

### *Feasts/Memorials*

#### July

Tuesday	20 - St Elijah, Prophet, Carmelite - Feast
Wednesday	21 - St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor
Thursday	22 - St Mary Magdalen
Friday	23 - St Bridget of Sweden, Religious, Patron of Europe
Saturday	24 - St Charbel Makhluf, Priest (Lebanon)

#### **Parish Pilgrimage to Rome, October 2011**

**Parish Pilgrimage to Rome from Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2011.** This Pilgrimage will be led by Fr Matt Blake and the cost is **£769**, with £28.50 extra per person for Insurance (if required). Also single room supplement is £96 per person for the 6 nights (limited availability). The Itinerary and Booking Form are now available from Reception. The Booking Form should be completed and returned to Pax Travel Ltd, 152-156 Kentish Town Road, London, NW1 9QB. A deposit of £120, plus the Insurance Premium (if required) should be sent with your booking. These prices are guaranteed until 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010. Any bookings received after this date may be subject to a flight surcharge. Please **do not** return booking forms to the Carmelite Church.

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 <b><i>Sung</i></b> , 11.00am <b><i>Latin Choir</i></b> 12.15pm, 6.00pm <b><i>Young Adults Choir</i></b>
Holy Day Masses	8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Bank Holiday Masses:	9.00am, 12.15pm (no 6.00pm Mass)
Weekday Confessions:	5.30-5.50pm - Priest on duty except 12 Noon-3pm
Saturday Confessions:	10.30-11.45am, 3.30-5.50pm

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays from 6.30-8.00pm**

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**Registered Charity No: 253645**

Our Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: [www.carmelitechurch.org](http://www.carmelitechurch.org)

Our Lady OF MOUNT CARMEL

### **Parish Newsletter**

Sunday 18 July 2010 - Sixteenth Sunday of the Year

## **Abraham – at the Oak of Mamre**

Abraham lived some time in the period 2000-1500 BC. The Book of Genesis gives us extensive accounts of his life, his family and his travels. Abraham's journey takes him from Ur of the Chaldeans, which was in Mesopotamia [modern Iraq], in a north-west direction to Haran [modern Syria]. Then after many years he travels south to Canaan, then to the Negev and from there to Egypt. Later he returns from Egypt and settles at Hebron where he dies and is buried. Today's episode takes place at the Oak of Mamre which is near Hebron.

This travel may seem unusual to us but the route taken is linked by historians with the migrations of the Amorrite tribes throughout the course of the second Millennium BC. The story of Abraham is the story of God entering the lives of these nomadic peoples. The bible beautifully tells us that Abraham travelled "at the pace of his flocks". For nomadic peoples and for those who lived in the desert, hospitality was a particularly prized virtue. In today's first reading we are invited to experience the hospitality of an ancient nomadic people.

The scriptures beautifully weave the story of God into the story of the everyday lives of these people. God is the great respecter of people's customs, tradition and lifestyles. God is part of the people's culture and they understand him in the context of their own traditions and beliefs. The culture and lifestyle may be very different but the reality of God is exactly the same.

Abraham is our "*Father in faith*" and his life experience, and especially his journeys, have come to symbolise the faith of all people. God meets us where we are in life and if we are open to his presence, then we are taken on a great journey. Christians have always seen the three visitors as a symbol of God as Trinity, God coming as human and into the midst of human life is also seen as a prophecy of Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, becoming human.

Another symbolic interpretation of this text is seeing the three visitors as symbols of the three religions that profess the faith of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Abraham is the point of origin and unity of these three religions.

There are many ways we can read and interpret this text but perhaps we need, first and foremost, to see it as a beautiful story of life, culture and faith. We are invited into the lives of Abraham and Sarah that we may be given the courage and inspiration to allow God into our lives. There is an “*Oak of Mamre*” in each of our lives – a place where God comes to us and wants to meet us. If, like Abraham and Sarah, we allow Him in and make Him welcome, then great and unexpected things will happen, life will be transformed for ever.

*Fr Matt Blake, Prior*

### ***Papal Visit in September***

An allocation of tickets for **Pope Benedict's Vigil in Hyde Park** on Saturday 18 September, and for the **Beatification of Cardinal Newman at Crofton Park, Birmingham**, on Sunday 19 September, will be given to each parish. At the time of writing, the exact numbers for this parish have not been confirmed – we will know in the next few days.

It is essential that those who would like tickets give us the following information as soon as possible:-

Title, name, surname, address, postcode, home telephone and mobile, plus email. You must **email** these details to: [popecarmelite@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:popecarmelite@yahoo.co.uk)

For security you will be asked to provide details of photo identification – that must be passport or UK driving licence [they are not asking for this immediately but will need to be provided beforehand and taken with you on the day].

**Please note the following:** Tickets are individual and so cannot be transferred to another person. Please be certain you are able to attend before applying. The cost for **Crofton Park, Birmingham**, is **£25**; this includes admission, pilgrim pack and coach travel [you must travel on an approved coach for security reasons]. The cost for **Hyde Park** is **£10**.

The tickets we will be given are for parishioners of this parish only, they will not be given to non-parishioners or members of other organisations or bodies.

*Fr Matt*

### **Hermann Cohen Mass**

Our 11 o'clock Mass today will be the special **Hermann Cohen Mass**, in honour of **Our Lady of Mount Carmel** whose feast we celebrated on Friday last, 16 July.

### ***Day for Life 2010***

Sunday next 25 July is a **Day for Life** in England and Wales. This day was initiated by Pope John Paul II, who wanted to encourage the Catholic Church throughout the world to celebrate the sanctity and dignity of life from conception to its natural end. This year Day for Life aims to present the church's teaching on **death**; it will highlight the importance of the Sacrament of the Sick, of praying for the dead and of accompanying the dying person as they journey towards God. It will also point towards the consoling presence and support of the community of faith. There will be a special collection after all Masses on Sunday next in aid of the *Anscombe Bioethics Centre*. Your kind generosity will be greatly appreciated.

### ***Young Adults, Monday Group***

Our Monday Group will meet tomorrow 19 July at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. The main item on the agenda will be Fr Matt's talk on the *significance of Pope Benedict's visit to the UK in September*. All young people (18-35) who come to our Church are very welcome to attend (entrance to the Parish Centre via Pitt Street). And the following Monday, 26 July, there will be the usual ‘*End of Term*’ prayer of thanksgiving and a party ! Meetings will resume on Monday 6 September.

### ***Notices***

- \* **Catechism, First Communion and Confirmation 2010/2011:**  
Enrolment forms are now available from the back of the Church and also the Reception Desk - please collect and complete them as soon as possible.
- \* The **RCIA** programme will run in the Priory from October 2010 until Easter 2011. For information and to apply, please contact Fr Matt at: [matthewblake@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:matthewblake@rcdow.org.uk)
- \* We will have our *Parish Gathering* after the 10 o'clock Mass this morning, when you are all invited downstairs for tea/coffee and to socialise.
- \* There will be ‘*A Day with Mary*’ in our Church on Saturday 7 August, starting at 10.00 am. All are invited.
- \* We thank you for your contributions to the collection for the **Apostleship of the Sea** on Sunday last. The amount collected was

**£691.12.**