



Guild of Saint Jude 2015

Members' magazine

Editorial

by Matt Betts

Welcome to our second Guild magazine and welcome to our second year as a Guild. Last year, we sent out our magazine in December, but we believe it is much better to get in touch mid way through the year instead: so here we are.

This has been an exciting year so far, as we have been celebrating our Diamond Jubilee. Thank you to all our Guild members who came to the Summer Celebration, each received a grand tour of the Shrine with Fr Wilfrid, followed by the Mass and a buffet. We were very pleased to welcome the Mayor of Faversham to the Summer Celebration, and I know a number of members chatted to him and his wife.

Once again, I am very pleased that we have so many good articles available in this magazine: Fr Wilfrid McGreal, Prior at Faversham, has written about his uncle Brother Anthony McGreal, the other special person associated with the Shrine; Fr Michael Manning, our chaplain, writes about this role; one of our members, Jane Francis writes about why she is a Guild member; and finally, Fr Piet Wijngaard, former chaplain, tells us about his anniversary celebrations. 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.

This year is the 60th anniversary since the foundation of the National Shrine of Saint Jude. Looking to the next sixty years: 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 me on guild@stjudeshrine.org.uk, or via Guild of Saint Jude, Carmelite Friars, P.O. Box 140, Kent, ME20 7SJ. We can send you literature and more to help you to publicise the Shrine and the Guild, or if you want to set up a local section.

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

Brother Anthony McGreal

by Fr Wilfrid McGreal, O.Carm

Why did I become a Carmelite? The answer to that question is the profound effect my uncle Brother Antony had on me – his warmth, humanity and dedication – plus his great sense of humour.

Anthony was born in Ballyhaunis, County Mayo. He was one of eleven children and he grew up during the Troubles. It was not an easy time for a teenager.

When he grew up, Anthony received a calling, and wanted to join the Augustinians who had a Priory in Ballyhaunis. He was not accepted there as he was deaf. However, a chance meeting with Elias Lynch brought him into the Carmelites as Elias saw his enthusiasm and not his deafness.

After some years ministering in Terenure College, Dublin, Anthony came to Faversham, and began working with Elias on his fundraising activities. Soon Anthony took over the administration of the office, leaving Elias time to write and build up the parish.

By the 1940s, the newsletter office employed a number of workers who fundraised for the Order. Talking to ladies in the office from then, they remember Anthony's hard work, but also his humour and practical jokes. At one point, he sent a new member of staff to buy a "short vest". When the Shrine was being built, he got local folk to contribute by buying a brick for a shilling. Prior to that, he worked hard with Elias raising the money to purchase Aylesford. On their return to the Priory, Anthony led the procession carrying the cross.

In the 1960s, Antony lived with cancer, but was well enough to be at my Ordination. Even when busy or ill, he kept a caring eye on Elias, who did not enjoy good health either, and on low days he would cook fillet steak to cheer Elias up.

Anthony spent his life in the background, faithful to his prayer and his work. He was close to his family, visiting them in Manchester, Ireland, and New York. Being deaf was never a problem as he could lip read and his catch- all response was: "Is that so?".

We remember Brother Anthony at the Shrine through prayer, grateful for all his hard work.

Fr Wilfrid is the Prior at Faversham



Brother Anthony McGreal, O.Carm
(Portrait in the Shrine)

What do I do?

by Fr Michael Manning, O.Carm

A letter arrives that needs a personal answer for a pastoral situation; a group of pilgrims arrive at the shrine and would like some prayers and a chat; the shrine has run out of Saint Jude Oil and more has to be bottled and blessed; one of the Masses in our calendar is to be celebrated in the Shrine of Saint Jude; a tour and talk about the Shrine is booked for a group of pilgrims. These and any number of other situations occur at the National Shrine of Saint Jude in Faversham and as Chaplain I am available to minister to their needs. I would like to spend a little time with you dear readers expanding on these and the role of the Chaplain.

The role of Chaplain is to provide pastoral care to a particular group of people. For instance a hospital will have a chaplain available for the patients and staff; likewise a prison or young offenders institute will have a chaplain. There are also chaplains to the various branches of the armed forces, the police and the merchant navy, as well as chaplains to various ethnic groups in our country, so you can understand that I see my role as Chaplain to the Shrine of Saint Jude as primarily a pastoral one, even the filling of oil bottles is, for me, a pastoral activity, being the first stage towards the pastoral use of this sacramental – the anointing with the Oil of Saint Jude. I consider myself a ‘pastoral priest’; taking delight in meeting people and spending time listening and talking to them wherever they may be. I like to think this was part of the reason for my appointment to Faversham. As chaplain I live ‘above the shop’ as it were; the community house is attached to the church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel of which the shrine is a part. This has the advantage that I am readily available for visitors to the shrine and the meeting of pilgrims; talking to them, showing them the shrine and mentioning a little about the early part of the history and how the shrine came to be here in Kent.

As chaplain the most important part of my role is this pastoral care of those who come to visit us here, whatever their reasons. We have regular groups from across the south east of England and also from farther afield. Pilgrims think nothing of spending an entire day travelling to, visiting and returning home after a visit to Saint Jude and I feel that the least we can do is have the time to spend with them. Day after day I never cease to be amazed at the variety of pilgrims we have here. Regular visitors are a group of Russian Orthodox Christians who come to venerate Saint Jude and bring their Orthodox liturgical tradition to the shrine. Family groups from Sri Lanka, Kerala, the Philippines and Indonesia are

always a delight to be with. We also minister to a number of families from the Irish Traveller community who stop off on their way to The Friars or across to mainland Europe. We welcome Hindu and Sikh, Muslim and Buddhist as well as all shades of Christians and those who are still discovering their faith journey. This is all part of the ministry of the Shrine of Saint Jude; take away any part of it and it would be the poorer for it.

As you arrive at the shrine you will see two other buildings. On the left is the Saint Jude Welcome Centre and on the right the Saint Jude Information Centre and Shrine Office. This office is the powerhouse of the administrative side of the shrine. It is here that the letters, petitions, requests for religious articles and Newsletter responses come for action. It is also the place where I have my desk and where I work on letters and answers to our 'postal pilgrims' to give them a name. The letters of anyone, who writes to the shrine and has a need which they would like answered, lands on my desk for me to reply to them. These letters can be difficult at times because it is important that the recipient realises from the letter that they have been listened to and that someone has taken the time and thought to write a reply. It is a balance between spiritual/theological writing to address the questions or doubt they have and a simple friendly letter to show the compassion of Our Lord being offered to them. And of course, to give a devotional sense, I always like to light a candle and enclose a card of Saint Jude in the letter. This is what our pilgrims, whether they come personally or whether they write to us, hope for and I see it as my role to provide this.

Recently the Shrine Team started a new project. As you will know the Shrine has an altar and so I have started celebrating Mass at this altar. We include in these Masses all of Saint Jude's fellow Apostles, the saints of the local diocese of Southwark, as well as the patron saints of England Scotland and Wales and a variety of saints of particular historical importance for the Church in this country. Also included are Carmelite feasts and solemnities and anniversaries of past members of the Province of the Assumption. If it is not possible to celebrate one of these Masses in the shrine then I concelebrate at the parish Mass for that day's intention. As well as these Masses we also have the monthly Guild Mass which is for the intentions of the members of the Guild of Saint Jude.

Twice a year we arrange a day for Saint Jude. On the last weekend in May we have our Summer Celebration with a concelebrated Mass outside on the lawn, devotions of Saint Jude, blessing, and anointing with the Oil of Saint Jude and refreshments. This year was the 60th Anniversary and so we had a number of

dignitaries here and the principal celebrant at the Mass was the Prior Provincial, Fr Anthony Lester O. Carm. Later in the year on 24 and 25 October we have the main Saint Jude feast celebrations. For three days, we welcome visitors to join us in our marking of this important day. This year we will be celebrating the 60th Jubilee of the founding of the shrine and we are expecting a great turnout for this. As chaplain I will be around the place and available for all those who wish to speak to me or need help even if it saying where they can get a cup of tea – looking after the physical and the spiritual. This will be the second time I have been here for this Feast and it is one of the highlights of our year. I look forward to welcoming our Guild members to the celebrations.

Our Church is an incarnational church; it is through Christ's incarnation; birth, life, passion and resurrection that it came into being. Our Tradition is full of examples of the physicality of the incarnation; being made flesh. Bread and Wine become the Body and Blood of Christ; Breath, oil, and imposition of hands make the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination and the Anointing of the Sick manifest. Holy water, scapulars and blessed oils become sacramentals symbolising the covenant we have with God. One of these is the Oil of Saint Jude; natural oil to which has an aromatic essence has been added. Using the relic of Saint Jude, this oil is then blessed and using cotton wool is put into jars and labelled. It is used to bless people, is given to pilgrims and distributed via the shrine office to people who request it. Being blessed it cannot be sold but a donation to cover costs is accepted. The blessing and bottling of this oil is something I am recently involved in and it gives me another level of connection with those who come to the shrine.

All of the roles above have one purpose and that is to be of service to the pilgrims that visit or write to the shrine and to spread the devotion of Saint Jude throughout the diocese of Southwark and the wider Church. As Chaplain I try to accomplish this as a part of the Shrine team. Kevin, Matt, Rachael and I serve Saint Jude, his shrine and the Good News but we are also aware that you, as members of the Guild of Saint Jude, are also an important part of that apostolate. To para-phrase John F Kennedy: it is not what the church can do for you but rather what you can do for the church.

May Saint Jude support and intercede for you.

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

Why I am a member of the Guild

by Jane Francis

When I received notification from the Shrine that there was a Guild of St Jude I was delighted to join as I had been introduced to the Shrine by my parents. They had told me that my Irish grandmother had great faith in St Jude and she often had contact with the Shrine from Kinsale, in County Cork, during the late 1930s through to her death in the late 1940s. Therefore, my reason was to keep the family connection ongoing.

From my own personal experience, I have been blessed by St Jude hearing and answering my requests, for myself and friends, in ways that I would never have dreamed of. I would advise when petitioning St Jude, please leave him to work out the solution and be unconditional. He is wonderful at finding a solution but not in ways one would expect.

With this in mind, I was determined to attend the Summer Celebration. My friend and I arrived early on the day and I was able to show her around the Shrine before the Celebration. The weather was uncertain to begin with, but again the sun shone for us when needed. It was wonderful to see so many people of all ages attending and I believe many had travelled far to attend this special day.

Both the service of the anointing and the procession past the shrine in the morning, and the mass in the afternoon celebrated by Fr Tony Lester (Prior Provincial) and concelebrated with Fr Michael and Fr Piet made the day very special. The Mayor and Mayoress of Faversham also attended.

After the mass in the afternoon, we attended a small reception where we met the Mayor and Mayoress of Faversham who were extremely charming and very interested in the work of the Shrine.

Before we left, we visited the Gift Shop and stocked up on various prayer cards and, most of all, the blessed Oil of St Jude. For me it was a very memorable and special day and I look forward to the next.

Jane is a member of the Guild of Saint Jude and lives in Kent.

Golden Jubilee

Fr Piet celebrated his Golden Jubilee. Here he tells the Guild magazine about that special day:

“What a marvellous celebration we had, of the Parish Day and the Golden Jubilee of my Ordination. At first the weather looked ominous. At 7.30 a.m. Greg Watkin phoned me and said, “Despite the rain, we will be setting up. We will be there within thirty minutes” and they were.

“I had to go to Aylesford to pick up some of the family, because Nico’s car had broken down. Once they arrived, they were mighty impressed by all that was being done. I was grateful to all the parishoners for their help in making the Parish Day/Jubilee celebration such a great event. So many of them did so much behind the scenes to make it a great success. I did not thank everyone publicly as I know I would have left someone out (I’m nearly at the stage where I can blame my age!). We are a truly blessed parish.”“

“A special thank-you has to go to the youngsters: Ned, Molly and the dancers with Billy Elliott amongst them! The whole event reminded me of one of our previous parish priests, Fr Tommy Gallagher. In his latter years he used to say, “At the end of my life I’m going to give a fervent Deo gratias!” However, let us say it now, rather than waiting for the end of our lives! Yes indeed, a very fervent thank-you must go to our Deo: God!”

Fr Piet Wijngaard was the Shrine Chaplain for many years (alongside his role as Parish Priest). He is currently Parish Priest in Faversham.



Around the Shrine

In each edition of the Guild magazine, we'll take a look at a part of our beautiful Shrine. Through the archway from the outer shrine is the chapel, which serves as a prayerful antechamber before the statue of Saint Jude.

In the chapel are twelve large silver votive lamps, which are suspended from the ceiling. These symbolise the twelve Apostles (among whose ranks was Saint Jude).

The windows in the chapel are the work of Richard King. The triple light at the back of the Shrine Chapel depicts Our Lady of Mount Carmel (with the Scapular in her hand) and the Christ-Child with a scapular and dove, with attendant angels on a rainbow. The rainbow imagery here refers to the Old Testament story of Noah in the Book of Genesis. The dove seen above the hands of the Christ Child, could again refer to the dove bringing the olive leaf to Noah, but Christ is also seen as the bringer of peace.



Notices

Medals

Beautiful Saint Jude medals created by the famous French artist, André Lacôme are available to pre-order from the National Shrine of Saint Jude. They are currently being produced in the famous town of Lourdes. All medals that are pre-ordered will be blessed by our Chaplain on arrival, and sent to you first class. These special medals are only available for our sixtieth anniversary year, and there are only 100 silver and 100 bronze medals available. Please order as soon as possible.

Silver: £30 each

Bronze: £25 each

You can pre-order these via our form included with this magazine, and payment can be made by cash, cheque or debit/credit card. The price includes postage & package in the UK. Please make any cheques payable to The Carmelites. Or, you can call: 01795 539214 to pay by card.

Prayers

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

Bertha De La Haye Blackith

Eugene Boyle

Marianne MacQueen

Denis Ryan

Monica Slaughter

May they Rest in Peace and rise in glory

Please also pray for any members who are sick.

Saint Jude, pray for us

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us

Upcoming events

24, 25 and 28 October 2015 - Feast of Saint Jude celebrations. Please come and join us.

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:

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