

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 16 October 2011 – 29th Sunday of the Year

A View for the Pew

Homer Simpson, in one episode of *The Simpsons*, is taking a stroll through the clouds with God. In the conversation he asks God what is the meaning of life? God responds “Oh, come on Homer, I cannot answer that. You’ll find out when you die”. Simple Homer responds “I cannot wait that long! God says “You cannot wait six months?” “No” responds the ever-so-simple Homer, oblivious to the revelation! The scene ends with the two of them setting off into the horizon as God opens up and begins to reveal his answer to Homer – but we do not get to hear this secret!

Whatever you may think of this satirical cartoon – which seems to question institutions – the Church included, this episode is interesting to stay with and reflect upon. In a certain sense we understand God’s response to Homer about withholding the meaning of life. But in another sense it does not sit right on our shoulders as Christians. This is because the God we believe in is one who *Reveals*. As the catechism reminds us:

“By his Revelation, “the invisible God, from the fullness of his love, addresses men as friends, and moves among them, in order to invite and receive them into his own company. The adequate response to this invitation is faith...” (142).

Contrary to Homer’s God then, the Christian faith helps us understand that God wants us to know him and live with him in this life; to believe and trust in his revelation-plan. We do not have to wait till we die to find this out, nor to become involved with his friendship. In the Christian God there is no secrecy about our journey, nor our journey’s end. No. There is only depth to charge life with meaning. If there is a secret sensed about God, maybe it is only a depth waiting to be discovered afresh by a simple act of faith. After all, it is not about understanding seeking faith, but faith seeking understanding that describes a Christian’s journey, right?

Fr Anthony Parsons OCD, Prior

October		Feasts/Memorials
Monday	17	St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr
Tuesday	18	St Luke, Evangelist, Feast
Wednesday	19	SS John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues, Priests & Companions, Martyrs;
Saturday	22	Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

November Dead List

The month of November is fast approaching, when a Mass will be said in our Church every day during the month for your departed relatives and friends. Names and donations will be accepted at our Reception Desk as usual. Special forms and envelopes will be available at the back of the Church next week-end.

Readers Required

We need more readers for our **Weekday Masses**, particularly the **12.15pm.** and **6.00pm.** If you would like to be considered for this very important ministry in the Mass, please contact Rita on 020-7727-6554, or leave your details at Reception and we will get back to you.

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 (*with Choir*) 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: Fridays 6.30-7.30pm – for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Profession.

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Taize Reflects

We do not forgive in order to change the other person. That would be a stratagem that has nothing to do with the selfless love found in the Gospel. We forgive on account of Christ. Forgiving means not even seeking to know what the other person will do with that forgiveness.

Musicians needed for a **Taize group**. Contact Fr Tony (Prior) at anthonylparsons@aol.com

‘A Foretaste of Heaven’

Group Reflections on the Eucharist

Twice yearly, Autumn and Spring, we partake in a programme of prayer and renewal organised by the Diocese of Westminster, and we are provided with booklets designed to be used by groups or individuals to enrich our understanding of our Christian faith. This year’s Autumn programme of *Group Reflections on the Eucharist* is entitled “**A Foretaste of Heaven**”, and Session One of the 6-week Programme begins today Sunday. [Booklets are available from the back of the Church – please take one as you leave after Mass]. *Fr Tony Parsons (Prior)*

A Special Invitation to our Adult & Senior Parishioners

On Saturday next, 22 October, all Adult & Senior Parishioners are invited to our **12.15 Mass** which will be followed by **tea and cakes in the Refectory**. Some very willing and helpful students from the LSE are looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible. Do please come along. *Fr Iain*

‘Mount Carmel’ – A Review of the Spiritual Life

The Winter issue of **Mount Carmel – A Review of the Spiritual Life** - is now available from Reception. This one is entitled “*John & Teresa Issue*”, and is an excellent read with in-depth contributions by well-known writers on St John of the Cross, and Teresa of Avila, plus Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity. Price £2.50

1811-1886

This year is the **Bicentenary of the birth of Pianist & Composer, Franz Liszt**, born in Hungary on 22 October 1811. He was a close friend and music teacher of **Fr Hermann Cohen**, founder of our Carmelite Church. Born in Hamburg in 1820, son of a Jewish banker, Hermann’s great musical talent was evident from an early age and when he was 12 years old he began piano lessons with Liszt. This led to a successful musical career as a pianist. However, at the age of 26 Hermann experienced a moment of ‘revelation’ and was baptised a Christian, and three years later was ordained a Priest in the Carmelite Order.

To commemorate the **Bicentenary of Franz Liszt**, we are pleased to announce that on **Sunday next 23 October** our 11 o’clock Latin Choir, conducted by Bruce Ogston, will sing the **Mass composed by Franz Liszt – Missa Choralis**. All are invited.

Young Adults Monday Group

Our Monday Group will meet at 7.30 for 8.00pm in the Parish Centre tomorrow Monday evening for their weekly meeting. Over the next six weeks the Group will be following the Diocese of Westminster’s new Faith Sharing booklet ‘**A Foretaste of Heaven**’, beginning with “*Why go to Mass on Sunday?*”, and reflecting on the importance of Mass and of the Lord’s Day. All young adults (18-35) who come to our Church are very welcome to join them and participate in this 6-week programme. Entrance to the Parish Centre via Pitt St.

World Mission Sunday

Sunday next, 23 October, is **World Mission Sunday**. There will be a special collection after all Masses for the **APF (Overseas Missions)**. By supporting World Mission Sunday you will help millions of people all over the world to receive and share the gift of life and faith.

All are invited to our **Holy Hour** with **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** for *Vocations to the Religious Profession* from 6.30-7.30pm on Friday next 21 October.

♪♪ ***Bicentenary of Franz Liszt*** ♪♪