



# THE CARMELITE NEWS



*From the National Shrine of Saint Jude*



SUMMER 2023



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

**W**e don't choose our family, but we can choose our friends! Occasionally, friends I haven't seen for years ask after my parents. They are usually surprised when I tell them that they are both deliriously happy. "Oh, did they win the lottery?" is not an unusual follow-up question. My parents died a good while ago, so I explain that they are now both with God and basking in God's sunshine! As well as being my siblings, my sister and brother are also good friends, so I am blessed. If you ever meet them at one of our Saint Jude Carmelite gatherings, you can ask them yourself what they think about their younger brother!

**Friends of Christ**

**G**ood friends enable us to be ourselves and can help us to see what we don't

always appreciate – about ourselves, others and even how we view the world. More intimate friends whom we trust and love can also challenge us to see broader horizons and to become more than we currently experience ourselves to be. We might say that real friends expand our hearts. When she was forming new communities of nuns, the great Carmelite Saint Teresa of Avila wanted all the sisters in the convent to grow in their friendship with Christ, so that they could be good friends of each other.

As we read through the Gospels, we notice that Jesus's starting point in forming relationships with those who became his disciples and friends was always his interest in what was going on in their lives. In friendship everyone has the right to speak, and we

all have the responsibility to listen. Jesus had a tremendous capacity for listening to people's stories, concerns and hopes. Jesus placed himself in other people's shoes (or perhaps, in his time, sandals!) and experienced the world from their viewpoint. His love was real. He didn't judge them; he simply accepted them and wanted them to know that they were valued enough to have a place in his heart. He then goes on to invite them to share his own awareness of life and God, and to see reality from God's perspective. His desire is that we all become his friends. Saint Jude became a personal and intimate friend of Christ and increasingly understood and loved Jesus and later preached the life of hope that he offered.



Summer Celebration

“...prayer [is] a conversation with the One by whom we know we are loved...”



Summer Celebration

### A loving conversation

Teresa of Avila likened prayer to a conversation with the One by whom we know we are loved. Perhaps we can take some time simply having a conversation with Jesus. We can tell him everything about ourselves because we know we can trust him. Remember, however, that good conversations work two ways. Whatever time we take telling him our story, we need to allow him the same amount of time – if not more – telling us his story. We need to learn how to listen in gentleness and silence.

When stories, hopes and challenges are shared between friends, somehow the friendship grows and

deepens. Our conversation with Jesus may need some preparation. We can read the Gospels, immerse ourselves in the story and personality of Jesus and allow his words in the scriptures to sink into our hearts. In that way, when we pray, what he wants to say about our unique situation is already growing in our hearts.

Many of my friends are Christians, but I am also blessed to enjoy friendship with people of other religions or no formal belief at all. Somehow, we find common ground in mutual respect and in our desire to celebrate the good in life and in each other. How would you describe your friendships with others? How do your relationships enable you and them to grow? Describe your conversations with God?

### Summer Celebration

On Saturday 27 May Carmelite friars and friends of Saint Jude gathered for our first Summer Celebration since the outbreak of Covid. It was good to be in the company of good people who had come on pilgrimage for prayer and fellowship in honour of this great saint. Pilgrims were



Left to right: Brendan Grady (Prior Provincial), Gerard Walsh (2nd Councillor), Kevin Melody (1st Councillor), Míceál O'Neill (Prior General), Paul de Groot (4th Councillor), Michael Cox (3rd Councillor), Richard Byrne (Councillor General for Europe).

anointed and commissioned to become ambassadors of hope, friends of Christ and companions of each other in the mission of making God's love known and experienced in our world. We prayed for all devotees of Saint Jude, especially remembering those who receive our newsletter and contribute to the life-giving projects supported by the Carmelites at home and abroad.

In April we heard of the death of Michael Redsell who painted the new Rosary Way images and the signs around the shrine. We prayed for him and all our friends who have died. The spirit of prayer and community was tangible. We became hopeful friends committed to celebrating divine love and human generosity.

### **Carmelite Provincial Chapter**

Normally every three years, the Carmelite friars in Britain gather formally for a week of prayer, discernment, review and decision-making. The Chapter was at the ancient Carmelite priory at Aylesford, Kent, in mid-April. Because the Carmelites are an international Religious Order and Family, it was important for us to be able to welcome the Prior General of the Order, Fr. Míceál O'Neill, O.Carm and the Councillor General for Europe, Fr. Richard Byrne, O.Carm. Although they both live in Rome, they had travelled from Spain where they had been engaged with three other successive Provincial Chapters. They were pleased to be able to speak and listen in their native tongue. Matt Betts, Shrine Development

Manager, and others who work closely alongside us also participated. The week's work was focused and productive.

Carmelite friars seek to form praying communities that serve God's people. In Britain, Carmelites are currently engaged in many forms of service within the Church, including shrine ministry, parishes, retreat ministry, prison, school, hospital and care home chaplaincies. We are also committed to working alongside young people and indeed all who are seeking God's will in their lives. During our week we reflected on our vocation - our call from God - and how the Holy Spirit is directing us today and into God's future. During the week the Provincial and Council were confirmed in office for the next three years (see photo).

## Carmelite inspirations

Following in the way of Jesus, Carmelites, wherever they are in the world, are particularly drawn to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the Old Testament prophet, Elijah.

Visitors to the Shrine of Saint Jude will see beautiful images of our great models whom we see as our spiritual friends. All the artwork in Faversham speaks eloquently of the human desire to open to God.

In Elijah we learn to discern and celebrate what is stirring in our hearts and the hearts of others. Elijah meets God, but not in the way he expects. God does not speak to him in the wind, fire or earthquake, but in the sound of sheer silence (1 Kings 19:11-12).

Elijah converses with God as a friend and is open to hear a divine truth that transforms his experience, hope and direction in life. Carmelites celebrate Elijah on 20 July.

In Mary we see the generosity of her openness to God's will. Throughout her life she showed herself to be the woman of faith. Although his mother, she followed Jesus and walked alongside his disciples.



Saint Elijah

She shared their spiritual journey that required above all a spirit of self-giving love and service. We acknowledge her as filled with the Holy Spirit and the perfect disciple of her own son. We celebrate her under the title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on 16 July.

### Inspiring support at home and abroad

By being friends of the Carmelites, we can each become connected to thousands of people whom we don't know. Spiritually bonded, they are not strangers; merely friends we have not met in person.

“...she followed Jesus and walked alongside his disciples...”



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Following the disastrous earthquakes in Turkey and Syria earlier this year, we were able to send £15,000 immediately to help in the relief efforts. Because of your generosity, we are also able to contribute to a project in this country called 'Safe Spaces' that supports survivors of abuse.

In our last issue of the newsletter, we shared news of our commitment to funding, with your prayer and help, the development of a Carmelite Retreat and Young People's Training Centre in Timor-Leste.

### **Young Adults' Community - Britain**

In this country, we are in the process of establishing a community of young adults who will work alongside us in the ministry with and to young people. The community will be based at Aylesford, just 23 miles from Saint Jude's shrine. The required planning permission application for their own community building is now with the local borough. This is an expensive venture, but we rely on God's providence and your continued generosity. Please pray for the success of this important development. Once established, the

community will be working with thousands of children and young people.

On 8 March, 8,000 young people gathered at the OVO Arena Wembley for 'Flame' – a national event organised by the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation. Its theme was 'Rise Up' - inspired by Pope Francis' theme for World Youth Day, Lk 1:39 "Mary arose and went with haste". The British Province of Carmelites was part of the planning and volunteer team. The final words at 'Flame' were from Saint Thérèse of Lisieux: "Jesus does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them." The love that friends of Saint Jude demonstrate in concrete action enables great things to happen. Cardinal Luis Tagle from the Philippines was one of the powerful speakers. He is pictured with Brother Richard and Brother Matthew whom you are supporting in their studies.



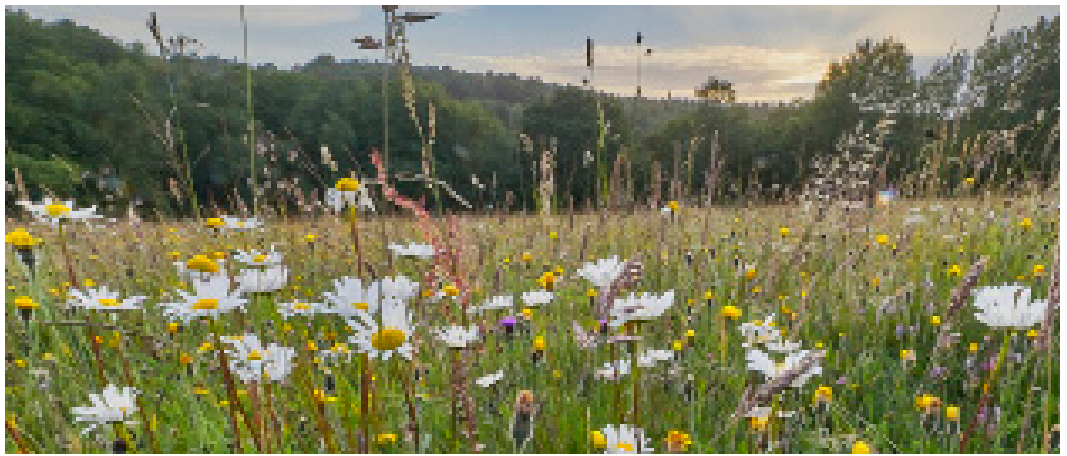
### **Kenya Nuns**

You may remember that you helped to purchase a minibus for our friars who are studying in Kenya. The minibus was blessed and even decorated with balloons and streamers before its first journey. Because of your generosity, we have also been able to respond to a request from our Carmelite nuns in Machakos, Kenya for funding for new equipment they need. The sisters produce the bread wafers that are used by hundreds of churches in celebrating the Mass. Now they will be able to continue to serve the needs of those churches as well as having a means to support their community.



### **El Salvador**

Each year you enable us to send a grant to the Carmelite Missionary Sisters in El Salvador, which supports the tremendous work they are doing at the cancer hospital. You are also helping to maintain the site where Saint Oscar Romero was martyred.



### Towards Summer

Officially in this country Summer begins on 21 June, but already we are having some good sunshine between, of course, the usual British rain! I am looking forward to our Saint Jude Pilgrimage to Canterbury on 22 July. We Carmelites hope we will meet many of Saint

Jude's friends then. In the meantime, know that you are in our prayers every day. It is through prayer that we become united with Christ and united as his friends. Pray that young people will find their own way of becoming God's friends and being engaged in God's work of re-creation in our world.

On behalf of the Carmelites, thank you for all your kindness, support and generosity.

Brendan Grady, O.Carm.  
Prior Provincial

### Notice Board



**Remember our Novenas**

**Novena to Sacred Heart**  
8 - 16 June 2023

**Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel**  
8 - 16 July 2023

**Novena to Saint Jude**  
17 - 25 August 2023

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



[www.stjudeshrine.org.uk](http://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk)



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## **INTENTIONS for the MOTHERS' MASS**

A shared Mass will be celebrated in July for all mothers and grandmothers. If you would like to add a name or several names, please click on the image below.



## **PILGRIMAGE TO CANTERBURY**

After a successful pilgrimage to Canterbury five years ago, we would like to offer friends of Saint Jude another opportunity to join us on 22 July. Pope Francis recently said that those who go on pilgrimage "will carry [their] own individual prayer [with] a heart that seeks God." We welcome all who wish to seek God in a place that has been an important place of Christian worship for 1,426 years.

Please join us for this special pilgrimage to Canterbury (by coach from the Shrine of Saint Jude), concluding with a celebration of Mass in the Cathedral with the Carmelites. If you would like to attend, the suggested donation is £25 per person, which covers the the coach, plus some refreshments. Please click on the donation button below.

[DONATE](#)

## **PETITIONS for CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL**

We will place your petition near the altar during Mass at the Cathedral, and afterwards we will leave them near the Shrine of Saint Thomas Becket.

[DONATE](#)



# SUMMER NEWSLETTER SHOP

Welcome to the summer newsletter shop from the Shrine of Saint Jude, which includes an exclusive selection of 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 for many years to come. Please click on any of the images to go direct to that product. You can order much more via our online shop, too: [www.stjudeshrine.co.uk](http://www.stjudeshrine.co.uk). Thank you.

Brendan Grady, O.Carm



### Saint Jude medal

Saint Jude medal with image of the statue by Adam Kossowski, which is in the Shrine Information Centre.

**£1.50**



### Saint Jude Prayer Book

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

38 pages. **£3.00** (p/b)



### Saint Thérèse of Lisieux medal

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux was a French Carmelite nun who is widely venerated in modern times. She is popularly known as "The Little Flower".

**£1.00**



### Saint Peregrine medal

Patron Saint for persons suffering from cancer, or other illnesses.

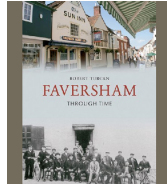
**£1.00**



### Wooden Pocket Cross

Wooden Pocket Cross 3 1/4 inches with a prayer to Saint Jude.

**£3.00**



### Faversham Through Time

A history of this special town, including some information on the founding of the church and shrine. This ancient town has lots to see. 95 pages.

**£14.99** (p/b)



### Saint Jude small statue

2.5 inch statue, on a wooden plinth & is based on the statue by Adam Kossowski, which is in the Shrine Information Centre.

**£4.00**



### Footprints prayer card

Excellent quality.

**£0.60**



### Shrine of Saint Jude Candle Card

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

**£0.25**



### Saint Jude Shared Mass card / Saint Jude Holy Souls Mass card / Saint Jude Individual Mass card

Each Mass card is **£1.50**

### Saint Jude rosaries

High quality rosaries from the Shrine, with an image of Saint Jude; in a beautiful presentation box

**£7.50 each.**

- \* Dark blue marble effect
- \* Red marble effect
- \* Black marble effect
- \* Green marble effect
- \* Grey marble effect
- \* Light blue marble effect



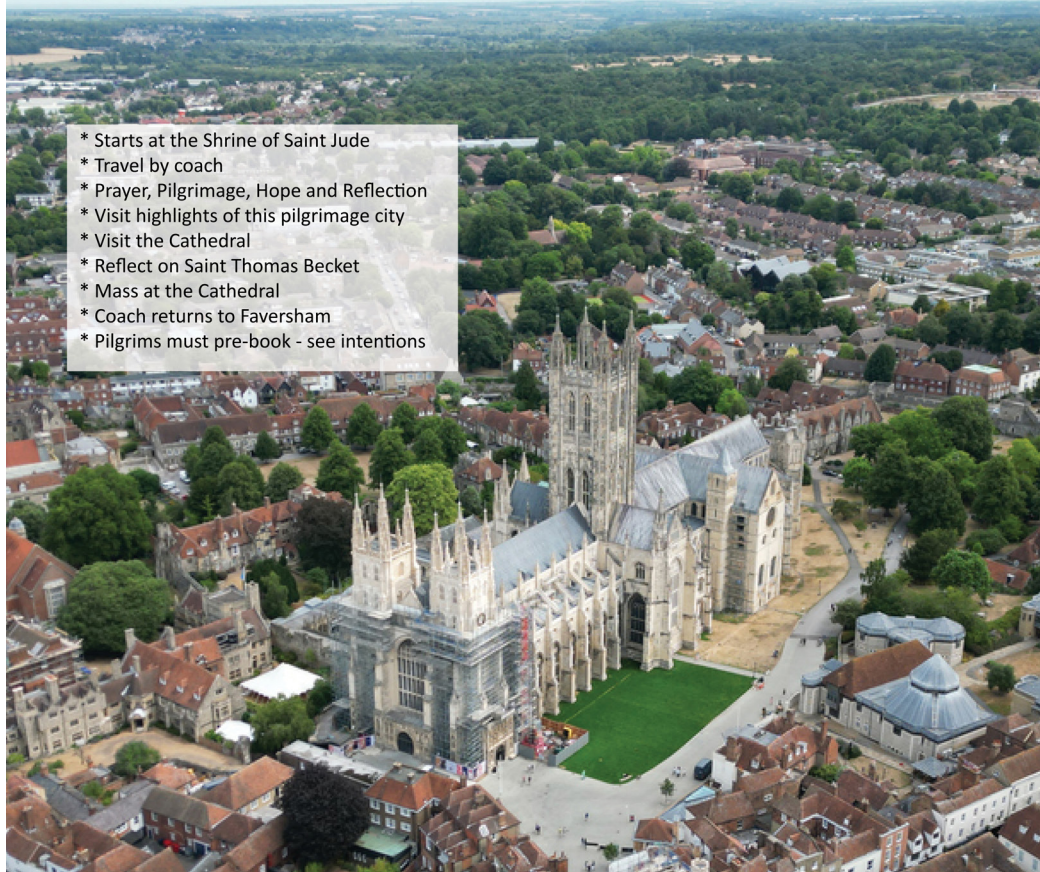
# Pilgrimage to Canterbury

## Saturday 22 July 2023



A place of pilgrimage for over 1,426 years

- \* Starts at the Shrine of Saint Jude
- \* Travel by coach
- \* Prayer, Pilgrimage, Hope and Reflection
- \* Visit highlights of this pilgrimage city
- \* Visit the Cathedral
- \* Reflect on Saint Thomas Becket
- \* Mass at the Cathedral
- \* Coach returns to Faversham
- \* Pilgrims must pre-book - see intentions



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