



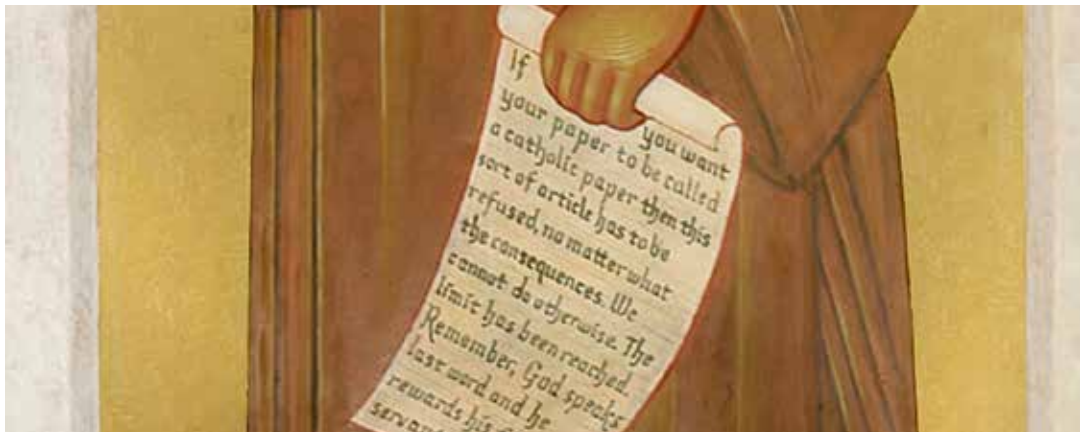
THE CARMELITE NEWS



From the National Shrine of Saint Jude



SUMMER 2022



Dear Friend of Saint Jude and valued friend of the Carmelites,

While standing in the intimate Shrine of Saint Jude, I experience it as a place of prayerful peace. There I know I can release the tensions, anxieties and fears of ordinary living and simply be reminded of God's faithfulness. I know the hope that comes from being aware of a gentle divine presence that envelops and restores, and that renews a sense of vision. The shrine is a sacred space where in my heart I can bring my family, friends and so many people who ask to be supported by the prayer of the Carmelites.

Despite the inadequacy of our words, our hearts' desires, expressions of gratitude and calls for help are never in vain. God always listens to sincere, simple and silent prayer. The Carmelite community at prayer is united with those who visit and who write.

Friends in Christ

The great Carmelite, Saint Teresa of Avila, experienced the love of God resonating in her heart and knew that, if we make Christ the centre of all that we are and long for, we become his close friends. She believed that the future of humanity required a conviction that all people could become friends with one another by becoming close friends of Christ. With Saint Jude, we form a network of relationships where all are valued, have dignity and are loved.

Pentecost

Pentecost in the Christian calendar (this year on Sunday 5 June) celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. The word "Pentecost" comes from the Greek word meaning "fiftieth". Like Easter, it is related to a Jewish feast. 49 days (7

weeks, or "a week of weeks") after the second day of Passover, Jews celebrate the Feast of Weeks (*Shavuot*). Passover celebrates the liberation of the Hebrew tribes from slavery in Egypt. *Shavuot* celebrates their becoming God's holy people by the gift and acceptance of the Law of Moses. The counting of the days to *Shavuot* symbolises their desire to live with God at the centre of their lives and under God's direction.

The Spirit liberates and transforms

On the first Christian Pentecost the disciples, including Saint Jude, were gathered with Mary, the mother of Jesus indoors waiting for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

That experience is recorded in the *Acts of the Apostles* (2:1-11).



Pentecost (Shrine of Saint Jude)

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



Holy Spirit (Shrine of Saint Jude)

Although the apostles already had different encounters with the Risen Jesus after his death, they were still living with fear of the religious authorities and were behind closed doors. When the Holy Spirit comes, they are set free from their terror and become courageous proclaimers of the undying love of God made manifest in the resurrection of Christ. Their hearts are enflamed with a zeal for God, a passion for people and an energy to proclaim the message entrusted to them.

God’s Spirit, who anointed Saint Jude, brings about transformation, stirring our authentic desires and giving them a focus that

has hope for a renewed world as its horizon. Our vision becomes the same as Christ’s: the Reign of God in human hearts who are part of God’s beautiful creation.

With faith in the Risen Christ, with hope in new possibilities made real by the action of the Spirit, and with the experience of a transforming love that liberates, those early disciples break out from behind their closed doors and find new ways of communicating to the thousands of pilgrims from many countries who had gathered in Jerusalem for the Jewish pilgrimage festival of Shavuot.

God launches a new era that provides the foundation of what we now call Church and its mission to share with all people the news that in Christ all can be friends of God, develop relationships of friendship with one another and live with profound respect for the world of creation. Saint Titus Brandsma wrote: *“I see God in the work of his hands and the marks of his love in every visible thing, and it sometimes happens that I am seized by a supreme joy which is above all other joys.”*



Open the doors

We can only continue to grow and develop if we desire to live the ways of compassion, forgiveness, reconciliation and practical love. Praying for an outpouring of the Spirit, we open the doors of our hearts to a divine transformation that is not just individual and personal but also social, political and ecological. There is plenty to be done, but all is possible when human hearts open to God and move from lukewarm indifference to fervent engagement with the Source and Creator of all life.

The Holy Spirit as the passionate Breathing of God, God's fresh air, that enlivens, emboldens, energises, invigorates, re-generates and fulfils. Those who consciously breathe in God's oxygen become prophetic partners in transforming our

world today. If our view of reality is restricted, narrow and distorted by fear, like the disciples in the upper room before Pentecost, so also will be our appreciation of what God can do in and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Saint Titus Brandsma says, *"Our mission is not really to do big things, but to do small things with greatness."* By allowing God to prise open the doors of our hearts, the Spirit's fresh air enables us to experience and embrace the concrete challenges that present themselves to us in the ordinariness of daily living, while keeping our hearts' focus on the greater reality that is God.

Saint Titus Brandsma

Titus Brandsma was a Carmelite friar whose heart was open and filled with the Spirit of God's love. He was canonised as a saint on Sunday 15 May 2022.

A small group of friars (including Brother Paul, chaplain to the Shrine of Saint Jude), lay Carmelites, young people and friends from Britain were able to travel to Rome for the canonisation. We joined with our friars and friends from Ireland for Mass on Friday, 13 May in the centre of Rome and then later that day with many more who had come from different countries in Europe for reflections on the life of this courageous martyr.

On Saturday, 14 May, there was an international Mass and Vigil in preparation for the canonisation at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls. On the Sunday, Saint Peter's Square was filled with thousands of people from all around the world who had come to celebrate this learned but humble man and nine others who

were also declared saints on the same day. It was a tremendous experience of joy, pilgrimage, community, faith, hope and love.

Who was Saint Titus?

Anno Brandsma was born in Friesland in the north of the Netherlands in 1881. He joined the Carmelite Order as a novice in 1898 and took his father's name, Titus, as his religious name. He professed vows and committed himself to a life of prayer, community and service as a Carmelite friar in October 1899 and was ordained a priest on 17 June 1905.

Rooted in the Carmelite spiritual tradition, he wrote: *"We are in continuous contemplation of God, and we adore God not only in our own being but also in all that exists: first our neighbour, then also in nature, in the cosmos, as God is everywhere and permeates everything."*

Titus taught philosophy and mysticism. He helped to found the Catholic University of Nijmegen in 1923 where later he served as Rector Magnificus (photo on previous page). He travelled widely, lecturing on Carmelite spirituality and was skilled in journalism.



Titus at fifteen years old

From 1935 he became advisor to the Catholic journalists and bishops of his country.

In the years leading to World War II Titus was openly critical of Nazi ideology. During the occupation of the Netherlands, he defended the freedom of the Press and of the Catholic Press in particular, earning him the nickname *"this dangerous little friar"*.

Titus was arrested in January 1942 and sent to the concentration camp at Dachau where he was killed by lethal injection on 26 July 1942.

“...we are in continuous contemplation of God...”



Titus as a young Carmelite

Throughout his degrading captivity, his faith remained strong and he prayed for his fellow captives and even his captors. He wrote: *“Do not yield to hatred. We are here in a dark tunnel, but we have to go on. At the end, an eternal light is shining for us.”*



Titus - a prophetic inspiration

Placing great value on the importance of truth, Titus was a prophetic voice against the oppression of the individual, the media and religion. For him, everyone has a duty to serve the truth and needs to be committed to dialogue rather than conflict. While recognising cultural and ideological differences we always begin by recognising our common humanity. Only through unity can we find understanding and belonging.

Titus' life has continued to inspire many. The source

of Titus' courageous stance was his profound faith in God, who reveals that every woman, man and child is made in the divine image. Where human and Christian freedom and values are often denied to many, not least in Ukraine, the message of Titus Brandsma is one of hope, forgiveness, reconciliation, courage and hope.

We pray that the principles for which Titus suffered and died - truth, justice and equality – may be promoted as values of our society.

Pray with us

God of peace and justice, you open our hearts to love and to the joy of the Gospel even in the midst of countless forms of violence that diminish human dignity. Enlighten us with your presence.

Like Saint Titus Brandsma, may we in tenderness see beyond the horrors of inhumanity and contemplate your glory shining through the martyrs of every age.

Embolden us to become your authentic witnesses in the world of today.

Amen.

Supporting refugees

We are all praying for the people of Ukraine. Doors are being opened in tremendous response to appeals for aid and for safe, welcoming homes. Our two Carmelite communities in Ukraine have remained in the country and are working tirelessly in the relief of those who are fleeing from their devastated cities and towns. Thanks to your donations and the ongoing generosity of many other friends of the Carmelites in Britain, we have been able to send in excess of £24,500.



Others, including Syrians and Afghans, also continue to need our welcome and support. Because of your generosity, your Carmelite brothers in this country have for some years been able to provide homes in the north of England for some, and we hope to do more. Please continue to pray for refugees and continue supporting us in our efforts. Thank you.



Carmelite growth

We congratulate two of our friars who became priests on 7 May. Please pray for Camilo Rada (above left), ordained in Colombia, and Alfredo Pisano (above right), ordained in Sicily. Pray also that others will offer themselves courageously to

serve God in the Carmelite family. As we have asked before, never be afraid to encourage young people to open the doors of their hearts to consider our way of life.

May the coming summer be blessed with peace, gentleness and open hearts

of deepening friendship with God, the world of creation and others.

With prayer and gratitude,

Fr. Brendan Grady, O.Carm.
Prior Provincial

Notice Board



Remember our Novenas


Novena to Sacred Heart
16 - 24 June 2022


Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
8 - 16 July 2022

Novena to Saint Jude
18 - 26 August 2022


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



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...become part of the very fabric of the Shrine of Saint Jude and sponsor a brick today!

Many thousands of individuals have been involved with the Shrine of Saint Jude since its foundation in 1955: from friars and staff, past and present, to supporters of Saint Jude and the Carmelite Order, to the people of Faversham – all of whom have come here with an abundance of experiences, memories and hope. In recognition of everyone, we have created the *Footprints of Hope*: an exciting opportunity to preserve and echo the memories of those who have made Whitefriars, the Shrine and Faversham what it is today: a place for all, a place of hope.

As part of the *Footprints of Hope* project, you will have the opportunity to have a name engraved on a brick which will be set on a new path from the Whitefriars Contemplative Gardens to the new Garden of Hope. Make your mark and remember your friends and loved ones. Your brick will be laid into our special path of hope as a lasting legacy, and your donation will support current and future projects for years to come. Donate with the enclosed intentions sheet or at: www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/footprints. **THANK YOU.**

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 www.stjudeshrine.org.uk

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