

Feasts/Memorials

December

Monday	04 - Advent Feria/St John Damascene, Priest & Doctor
Tuesday	05 - Advent Feria
Wednesday	06 - Advent Feria/St Nicholas, Bishop - Memorial
Thursday	07 - S Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor - Memorial
Friday	08 - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - Solemnity
Saturday	09 - Advent Feria/St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin - Memorial
Sunday	10 - 2 nd Sunday of Advent- Year B

Lourdes Pilgrimage Concert

The Lourdes Christmas Concert in aid of the Westminster Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place on Thursday 7 December at the Church of our Lady of Victories, High St. Kensington, W8, followed by an after-concert Reception. Tickets at £15 each for the concert only, and £25 each for the Reception – and must be purchased in advance by e-mail: lourdescarol@gmail.com

Forthcoming talks at Vaughan House:

12 December: 7.00-8.30pm: Pope Francis and the Evangelising Mission of the Church (with Brian Purfield).

Female Helper required for 10-12 hours over Saturday and Sunday, personal care for disabled lady. Light duties. Time negotiable to suit both parties. Ladbroke Grove area – driver helpful but not essential. Two references essential. To start in January: elizabethgreeley@tiscali.co.uk
Closing date 8 December '17.

Weekday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
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.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish

Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church St.,
London W8 4BB

First Sunday of Advent – 3 December 2017

The **Season of Advent** is a gift to the Church that awakes our hearts to forgotten hope. The Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a new liturgical year, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all who follow Christ.

The time of prayer and penance, so powerful, so rich and intense, attempts to create within us a receptive frame of mind that will help us to better appreciate the significance of Christ's birth, and celebrate his coming among us in a truly religious way.

The Prophet Isaiah expresses a radical faith in God, as Father and Redeemer of the human race. Isaiah certainly knew about hardened hearts, and feet that strayed from the pathway of the Lord. St Paul reminds us that we are not lacking in any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The foundation for any genuine revival is the fact that God is faithful. We can trust him, and he knows that we can live the Christian life.

The deeper meaning of Christmas is God's presence among us in the person of Jesus Christ, and the real challenge is to let God's presence and power get to work in our lives. Advent calls us to repentance and watchfulness – the repentance that turns us from anything that might hinder God's presence; the watchfulness that becomes a longing for his presence. The biggest handicap to our spiritual development is that we live almost unconsciously. We become so immersed in our habits and routines that we don't notice obvious solutions to our dissatisfactions, and we miss golden opportunities for growth. In like manner, we don't sense the presence of God because we are half asleep. So Jesus says: "Wake up!"

Prayer is about giving God time and space in our life. God does not abide in noise and a frantic lifestyle, but in the quiet recesses of our heart. Make space and quiet for yourself and take time each day for prayerful moments dedicated completely to God. Take notice of God's presence in the simple experiences of everyday life, especially those that move you to joy and the appreciation of beauty – the sparkle of a bright winter's morning; the warmth of a loving family; the smile of a baby as it grabs your finger. Any graceful gesture is a revelation of God's presence. During Advent let us be filled with wonder at the way in which God chose to be with us and save us – the wonder of the Incarnation.

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

On Saturday 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.

We Pray for the Dead

We pray for all who died recently: John Barlow, Marrble Guerra, May McCarthy, Donal Burgess and Mathilde Del Rosa; and those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: Luigi Beltrandi, Madeline and John Taw, Mary & Effie Roxburgh and Francissa Teixeira.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace, Amen

Collection taken up on Sunday 26 November

Plate: £1,516

Envelopes £1,250

Bank Transfers: £265

Catholic Youth Service: £893

We appreciate your generosity and are grateful for your support.

Support the Needy of Palestine: There will be an opportunity to purchase Olive Wood Statues, Crosses and Cribbs from the back of the Church after all Masses this Sunday 3 December.

Departure of Fr Luke Dominic ODC

As you will know, Fr. Luke, who came to the Community two years ago, has completed his studies and will be conferred on the 14th December, after which he will return to Nigeria. We are grateful to him for the generous contribution he made to the parish. There will be an opportunity to say our goodbye at a gathering which will be held on **Sunday next 10 December**, in the Ground Floor Refectory, after the 12.15 Mass. We hope as many as possible will attend.

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 below inductions:

Saturday, 16 December at 3pm

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)

Support for Catholic Schools: Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it. Now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

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.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday next 8 December is the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Masses in this Church will be as follows: Vigil on Thursday the 7th at 6pm, and on Friday: 8.00am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm. (No Friday Abstinence)