

Guild of Saint Jude magazine 2014



Members' magazine

Editorial

by Matt Betts

*“The melancholy days have come, the saddest of the year, of wailing winds,
and naked woods, and meadows brown and sear.”*

William Cullen Bryant (1794 - 1878)

The above verse complements a view of autumn which many have – a sense of ending, a closing to the favourable seasons of spring and summer, and a cessation of the warm weather. In Faversham, autumn becomes more distinct during the Feast, when the trees start to turn golden brown and around the gardens numerous leaves cover the paths and walkways. This sense of ending can make us feel quite melancholy.

However, since working at the Shrine, I’ve come to a new conclusion: although autumn can be seen as a sign of closure, I think it also marks a beginning – especially for all of us members. I was able to meet so many of you during the Feast weekend and day, and these celebrations emphasise the start, continuation and importance of our membership in the Guild of Saint Jude. Our dedication to Saint Jude never ends, and the signs of autumn should fill us with great happiness. The Feast and the Guild is a beginning.

Welcome to the first Guild magazine and welcome to our first year as a Guild. I am very excited that we have a number of interesting and thought provoking articles in our first magazine. Fr Michael Manning, our chaplain, writes about the devotion to Saint Jude; Johan Bergstrom-Allen writes about what Saint Jude can do for us in modern days; and finally, Brother James Hinchliffe has written about his dedication to the Infant of Prague, whose shrine is also based in Faversham. Thank you to all our writers.

If you would like to write for our next annual Guild magazine, please send your article to: guild@stjudeshrine.org.uk, or via our postal address.

Matt is the Development Manager at the National Shrine of Saint Jude

Devotion to Saint Jude

by Fr Michael Manning, O.Carm

As you read these words we are all sharing one thing in common and that is a devotion to the Apostle Saint Jude and the spreading of this devotion to others. People often ask about devotion to Saint Jude and so I would like to look at this devotion in the following paragraphs.

One of the reasons that Saint Jude was slow in getting off the starting blocks may have been that a lot of people confused him with Judas Iscariot who betrayed our Lord in the garden of Gethsemane and, after a failed attempt to put things right hung himself. There is, however, a tradition of Christians coming to his grave and, experiencing his powerful intercession and out of this came the tradition of him being the Saint for the despairing and the hopeless. Throughout the centuries there have been examples of a cult of Saint Jude but it was the 19th Century that saw a flourishing of devotion to the apostle beginning in Spain and Italy and then spreading through Europe to South America and the United States. The devotion of people to Saint Jude inspired Father Elias Lynch to found the National Shrine of Saint Jude here in Faversham in the middle of the 20th Century.

A most important aspect of devotion to Saint Jude is the power of his intercession; taking our petitions and offering them to God. If you spend any time here at the shrine you will soon hear countless experiences of how people's prayers to Jude have been answered; often not quite in the manner expected, but that is the nature of intercessory prayer. Devotees return here to give thanks and bring with them family and friends who in turn become the founding stones of our pilgrimages.

Twice a year pilgrims flock to Faversham for the major Saint Jude celebrations; one is the Summer Feast in May and the second the three day celebration around the Feast of Saint Jude in October. Hundreds of people come to give thanks and pray but also to experience the sense of community which the devotion to Saint Jude brings. Pilgrims chat and laugh and eat together in the grounds as well as gathering for the Masses offered during the day. And these Masses are also offered during the year with a regular Guild Mass in the shrine or a concelebrated Mass in the church for the intentions of Guild members and the spreading of devotion to Saint Jude. One of my hopes is that this Guild Mass will be advertised and that Guild members will feel welcome to come and join us.

So what about those who are at home and still have a devotion to Jude? Most of the shrines to Saint Jude have the ministry of blessing with the Oil of Saint Jude. Here in Faversham we have small jars of blessed oil which we give people to take home with them. This oil is blessed with the relic of Saint Jude and a prayer before it is placed in the shrine. The anointing with the oil asks God, through the intercession of Saint Jude, to help in all our needs. It is offered on the forehead only so it will not be confused with the Sacrament of the Sick.

Another way of practising our devotion is the use of the Chaplet of Saint Jude. This chaplet consists of nine beads with a crucifix at one end and a medal of Saint Jude at the other end. Chaplets are a traditional form of prayer and are convenient and easy to carry with you. They are, if you like, a physical petition to Jude for his intercession as is reflected in the prayers.

Devotion to Saint Jude is wide and varied and can be communal or personal, with a pilgrimage or sitting at home or on the bus or train. Wherever it is expressed and in whatever form it is a sign of faith in the powerful intercession of the Apostle Saint Jude who witnessed the ministry of Jesus. Let us spread this devotion far and wide.

Fr Michael is the Chaplain of the National Shrine of Saint Jude



What can Saint Jude do for us in modern days?

by Johan Bergstrom-Allen

This is the first edition of the magazine for members of the new Guild of Saint Jude at Faversham. It therefore seems appropriate to me that we consider what a guild is.

The dictionary defines a guild as an association of people for mutual aid or the pursuit of a common goal. The first guilds were set up in the Middle Ages, normally by people who shared a common trade or interest. In towns across medieval Europe, guild-members came together on a regular basis to discuss business, pray for the success of their work, and support one another.

So the notion of a guild is very closely linked to the ideas of work, and solidarity. It seems to me that the Guild of Saint Jude should also be about sharing solidarity, and a common project.

Anyone with a strong devotion to Saint Jude will tell you that he himself is a great 'worker'. In the Church we sometimes refer to Saint Joseph as 'The Worker', but he isn't the only member of Jesus' family with a reputation for doing great things for us from heaven.

Saint Jude, kinsman of Our Lord, is another great 'worker' because he intercedes with God on our behalf, especially in situations that seem to us desperate. Father Wilfrid, the Carmelite Prior at Faversham, refers to Saint Jude as the 'Patron Saint of Hope'.

So in what ways can we say that Saint Jude is 'working' for us and God in today's world?

Every day at the National Shrine of Saint Jude, people get in touch from across the world to tell the Carmelite friars about how the Apostle has been a 'worker' on their behalf. The stories people share are so touching, so profoundly moving, and when I come on pilgrimage to Faversham I am always humbled by the faith that my fellow pilgrims have in God, through Saint Jude's intercession and friendship.

This last October I was privileged to be at Faversham for the wonderful Saint Jude Feast celebrations. As I chatted with fellow pilgrims, some of them shared their experiences with me, leaving me in no doubt that Saint Jude is at work in today's world, building up God's kingdom just as he was doing when he walked in the Holy Land and Asia two thousand years ago.

One pilgrim told me she had come on pilgrimage to the Shrine because she had been unjustly accused of doing something wrong at work. She felt her situation was desperate – her job was on the line, and her reputation was in tatters – but after asking for Saint Jude's help the problem was resolved, and now she was actually being promoted. She had come to the National Shrine to say thank you to Saint Jude.

Another pilgrim told me about his son who had been suffering from addiction to drugs and alcohol. The lad's father could see no way out of this terrible situation, and in his anxiety turned to Saint Jude for help. Now his son is managing his addiction, has found a useful job, and a family which was torn apart is now reconciled.

Of course, not every prayer we make is answered in the way we might hope and expect. I was very touched by the story of an elderly lady who had lost a daughter to cancer, despite her praying to Saint Jude. At first, the mother told me, she was confused, angry with God, and disappointed in Saint Jude. One day, in her grief, she lit a candle with a picture of the Apostle on it. She told me that a sense of great calm came over her. She started crying, but this time the tears were not from hurt; instead, they were tears of healing and peace because she felt confident that her daughter was with God face to face. She wanted to thank God for the gift and blessing that her daughter had been. Now that lady brings friends with her to Faversham. She says "I still ask Saint Jude to intercede for people and situations, but now I also pray for the grace to accept God's will, whatever happens. And when I hear that someone is bereaved, I try to be a consoling presence."

Naturally it is God, not Saint Jude, who works wonders in our lives. But as someone who lived in the presence of Jesus – and still does so in heaven – Saint Jude is a wonderful friend to whom we can entrust our hopes, worries, cares and dreams.

Before he was martyred, Saint Jude was a worker here on earth. We don't know what his original trade was, but after he encountered Jesus his work was spreading the Good News that God loves and cares for everyone, without exception. That is the work that Jude is still committed to, spreading the Good News of God's love. And we can help him in that great mission.

When I ask myself the question, "What can Saint Jude do for us in modern days?," that famous phrase of President Kennedy comes to mind: "Ask not what your country can do for you; but, what I can do for my country!" As members of the Guild of Saint Jude, we must not only ask what Saint Jude can do for us, but also consider what we can do for Saint Jude.

We are members of a Guild, brought together by the 'work' of Saint Jude, which is the nothing less than the work of the Gospel. Our 'work' is to share his mission of spreading knowledge and love of God to those around us, as much by what we do as by what we say.

I hope that our Guild will allow us, like the guilds in the Middle Ages, to come together for friendship and mutual support in our 'work', which is the work of the Gospel that Saint Jude is so dedicated to.

If we have experienced the friendship of Jesus Christ, and his Apostles, what better way can we repay that free gift than by supporting, and indeed sharing, the work of the National Shrine of Saint Jude?

Johan is the Communications and Outreach Manager for the Carmelite friars in Britain, and is a regular pilgrim to the National Shrine of Saint Jude.



Devotion to the Infant of Prague

by Brother James Hincliffe, O.Carm

A little child will lead them...

The devotion to the Child Jesus is one of the most loved and well known devotions of the Order of Carmel. Its origins stretch back well before the devotion to the Infant of Prague, yet it is in this manifestation that most of us have come to know and harbour the greatest love of the hidden childhood of Our Lord.

For many the image of the Infant of Prague is as off-putting as it is attractive. We are met by a bedecked king complete with: crown, orb and bejewelled robes. Yet, the innocent frame of a child shines out beyond the lavish robes of kingship. This innocence, this childlike face reminds us of our vulnerability and that of the Christ child, reminding us of the words of the Gospel “unless you become as little children, you shall not enter in to the kingdom of Heaven.” Let us take up these words and make them our own, and become as little children, in trust and love follow the path our heavenly father has prepared for us.

In our own time we have seen a great resurgence in devotion to the Holy Child. This devotion is as enchanting as it is intriguing. The image, along with the countless prayers, litanies and chaplets attached to it are one of the greatest manifestations of the humanity of Christ.

We must always remember that we have an incarnate God and therefore it makes perfect sense to us as Catholics that the popular expressions of our faith be incarnate. The whole realm of Catholic life invites and encourages us to reach out, to touch, to sense, to experience the loving presence of Our Lord.

The hand of the Infant Jesus is extended to us, not only in blessing, but also in assurance – the assurance that if we take His hand and walk humbly and lovingly with Him we shall overcome every obstacle, ascend the heights of holiness and reach our eternal home secure and rejoicing. With this assurance let us take the hand of the Holy Child in complete love and confidence and allow Him to lead us along the path of life.

The way of the Holy Child is one of: humility, confidence and above all unconditional and unquestioning love, this is the pattern of our *spiritual childhood*.

We can be assured of the efficacy of this devotion by its long and popular history in the Order of Carmel, the example of our saints: Teresa of Jesus, Therese of the Child Jesus, Venerable Sister Margaret of the Blessed Sacrament and Venerable Cyril of the Mother of God to name but a few...

The more you honour me the more I will bless you...The devotion to the Child Jesus and the way of spiritual childhood is a simple one - love much, trust completely and walk humbly with your God.

Brother James is based at Aylesford Priory.



Societies of Saint Jude, Holy Child and the Little Flower

Societies of Saint Jude, Holy Child and the Little Flower: before the Second World War, these three 'Societies of Prayer' were established. The Societies continue to exist at the Shrine, and are a very popular way for people to express their faith, participate in our Carmelite devotions, and support our ministry of service to God's people.

Members of each Society are enrolled for a year, during which time a Mass is celebrated every month for their spiritual and temporal welfare. It is possible to enrol yourself and others in any or all of the Societies, and whilst there is no set fee, a donation of £1 (or more) per person is suggested. This money supports the Carmelite brothers and our work to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in Britain and beyond. These societies are separate from the Guild of Saint Jude.

The subscription for each Society is suggested as £1 per year.

You might like to consider enrolling yourself, family or friends in one or all three of the Societies of Prayer at Faversham. If you would like to enrol yourself and/or others, please send a list of names and addresses, along with your donation (by cheque made payable to Carmelite Friars) to:

Carmelite Friars, P.O. Box 140, Kent, ME20 7SJ, United Kingdom

Around the Shrine

In each edition of the Guild magazine, we'll take a look at a part of our beautiful Shrine.

The corridor between the church and shrine is lined with stained glass windows by the artist Richard Joseph King (1907-74), depicting important figures in the tradition of the Carmelite Order. It is thought that when the artist created the stained glass he depicted the features of four Carmelites living at that time, Fr Joe Kelly (Ireland), Fr Patrick Geary, Fr Kilian Lynch and Fr Malachy Lynch.

1. St Simon Stock. A Kentish man who became Prior General of the Order in the 1250s and who died in Bordeaux, France, in 1265. Our tradition associates him with a strong devotion to the Mother of God.

2. St Brocard. The Carmelite Rule was given to Brocard by St. Albert the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, sometime between 1205 and 1214. This is symbolised by the scroll in Brocard's hand.

3. The Prophet Elisha (Eliseus). In the Old Testament Elisha was a disciple of the Prophet Elijah, and when Elijah went to heaven Elisha received his prophetic spirit.

4. The Prophet Elijah (Elias). Elijah was one of the great prophets of the Old Testament. He lived on Mount Carmel and was 'Zealous for the Lord of Hosts'. Tradition has it that he went up to heaven in a fiery chariot.



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Notices

Become a messenger of St Jude

Next year is the 60th anniversary since the foundation of the National Shrine of Saint Jude. Can you help us to spread the word about the Guild and encourage people to join? Can you talk about the Shrine and encourage people to receive Carmelite News? Can you help spread devotion to Saint Jude and the Shrine?

We are also looking for people who would like to set up a local sections of the Guild of Saint Jude across the UK and worldwide. Can you help us?

If you can help, please contact Matt Betts on guild@stjudeshrine.org.uk, or via Matt Betts, Guild of Saint Jude, Carmelite Friars, P.O. Box 140, Kent, ME20 7SJ. We can send you literature and more if you can help us to publicise the Shrine and the Guild, or if you want to set up a local section.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

St Kuriakose Elias Chavara

On 23 November 2014, the Feast of Christ the King, Pope Francis canonised six blessed and inscribed them in the roll call of Saints. One of these was the Carmelite priest: Kuriakose Elias Chavara. The National Shrine of Saint Jude has a beautiful icon of this new Saint.

Fr Chavara was a priest and the founder of the Congregation of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate. He is remembered for his solid leadership and is recognised for having saved the Church in Kerala from a schism in 1861.

Prayers

Please pray for the souls of the following members who have recently died:

Mr Dennis Pryce

Mr Leslie Saunders

May they Rest in Peace

Please also pray for the following members who are sick:

Mrs Bertha De La Haye Blackith

Saint Jude, pray for us

Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, pray for us

Upcoming events

30 May 2015 - Summer Celebration

24, 25 and 28 October 2015 - Feast of Saint Jude celebrations

Next edition

If you would like to write for our next annual Guild magazine, please send your article to: guild@stjudeshrine.org.uk, or via our postal address.



The Guild Magazine is the annual magazine for the Guild of Saint Jude based at the National Shrine of Saint Jude, Faversham. If you would like to join, or ask a family member/friend to join, please send details to:

📍 Guild of Saint Jude, PO Box 140, ME20 7SJ, England

☎ 01795 539 214

✉ guild@stjudeshrine.org.uk

💻 www.stjudeshrine.org.uk

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