

Feasts/Memorials

June

Monday	1	- St Justin, Martyr
Tuesday	2	- SS Marcellinus & Peter, Martyrs
Wednesday	3	- SS Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs
Friday	5	- St Boniface, Bishop & Martyr

Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2009

The Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place this year from 25 July – 1 August. The cost is £690. Further details can be obtained from Fr Michael Dunne at Clergy House, Westminster Cathedral, on 020-7931-6041.

Readers Required

We need some more Readers for certain 12.15pm and 6.00pm Weekday Masses. If you would like to be considered for this very important ministry in the Mass, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554.

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:	8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Saturday Masses:	8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (<i>Vigil for Sunday</i>)
Sunday Masses:	8.30am, 10.00am <i>Sung</i> , 11.00am <i>Sung/Latin</i> 12.15pm, 6.00pm <i>Young Adults Choir</i>
Holy Days:	8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Bank Holidays:	9am, 12.15pm (no 6.00pm Mass)
Weekday Confessions:	5.30-5.50pm (Priest on duty except between 12 Noon-3.00pm)
Saturday Confessions:	10.30-11.45am, 3.30-5.50pm

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Registered Charity No: 253645.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 31 May 2009 – Pentecost Sunday

Feast of Pentecost

“Each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished.... We hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God”. What was this experience like? Have you ever had this experience? It is not about whether the words spoken are English, Russian, French or Sanskrit, rather it is about how they are heard and understood. When we read or listen to the scriptures, when we listen to preaching or teaching about our faith, we usually hear it as if it is a foreign language, rarely does it speak to us in our inner thinking and understanding.

If we are truthful we must admit that we prefer it like this. We like our religion to be comforting, inspiring, safe and unthreatening. That is not how it is when the **Holy Spirit** speaks. Religion is not meant to be just comforting and inspiring (though there is nothing wrong with that), its real purpose is to change us. When the Holy Spirit is really heard “in our own language” then we have to change, we cannot not change, the energy and compulsion to change is just too strong to resist!

If we had read on a little further in the Acts of the Apostles, we would see this happening – repentance, forgiveness of sin, baptism, 3,000 baptisms that very day. All those people from many races cultures and languages were never the same again, their lives are changed forever. They hear the word of God in their minds, hearts, experience, culture and language. The word of God is no longer “foreign” but near, personal, intimate, real, powerful and life changing.

Let us listen to St Paul in our second reading today: *“If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence”.* In the rest of the passage Paul spells this out for us, he demonstrates the kind of change of life the Spirit brings about. If there is even a hint of the old life, then we are not living by the Spirit. If there is any self-indulgence in our attitudes, outlooks, speech, decisions, life styles, religious practice etc., then we are not yet hearing the Holy Spirit “in our own language”, there is still more to be done. Paul goes on to outline what the Church has come to call the “fruits of the Holy Spirit”. These are the characteristics of a person who is living by the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. It takes a lot

of sacrifice, repentance, pain, self-giving, facing of truth, prayer, listening, etc. to reach this. This is what our Christian faith calls us to, this is what living by the Holy Spirit means and it is the place to which those who hear the word of God “in their own language” feel compelled to go.

This is the **Feast of Pentecost** which we celebrate today, it is the most challenging and personally demanding of all the feasts of Christianity. It is also the most fundamental feast of Christianity; we miss the whole point of Jesus Christ if we turn a blind eye to what this feast is telling us.

If we are in any doubt, let us listen to the meaning and consequence of Paul’s final words: “*Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit*”. This is a choice between life and death, we are alive when we choose to live by the Spirit, we are dead when we do not. Christianity gives us the greatest of all freedoms – the freedom to choose life or death. All self-indulgence is a choice for death. We know we have made the right choices when the “fruits” listed above are evident in our lives.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

The Spirit

“The Spirit comes gently and makes Himself known by His fragrance. He is not felt as a burden for He is light, very light. Rays of light and knowledge stream before Him as He approaches. The Spirit comes with the tenderness of a true friend to save, to heal, to teach, to counsel, to strengthen and to console. The Spirit comes to enlighten the mind first of the one who receives Him, and then, through Him, the minds of others as well”.

St Cyril

Adoratrices, Handmaids of the Blessed Sacrament and of Charity - 50th Anniversary (1959-2009)

On Saturday 20 June our 6.00pm Mass will be a **Thanksgiving Eucharist** celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Faustino Sainz Muñoz, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Adoratrices, Handmaids of the Blessed Sacrament and of Charity, based in Kensington Square. You are all invited to be present at this Mass.

World Communications Day

We thank you for your contributions to the collection for Catholic Communications on Sunday last. The amount collected was **£723.28**.

Children’s First Holy Communion

On Sunday 14 June, Feast of Corpus Christi, at the 10 o’clock Mass, 30 young children from this Parish will receive First Holy Communion. Their names are:-

Angela	Anna	Anton	Antonietta	Bijan	Cara
Cecilia	Dexter	Edoardo,	Edoardo	Elighene	Ella
Emma	Eugenia	Félicie	Frances	Gaia	Hadrien
Lucien	Maximilian	Miguel	Oliver	Saverio	Timothée
Tommy	Trinity	Trixcel	Victoire	Zara	Ben

You are all invited to be present at the Mass and to pray for these children on this special day in their lives, and also their Catechists.

Spirit in the City Festival

Catholic Faith Celebration in the Heart of London from Thursday 11 – Saturday 13 June, with Masses and Ceremonies taking place in four West End Churches: St Patrick’s Soho Square; Warwick Street Church; Corpus Christi Church, Maiden Lane, and Notre Dame de France, Leicester Place. The Celebration will end on Saturday 13 June with a Festival of live music on stage, plus prayer and reconciliation tents etc. in Leicester Square from 11.30am-8.00pm. For full details of times of all these events, visit www.spiritinthecity.org or contact: 020-7025-1596.

Notices

- * Please note the next **Holy Hour** with emphasis on *Prayer for the Gift of Vocations* will be on Monday 8 June from 6.30-7.30pm.
- * Our *Parish Advisory Group* meeting will take place this evening at 7.00pm, immediately after the 6.00pm Mass.
- * We will have the *Brown Scapular Devotions to Our Lady of Mount Carmel* on Saturday next 6 June after the 6.00pm Mass. All are invited.

June Solemnities

Sunday next, 7 June, is the *Feast of The Most Holy Trinity*, and Sunday 14 June *Feast of Corpus Christi, Most Holy Body & Blood of the Lord*, and on Sunday 28 June we celebrate the *Feast of SS Peter & Paul*.

Weekday Readings

Starting from tomorrow Monday 1 June, **Weekday Readings** at Mass will be taken from **Year 1** in the Lectionary, beginning with **Week 9**. Will readers please note.