



THE CARMELITE NEWS



From the National Shrine of Saint Jude



SPRING 2023



Dear Friend of Saint Jude and valued friend of the Carmelites

I hope 2023 began well for you. With continuing social, economic, political and global instability, it seems that most people are doing their best to keep a sense of hope. During Lent we keep close to our hearts the hope-filled horizon of the Resurrection of Jesus that we celebrate at Easter.

Easter Springtime

In this part of the world, our Lenten pilgrimage coincides with the anticipation of Spring and our celebration of Easter. Resurrection speaks beautifully about the triumph of life over death, light over darkness, presence over absence, fullness over emptiness. The paradoxes of daily living are harmoniously integrated in the heart of the Risen One, whose greeting in the Easter garden to Mary of Magdala is *"Do not be afraid!"*.

Spring greets us with the experience of colour, scents and vibrancy. It beckons us to savour, enjoy and celebrate the gift of new life. It invites us to find ways to live life fully, deeply, richly, and to work together, as in a garden, to ensure that others can also be richly blessed.

Carmelite gardeners

Many people have gardens. Others visit parks, green areas or woodlands. Some have simple but beautifully maintained window-boxes. Carmelites are fortunate to have lovely gardens in Faversham. Br. Paul – chaplain to the shrine – and Fr. Kevin in Faversham, together with the staff at the Shrine Office and the parish group of volunteers, do great work so that pilgrims will have a pleasant visit. With the grass-cutting

season re-starting, you may notice Paul or Kevin being dragged along by the lawnmower!

Carmel Hall, under the church, had damp and other problems and was closed for a long time. After months of renovation work, it has now reopened with a completely new floor, re-plastered walls and improved heating. It is looking rather splendid.

Br. Tony used to be at the Shrine of Saint Jude. Now he is with the community that, with our benefactors' support, was established in Reading last August. You are supporting Brs. Richard and Matthew in their studies in London and Oxford through your generous donations and prayer. Together with them, Tony has methodically prepared the way for a garden that will delight those who visit.



God the Father (Shrine of Saint Jude)

“...we yield to the impulse of God’s love that is at the heart of creation...”



Brs. Tony and Matt

Bulbs, plants and shrubs that were embedded last year are now bearing testimony that, by cooperating with God’s gifts, we can create spaces that open hearts to glory. The Reading garden includes cuttings from the contemplative garden in Faversham. Like all our friends who find inspiration through the patronage of Saint Jude, although miles apart, we are all united in God’s garden. Of course, gardeners must also eat. In time, the vegetables that Richard has been nurturing will find their way to the dinner table!

God is calling

I have adapted some words by Saint John Henry Newman: “*God is calling*

me to some definite service. God has a mission for me. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. I shall do good, bringing peace, proclaiming truth, living the way of love. I place my trust in God.” During Lent these words might give us a deepened sense of the individual and collective vocation, purpose and mission of all friends of Saint Jude and the Carmelites. In all that we set out to do and be, we offer a prayer of trust, expressing our dependence on God to bless our efforts.

Immersed in God’s dream

It is challenging with so much going on in God’s garden, the world, not to become overwhelmed. Especially during times of crisis, Christian disciples keep a clear focus on what truly matters, what ultimately endures and the life that God offers to every human person. This is not about getting lost in some other-worldly escape from the harshness of the reality of so many people’s lives. By living the vision of Christ and recognising that God calls us all to be missionaries, we immerse ourselves in two realities: ordinary human situations, and God’s dream for humanity. As we allow



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Adapted from *The Mission of My Life* by Cardinal Newman

the two realities to engage with each other, we will notice an aspiration in ourselves to become agents of transformation.

Notice, understand, imagine, decide

Living prayerfully and open to God's invitations, we notice what is happening within, around and beyond us. Through reflection, we seek to understand what is going on. Through imagination and creativity, we see how things might be different. With the prayer of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, "Your will be done", we move towards making concrete decisions – small or great, alone and with companions - that will be life-giving for others.

Living God's dream and in God's garden, we can become missionaries of hope.

Making a difference

It is wonderful to witness the ways in which good-hearted, compassionate people seek ways to support each other, especially those who really do struggle. We could so easily walk by on the other side and become immune to noticing. But that would mean shutting down the tenderness with which the human heart is blessed. It would be about isolating myself out of fear or a sense of powerlessness. Is the vision of my life merely about ME, or can it be transformed to be about WE? Is God at the centre of

the vision? How would you describe your own role as an ambassador of hope? Maybe God is trying to do something through you and me... if only we would notice, engage and act according to God's will. Our Lenten pilgrimage can open us up to cooperating with God's desire.

From ashes to glory

In Lent, we spiritually enter the forty days' desert experience of Jesus. As Jesus was led into the desert by God's Spirit, we willingly enter the season, praying that we will become more open to what God desires to reveal to us during this time of retreat, reflection and preparation for mission.

We may find pathways forward to allow the Easter hope of the Resurrection to give deeper meaning to our lives and to the lives of those we meet. The forty days of Jesus mirrors the forty years of the Hebrew tribes who centuries earlier were led from slavery in Egypt to a new life that God would reveal to them. As God liberated them, so today God desires to set us free so that we humans can develop hearts of flesh, souls that care, spirits that rise from the ashes like the phoenix. The season of Lent is a journey from ashes to Resurrection glory.

Becoming passionate about God's ways leads us to become passionate about humanity's ultimate good. Not engaging with the vulnerable, the suffering and those on the margins of society and Church is to miss the point of the Ash Wednesday invitation to repent and become the Good News. An attitude of conversion of heart, re-focusing and re-visioning opens us to the possibility of transformation, and that is at the core of our faith in the Resurrection.

God's Spirit liberates

The Spirit of God drove



Jesus into the desert and then led him into his mission of offering humanity the fullness of life. Jesus not only offers an alternative, positive and fruit-filled way; he himself is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Faith is ultimately about a life-giving relationship with the One sent by God who liberates and transforms through the Holy Spirit. Reflecting on the scriptures during Lent, we will hear prophetic voices reminding us that this transforming Spirit of Love is passionate about the liberation of every person who is downcast, downtrodden, trapped and in need of an intimate experience of God. Hearing the cry of John the Baptist in the wilderness, "Prepare a way for our God", we re-commit to finding ways to make the Lenten themes of prayer, fasting and almsgiving concrete.

“...Faith is ultimately about a life-giving relationship with the One sent by God...”



Transforming projects

In January, I participated in an international meeting of Carmelites. It was good to hear of so much good that is happening around the globe. Despite the appalling situation in **Ukraine**, it was heartening to hear of the efforts of support being channelled through our Carmelite friars, sisters and lay people in **Poland** and **Ukraine**. Because of the generosity and prayerful support of friends of Saint Jude and so many others, we have been able to be part of the relief programmes.

For many years, friars from different countries have been visiting **Lithuania** for periods of time, and over that time several groups of friends, associates and lay Carmelites have been established and are growing. We have a small European group who are planning further programmes there, and we are delighted that our own British Province of Carmelites is involved.

In **Kenya** there are currently 12 young men who are growing in their Carmelite lives as friars. For study they need to travel by minibus. The vehicle that had been used finally saw the end of its useful working life and needed to be replaced. Thankfully, again because of your generosity, we were able to fund a new one. In time these younger friars will become active in communities in encouraging and establishing life-giving projects for others.



Timor-Leste

Last September we became aware of a very exciting project in **Timor-Leste**. Our friars there are in the process of building a Carmelite Retreat and Young People's Training Centre. This will be a place for human and spiritual development, focusing especially on young people, empowering them

with a spirituality and skills through which they will fulfil their human potential and contribute meaningfully to the development of Timorese society. This new centre will also be a facility which other groups (church, school, government, NGO, etc) can use as a training facility. Once fully established, it will offer immersion experiences to overseas groups of young people who wish to understand Timorese culture.

As you will appreciate, any such project is an expensive undertaking. Knowing that friends of Saint Jude have always been generous in participating in the Carmelite mission to enable people to live life to the full, we have pledged a financial support of \$250,000 (USD) over the next 2-3 years. You can see an artist's drawing of the new centre below. Please do keep this endeavor in your thoughts and prayer.





Praying partners –
Mission partners

Praying for you every day and through this newsletter, we feel united with you. We hope you too experience that bond of community. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux – the Little Flower – discovered that her vocation was to be love in the heart of the Church.

Although she lived the life of a cloistered Carmelite nun until her death at 24 years, she had the zealous heart of a missionary and became the patron saint of the missions. Through your prayer and the generosity of your donations, you are enabling good things to happen for others. You are a missionary of hope. Thank you.

Wishing you blessing, peace, determination and a joyful missionary spirit as together we journey through Lent to Easter,

Brendan Grady, O.Carm.
Prior Provincial

Notice Board

Remember our Novenas

Novena to Saint Joseph

11 - 19 March 2023

Novena for Easter

1 - 9 April 2023

Novena to Saint Jude

19 - 27 May 2023

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



<https://tinyurl.com/JudeFB>

<https://twitter.com/saintjudeshrine>

PETITION & CANDLE

At the Summer Celebration, we will light a pillar candle for your intentions and then afterwards in our Garden of Hope. Each candle lasts over three days. Your petition will be placed with Saint Jude - please click here to donate.



GUILD OF SAINT JUDE

Would you like to be part of the National Shrine of Saint Jude every day through prayer, wherever you are? Would you like to become a Messenger of Saint Jude and share in the mission of the National Shrine? Then join the Carmelites in the Guild of Saint Jude.

I would like to join / renew my membership of the Guild of Saint Jude. Please click here to join.

SPRING NEWSLETTER SHOP

Welcome to the Spring newsletter catalogue from the Shrine of Saint Jude, which includes an exclusive selection of Easter cards, the Easter Novena card, prayer cards, plus some other items for our special saint. Every purchase you make directly funds our work, helping to ensure we can continue this work for many years to come. Please click on an item below to visit our online shop.

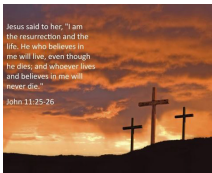
Brendan Grady, O.Carm - Prior Provincial



Easter card pack A

Pack of five cards with envelopes, includes a quote from the Letter of Saint Peter.

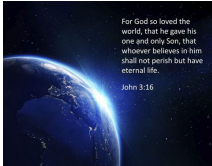
Portrait.
£3.00



Easter card pack B

Pack of five cards with envelopes, includes a quote from the Gospel of Saint John.

Landscape.
£3.00



Easter card pack C

Pack of five cards with envelopes, includes a quote from the Gospel of Saint John.

Landscape.
£3.00



Easter card pack D

Pack of five cards with envelopes.

Portrait.
£3.00



Easter Novena card

One novena Easter Mass card with envelope. Perfect Easter present for friends and family.

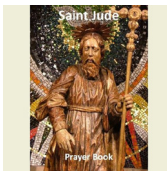
Landscape.
£1.50



Saint Jude statue

Statue is 2.5 inches, on a wooden plinth & is based on the statue by Adam Kossowski.

£4.00



Saint Jude prayer book

An introduction to the Apostle and Shrine; many prayers to Saint Jude; common Catholic prayers; and Carmelite prayers.

38 pages. **£4.50** (h/b); **£3.00** (p/b)



Saint Jude medal

Silver colour medal of Saint Jude; the image of Saint Jude is based on the statue by Adam Kossowski.

£1.50



Shrine of Saint Jude Candle Card

"I lit a candle for you at the Shrine of Saint Jude".

£0.25



Saint Jude Easter Mystery Box

Our mystery box is full of high-quality items from the Shrine - to keep or to give as Easter gifts to friends and family. The box includes books, prayer cards, medals and much more. You will not be disappointed. **£25 each**

Prayer booklets

Various laminated prayer booklets for special saints are available. 4-page booklet with prayers to the saint as listed.

£1.50 each.

- * St Alphonsus Liguori
- * St Andrew
- * St Anthony of Padua
- * St Anthony's Brief
- * St Augustine
- * St Anne
- * St David
- * St Faustina Kowalska
- * St Francis
- * St George
- * St Gerard
- * St John of God
- * St Joseph - Worker
- * St Joseph - Fathers
- * St Jude
- * St Lucy
- * St Martha
- * St Matthew
- * St Monica
- * St Patrick
- * St Paul
- * St Peter
- * St Peregrine
- * St Theresa
- * St Teresa of Calcutta
- * St Thomas
- * St Thomas More
- * St John Henry Newman
- * Twelve Apostles

Saint Jude Summer Celebration

27 May 2023

*Praying with Saint Jude
and the Apostles*



11.00: Devotions with Anointing

13.30: Open Air Mass

14.30: Procession to the Shrine

**Refreshments &
piety stall available**

ALL WELCOME

Coaches welcome - please book via 01795 539 214

Shrine of Saint Jude, 34 Tanners Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7JW

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Online shop: **<http://tinyurl.com/SaintJudeShop>**



Registered Charity: No. 1061342

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