.

An Invitation to join the Carmelite Choir 10am Sunday Mass

To our friends and parishioners who have a talent or interest in music (singing or playing a musical instrument such as guitar or piano, or even without but willing to serve the Church through choir singing, we invite you to join us during the 10am Mass on Sunday or for our practice session in the Basement, which runs from 11.15am to 12.30 every Sunday. For further details, please call: 07515-491407. We look forward to hearing from you.

Social Gathering for Newly-weds

On Tuesday next 7 October at 7.45pm, here at the Priory, newly-weds and young marrieds will come together to meet, have coffee, and get some input and talk together about it. Welcome ! (For more information, contact Luciana De Fazio at ludéfazio@yahoo.co.uk)

Harvest Fast Day for CAFOD

Friday last was **Harvest Fast Day** and today Sunday your fast day offerings for **CAFOD** will be collected after all Masses. Your generosity towards this very worthy cause will be greatly appreciated.