

Feasts/Memorials

September

Wednesday 8 - Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Feast
Thursday 9 - St Peter Claver, Priest

Prayer for the Papal Visit to the UK

16th-19th September 2010

God of truth and love, your Son, Jesus Christ, stands as the light to all who seek you with a sincere heart.

As we strive with your grace to be faithful in word and deed, may we reflect the kindly light of Christ and offer a witness of hope and peace to all.

We pray for Pope Benedict and look forward with joy to his forthcoming visit to our countries.

May he be a witness to the unity and hope which is your will for all people.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Our Lady, Mother of the Church - pray for us.

St Andrew - pray for us.

St George - pray for us.

St David - pray for us.

Weekday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Saturday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (*Vigil for Sunday*)
Sunday Masses: 8.30am, 10.00am **Sung**, 11.00am **Latin Choir**
12.15pm, 6.00pm **Young Adults Choir**
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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Our Carmelite Newsletter on the Web: www.carmelitechurch.org

Our Lady OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 5 September 2010 - 23rd Sunday of the Year

Our Holy Father, the Vicar of Christ

We are only two weeks away from the visit of our **Holy Father Pope Benedict**. So much has been said and written about this visit, and undoubtedly we will be hearing so much more over the next few weeks. Much of what we hear will be comment on the visit from a secular or political viewpoint. Everything the Pope says, does or omits will be scrutinised, analysed, and judged. All of us also have our opinions, preferences and hopes. While all of this is valid and necessary, we believers need to go beyond it and reflect upon what this visit means to us at a deeper level.

The Pope is the **Vicar of Christ**, the visible sign and guarantee of Christ's presence in our world and our Church. For us the visit is, first and foremost, a **Spiritual Experience**. It takes us to a place beyond and above the questions and controversies that occupy everyday life. There has never been a perfect Pope [though some have been less imperfect than others!] but that has never made any of them less the Vicar of Christ. Each Pope is God's choice to be his Vicar on earth for a particular time and situation in human history. Each is part of a story which is much bigger than the individual.

Less than a year ago we all shared in a "spiritual experience" when the Relics of St Thérèse visited our Church. We welcomed people who had not been to Church for many years, some who had never been in a Church, people from other faiths and no faith, people who were disillusioned or angry with the Church and people whose hopes, dreams or wishes had not been fulfilled. There were no barriers or divisions, the **Spirit** broke through every barrier and division and spoke to everyone deep in their hearts.

We are all imperfect Christians, imperfect Catholics. No failures, prejudices, shattered hopes, fears or disappointments can make us less Catholic or lesser members of the Church. Therefore our Pope, our Holy Father, the Vicar that God has chosen for our time in human history, is coming to visit. God is very close to us. Therefore, so many other considerations and worries that occupy and preoccupy us can be left aside for a while. With God so present to us, the most important thing for us to

do is speak with him, open our hearts to him and allow him into those parts of our lives where there is darkness, pain or uncomfortable questions.

Prayer is the priority for us at this time. To help with this, each family or household is today being given a book [please take one at the end of Mass]. Let us try to make the visit, and the time before and after it, a special time of prayer.

Finally, all the comment, analysis, controversy, opposition and publicity around the visit is proof that the **Gospel** is a real, powerful, challenging, inspiring and disturbing presence in our world – if it was not, then this visit would be a “non-event”, not worth even a mention in a newspaper. This is a time to be proud of our calling to be witnesses to the **Gospel**. There has never been a comfortable relationship between the Good News of Jesus Christ and the World. We feel and experience that conflict and pain deep within ourselves and we see it in the world around us. This visit puts the spotlight upon that on-going conflict. We must not be discouraged by anything we hear or experience but let us trust in the power of God and his Spirit which each of us has been given. This is a time to tell everyone about **Jesus Christ**, who He really is and what He means to us.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Preparation for the Papal Visit - 16th-19th September

On Sunday 12th September, the 6.00pm evening Mass will be a special Mass offered for **Pope Benedict and his Visit to us**. The Mass will be followed [from 7.00-8.00pm] by an **Open Forum** led by Mary O'Regan [a parishioner who is a well known writer and journalist] and **Fr Matt**. The Forum will include a short talk on Pope Benedict and his visit, followed by questions and discussion. Everyone welcome and please pass the word around.

Also on Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th September we will have a **Holy Hour** in this Church from 6.30-7.30pm. All are invited.

Fr Matt

Young Adults Monday Group

Our *Monday Group* will meet tomorrow Monday, evening 6th September, at 7.30pm for 8.00pm, in the Parish Centre, following their Summer break. This week the theme for discussion will be **Are You Ready?** when the group will reflect on their experiences over the summer and plan the

autumn schedule. All young people (18-30) who come to our Church are very welcome to join them.

Tickets for Vigil with Pope Benedict at Hyde Park, Saturday 18th September.

In late July this parish was allocated 117 tickets for the **Vigil**. Names and details had to be submitted by 30th July. We submitted **154** names and only this week it was confirmed that all 154 will receive tickets. The list is at the back of the Church and also on the notice-board as you enter the Priory. Please check that your name is on the list.

We have now been invited to apply for extra tickets [though we have not been given a number]. Those who would like tickets, please email your details to popecarmelite@yahoo.co.uk **Title, Name, Surname, Address, Telephone No. and Email.**

We will submit all names we receive before 9.00pm this Sunday 5th September.

Practical Arrangements

Those going to **Birmingham** will receive their instructions directly.

Hyde Park: [Please note these are provisional – we still await some information, see next week's Newsletter for final details].

- * Meet here at the Church at 1.00pm.
- * Everyone will be given a pilgrim's pack, a ticket and an armband. [we are not allowed to give out tickets beforehand].
- * The whole group will walk to Hyde Park together - you will not be admitted if you are not with the group.
- * Please bring photo ID.
- * The **Group Leader** is **Gerard Ring** and he must vouch for each person in the group.

Notices

- * Our **Parish Advisory Group Meeting** will take place this evening at 7.00pm in the Priory.
- * **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** recommenced on Wednesday last, following the August break, and will continue on Wednesdays after the 6.00 o'clock Mass till 8.00pm as usual.

* Sunday next is **Racial Justice Sunday**. There will be a collection after all Masses for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice.