



Dear Friend of Saint Jude

The hours of light have reduced, and temperatures are dropping. I hope somehow you are managing to keep warm and that, with the increased energy costs, you are making ends meet. The economic climate throughout the world is incredibly unstable and challenging. We continue to pray for an end to conflicts, especially in Ukraine.

Allowing our hearts to engage with the Advent season, we unite with the hope-filled longing of the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament of the Bible that weapons of violence will be transformed into creative means to bring about peace and the flourishing of humanity. We pray with him that *“nation will not lift sword against nation and there will be no more*

training for war”.

Thank you for your kindness

As well as supporting the life and work of the Carmelite friars through your prayer and generosity in this country, you are also connected with us to different projects around the globe that are enhancing so many people’s lives, especially in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Thank you for the sacrifices you make in bringing light, warmth and hope to those who are struggling. With Isaiah we pray, *“Let us walk together in the light of our God”*.

Saint Jude celebrations

The celebrations of the Feast of Saint Jude at his shrine on 28 - 30 October were marked by a beautiful spirit of gentleness and tranquillity. As well as the local Carmelite Community

of Fr. Richard, Fr. Kevin and Br. Paul (our Shrine Chaplain), we were blessed with the presence of Br. Tony, Br. Richard and Br. Matthew. Smiles radiated from the pilgrims who came to honour this great saint of hope (see overleaf).

Many who were able to come commented on the sense of peace they experienced as they opened themselves prayerfully to the love of God. We remembered that Saint Jude is the apostle of hope offering the good news that God’s love is unrestricted, inclusive, welcoming and excludes no one. Through the anointing with oil we became ambassadors of hope, identifying and praying for people who need God’s healing presence. We prayed for those friends of the shrine who were not



able to be physically with us but who are united with us through our newsletter, many of whom we know were making their own pilgrimage of the heart at home.

Lithuanian encounter

Among the great visitors I met was a young woman from Lithuania. As well as our existing projects, one area that we are exploring is the developing of links with people in Lithuania. We already have contact with several groups but want this to deepen. For this we need some voluntary help in translation. If you know anyone who is fluent in both English and Lithuanian, please do contact us.

Calling on Young Adults

Another encouraging opportunity is a twelve-session programme beginning in January 2023 for young adults aged 18-35 years who may find themselves asking: Where am I heading in life? How can I best use my gifts?

What is occupying my heart and mind?

This is an opportunity to grow spiritually, to deepen awareness of God, develop community and explore the story of and gifts of the Carmelite tradition. If you know a young adult, please invite them to write to us for more information.

BE Attitudes

In the gospels of Matthew and Luke we read that Jesus uttered blessings on the poor in spirit, the gentle, those who mourn, those who hunger and thirst for justice, the merciful, the pure of heart, the peacemakers and those who are persecuted. These are often called the beatitudes. I heard someone recently comment that we might call them the BE attitudes. During the season of Advent, we can decide to make a space in our daily living for regular quiet, listening prayer in order to cultivate the mind and heart of Christ. The quality of our

relationships will become deeper and more insightful. We are chosen, invited and called to be embraced by his attitudes so that we can think and love as he does.

As we discover the Spirit of God as divine empathy breathing in us, perhaps we can communicate blessings of hope more effectively because, with the attitudes of Christ, we ourselves will become a blessing. We who follow in the way of Jesus, like Saint Jude, are invited to allow God's Spirit to transform the way we think about and approach others. It is about being first and then allowing our actions to become conscious expressions of God's life within us. Awakened by the Light of God's love, those we meet may also wake up to the Light. Our spiritual journey is gradual. How would it be during Advent if we reflected on one of the Be-attitudes and found ways to express them concretely each week? You are blessed and a blessing.

Advent Themes

The season of Advent prepares us for celebrating the reality that God comes to us and shares all that is human, so that we can come to share all that is divine. Christians around the world – in churches and in homes, in refugee camps and on the streets, alone or together - participate in Advent in many unique and beautiful ways. By our reading of or listening to the scriptures and by being attentive to the proclamations of the prophets, the summons of John the Baptist and the openness of Mary, Our Lady, we hear the call to wait with longing expectation, to receive God's transforming presence, to journey with God's hope-filled chosen ones and to give birth with Mary to the life of Christ in our own lives.

In our churches, candles on the Advent wreath are lit each week symbolising our movement towards the fullness of light that we find in Christ. Why not create your own set of four candles at home?

The **first candle** can be a candle of hope, representing all God's people, called to be lights shining in dark places. Think of those people who inspire you and give you hope. Thank God for them and pray that you too will be an ambassador of hope.

The **second candle** can represent the Old Testament prophets. As you light it, read the words of one of God's chosen prophets. Think of someone who has helped you to turn towards God, especially in moments of great need or thanksgiving. Allow God

to speak to your heart – perhaps to encourage you or maybe even to show you a new way of loving.

The **third candle** can lead us into the witness of John the Baptist calling us to turn our hearts' desires towards God. Hear the Baptist pointing to the One who is greater than we are. Think perhaps of people, things, patterns of behaviour or attitudes that I need to release from any possessive grasp I hold.

The **fourth candle** can lead us into the pregnant joy of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Thank God for her willingness to do God's will, her humility in allowing God to shape her future, and for her Be-attitudes that drew her to reach out to her cousin Elizabeth.



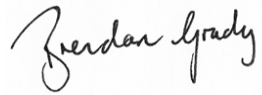
Prepared for Christmas

As God is given flesh in the person of Mary, we pray that we will be prepared to give birth to Christ in our lives. The great Carmelite mystic, Saint John of the Cross (Feast: 14 December) wrote: *“God spoke one word which was the Son, and this Word God always speaks in eternal silence, and in silence must it be heard by the soul.”* I am very much aware that for many the time before Christmas can be busy.

However, as we prepare spiritually for Christmas, let's do our best to build into our day moments of silent, attentive openness to God in listening prayer. *“Be still and know that God is God.”* As we come to celebrate the Birth of Jesus at Christmas may our hearts wake up to the Light.

Be assured that you are in our Carmelite prayer each day. May God help you to see the love with which you have been created.

This Christmas and in the coming New Year, may you see the beauty and truth and goodness not only in the tiny Christ-child, but in those around you. Where there is no love, may we be inspired to put love, and with God alive in us, may we draw out love...this Christmas.



Brendan Grady, O.Carm.
Prior Provincial



Remember our Novenas

Novena to the Holy Infant of Prague

17 - 25 December 2022

Novena to Saint Jude

12 - 20 January 2023

Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes

3 - 11 February 2023

Please recycle or pass this newsletter on to a friend after you have finished reading it - thank you.



 **Carmelite Friars, PO Box 289, Faversham, ME13 3BZ**

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 **www.stjudeshrine.org.uk**

Donate online: <https://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/donate>

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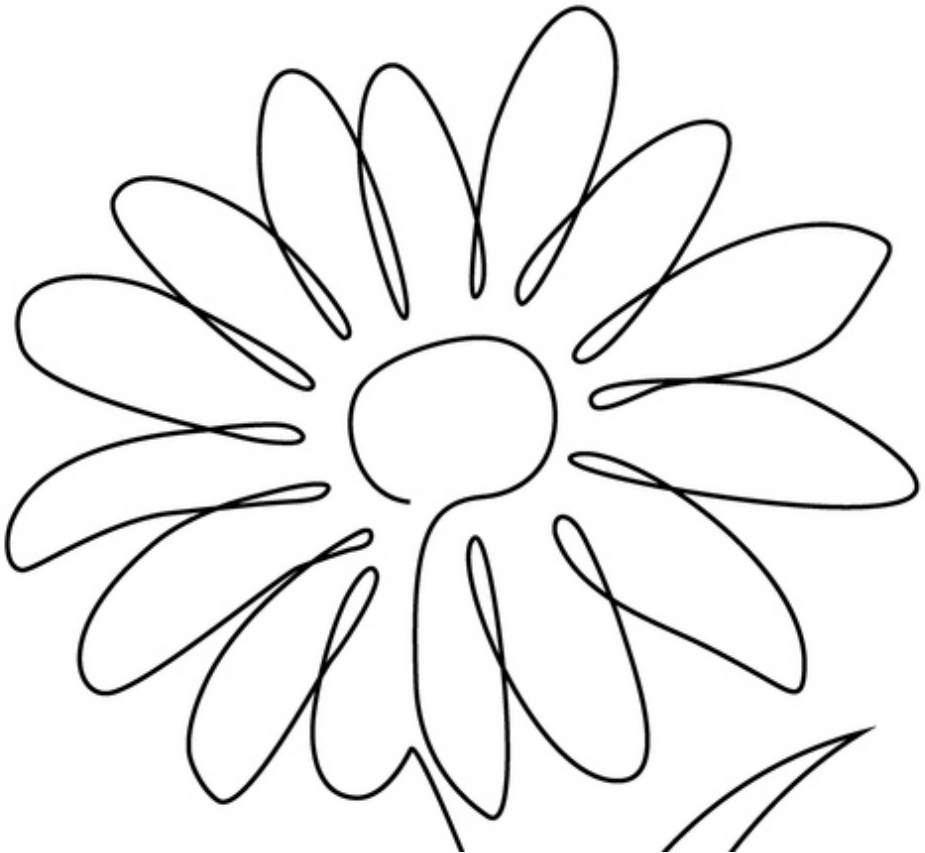


Registered Charity: No. 1061342



ADVENT FLOWER

Add names or intentions to the Advent Flower by clicking on the flower below. Your intentions and the flower will be placed on the altar in the Shrine of Saint Jude during the season of Advent and then throughout Christmas too.



Donor name:

Donation

£
€

Please return to: Carmelite Friars, PO Box 289, FAVERSHAM, Kent, ME13 3BZ

CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE

Welcome to the Christmas catalogue from the Shrine of Saint Jude, which includes an exclusive selection of Christmas cards, the Saint Jude 2023 calendar, prayer cards, plus some other items for our special saint. Every purchase you make directly funds our work, helping to ensure we can continue our work for many years to come. Please either click on the image to go to our online shop, or simply print this form and send it to our address below...

Brendan Grady, O.Carm - Prior Provincial



Christmas card pack A

Pack of five cards with envelopes, includes a quote from Saint Matthew's Gospel. Portrait. **£3.00**



Christmas card pack B

Pack of five cards with envelopes. Christmas scene in the gardens at the Shrine. Landscape. **£3.00**



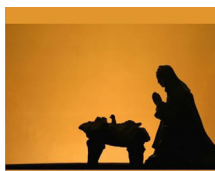
Christmas card pack C

Pack of five cards with envelopes. The three wise men head to the Saviour. Landscape. **£3.00**



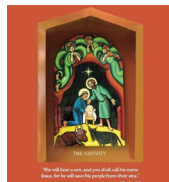
Christmas card pack D

Pack of five cards with envelopes. Watercolour of Whitefriars (Shrine/Church) at Christmas. Landscape. **£3.00**



Christmas card pack E

Pack of five cards with envelopes. Landscape. **£3.00**



Christmas Novena 1

One novena Mass card for Christmas with envelope; includes a quote from Saint Matthew's Gospel. Portrait. **£1.50**



Christmas Novena 2

One novena Mass card for Christmas with envelope; the card shows a painting from the Shrine commissioned in the 1950s. Portrait. **£1.50**



Statue of Saint Jude

Based on the famous statue by Adam Kossowski at the Shrine. In 2016, Pope Francis was given a statue like this in celebration of our sixty years. Made in Italy. **£20**



2023 Calendar

Our Saint Jude calendar with all the important feast days in the church and Carmelite calendar. Each month includes a postcard which can be removed. **£3.50**

Saint Jude Christmas Mystery Box

Our mystery box is full of high-quality items from the Shrine - to keep or to give as Christmas presents to friends and family. The box includes books, prayer cards, medals and much more. We promise you will not be disappointed.

£22.50 each*



Please return this whole form to: Carmelite Friars, PO Box 289, FAVERSHAM, Kent, ME13 3BZ

THE THREE SOCIETIES

Sixty-seven years ago, Father Elias Lynch, O.Carm, launched the three prayer societies for Saint Jude; the Little Flower and the Holy Child. They are a very popular way for supporters of the Shrine to express their faith, whilst participating in these important Carmelite devotions.

Members of the societies are enrolled for a year, during which time Mass is celebrated every month for their spiritual and temporal welfare. Each member receives a prayer leaflet and certificate for the year (please let us know if you don't want to receive them).

Please simply click on the button below to enrol yourself/those you want to enrol into the societies.



SAINT JUDE SOCIETY



LITTLE FLOWER SOCIETY



HOLY CHILD SOCIETY



JOIN ALL THREE SOCIETIES

INTENTIONS for the CHILDREN'S MASS

A shared Mass will be celebrated at the Shrine to pray for all children. Please click on the image below to add your intentions.

