

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish
Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St.,
London W8 4BB

Second Sunday of Advent – 10 December 2017

Feasts/Memorials

December

Monday 11 - Advent FERIA/St Maria Maravillas of Jesus OCD, Virgin
Tuesday 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe - Memorial
Wednesday 13 – St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
Thursday 14 – **St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor, Carmelite**
Friday 15 - Advent FERIA
Saturday 16 - Advent FERIA
Sunday 17 - Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday

Priests in the Parish: Fr Christopher Clarke ODC (Prior)
Fr John Williamson ODC (Parish Priest)
Fr John McGowan ODC
Fr Paul Vincent ODC
Fr Tijo Xavier ODC

Tel: 020-7937-9866 Internet: www.carmelitechurch.org

Masses & Religious Events:

Weekday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.0pm
Saturday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (*Vigil with Organ/Singer*)
Sunday Masses: 8.30am, 10.00am (with Choir), 11.00am (*Latin Choir*)
12.15pm, 6.00pm (*with Choir*)
Holy Day Masses 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Bank Holiday Masses: 9.00am, 12.15pm (no 6.00pm Mass)
Weekday Confessions: 5.40-6.00pm – Monday-Friday
Saturday Confessions: 10.30-11.30am, 5.00-6.00pm
Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St., London W8 4BB
Tel: 020-7937-9866 **Internet:** www.carmelitechurch.org
Registered Charity No: 253645
You can keep up-to-date with our Choir via www.carmelitechoir.com
Simon Lloyd, Organist & Director of Music, Carmelite Priory, Kensington.

The **Season of Advent** and **Christmas** is a special time in the Church year when we celebrate God’s active presence in the world and in our lives. If we are not sensing the presence of God, maybe our hearts would benefit from some extensive house-cleaning.

The Prophet Isaiah demands that we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord – “*Make straight a highway for our God*”. Don’t put obstacles on God’s path. Fill in the valleys and level the hills. “Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together”.

St Peter (2nd Reading), continuing this theme, urges us to be zealous and repentant as we await the coming of the day of the Lord. If we want the God of love to be close to us, our hearts must be a fit dwelling place ‘without spot or blemish’. St Mark repeats the same in John the Baptist’s prophetic call for repentance.

We might argue that these appeals do not apply to us. We’re not bad people - we would not be listening to the word of the Lord if we were. We try to live decent lives; we do our jobs, and deal with people fairly.

We readily admit that we have our faults, but basically we’re good people trying our best – so we believe our paths are pretty straight. But, are they? We are not necessarily ‘decent’ people because we have no major moral failings. As in an empty house, a fine layer of dust can settle in every nook and cranny of our lives.

The sins of ‘good people’ are dusty kinds of sin – complacency, procrastination, taking people for granted, chronic complaining, envy, and ingratitude, never putting out a hand to help someone in need.

Dust! Soft, fine dust – but it’s on everything. This is a sinful condition that is in need of repentance - a barren desert, a place where the water of charity may have stopped flowing some time ago. And this is the kind of condition that keeps the presence of God remote to our experience.

Make way for the Lord so that he can come more fully into your life. St Paul has a beautiful concluding prayer: ‘May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in our faith, so that in the power of the Holy Spirit we may be rich in hope’.

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**Talk on St Teresa of Avila and her Friendship with
Fr Jerome Gratian**

On Saturday next 16 December there will be a Talk in our Carmelite Priory from **10.30am – 12.30pm**, given by **Fr John McGowan, OCD**, on **St Teresa of Avila and Her Friendship with Fr Jerome Gratian**. Many people know about the great St Teresa but few know of Fr Jerome Gratian, and the huge influence he had on her and the origins of our Order. A fee of £5 entrance is in place to help defray costs. Copies of the book, at a reduced price will be available. Please come early for coffee at 10.30am.

Collection taken up on Sunday 3 December

Plate: £1,706

Gift Aid: £260

Envelopes: £178 :

We appreciate your generosity and are grateful for your support.

Departure of Fr Luke Dominic ODC

As advised in last week's Newsletter, Fr. Luke, who came to the Community two years ago, has completed his studies and will be returning to Nigeria shortly. We are grateful to him for the generous contribution he has made to the parish. There will be an opportunity to say your goodbye at a gathering today Sunday 10th in the Ground Floor Refectory **after the 12.15 Mass**. All are very welcome.

Flowers for the Church for Christmas

Your Donations towards **Flowers** for the Church for Christmas will be greatly appreciated. Kindly place your contribution in an envelope, marked *Flowers for the Church, attention Fr Prior*, and hand it in at Reception. Thank you.

 ***Singers urgently needed for our 6pm Sunday Mass*** 

Good voices, male or female, urgently required for our Choir at our 6pm Sunday Mass, and also with Christmas Carol Services in mind. Please come along and talk to our music conductor Daniela Mirai, on Sunday evening, either before or after the Mass, and she will give you all details. Also you may e-mail her at: danielamirai@hotmail.com

Events in aid of the Community of Sant'Egidio

The Community of Sant'Egidio in London is organising a **Christmas Eve Dinner** in this Parish on **24th December** for people living on the streets, and older friends, to prepare a joyful encounter this Christmas with all those who would otherwise spend the evening alone. If you would like to help out, below are the main appointments. Feel free to call Emanuela on 07531-597364 for more information.

* Sunday - 17 December: Gift Wrapping from 3pm – 7pm

* Saturday 23 December: Decorating from 12 Noon – 4pm

To participate at the **Christmas Eve Dinner as a volunteer**, you can come to one of the following below inductions:

Saturday, 16 December at 3pm and Sunday 17 December at 2pm

See also the **Christmas Tree at the back of the Church**, bearing suggestions for gifts for the Homeless, controlled by Sant'Egidio.

Many thanks (Emanuela)

Christmas Offerings towards the Carmelite Community

Special envelopes for your Christmas Offerings towards the Carmelite Community, Kensington, are available from the back of the Church. Your kind generosity towards this annual donation will be greatly appreciated. Christmas and Easter are the only two occasions when your donations go directly to the Community. Kindly place your offering in one of the special envelopes and drop it into the bag at Collection time throughout the Christmas period, or hand it in at Reception. *Thank you.*

**Solemnity of St John of the Cross, Priest of our Order &
Doctor of the Church – Thursday 14 December '17**

On Thursday next 14 December, we shall celebrate the **Solemnity of St John of the Cross**, Priest of our Carmelite Order and Doctor of the Church, with a **Concelebrated High Mass at 6pm**. All are invited.

Cards, giving **Times of Christmas Masses** for the whole of the Season are now available from the back of the Church. Please pick up a copy and retain it for reference.