



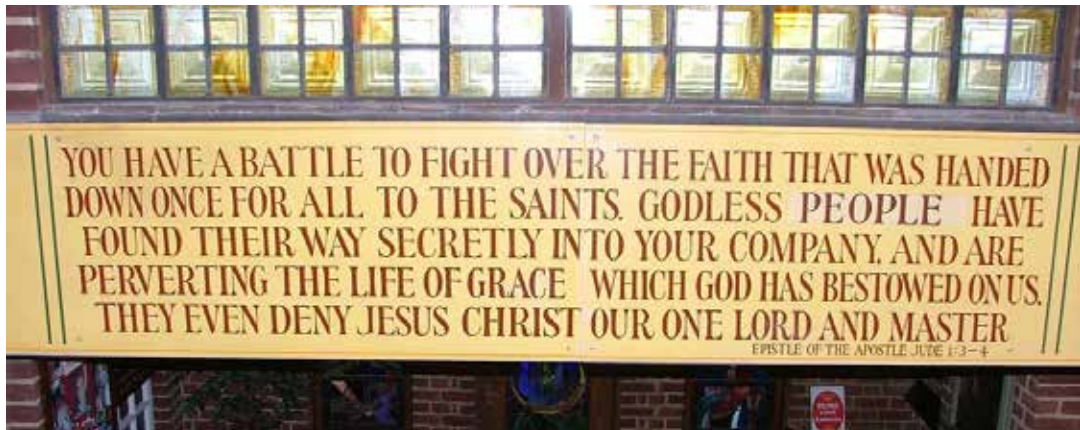
THE CARMELITE NEWS



From the National Shrine of Saint Jude



AUTUMN 2020



Dear Friend of Saint Jude

I HAD HOPED TO BE able to write to you with the good news that the Shrine here in Faversham was open and fully functioning.

However, the resolution of this crisis is taking much longer than anyone anticipated. The Bishops in England and Wales have wisely insisted on a number of precautions that make it impossible for the moment to re-open the Shrine. Those of you who know the chapel dedicated to Saint Jude know how small it is. I doubt we could get more than two people in the Shrine at any one time!!

In normal times, we are blessed with a large number of visitors and it would be very hard to make everyone queue and wait to get into the Shrine. If you are able to get online, please do

remember that we have a number of ways to see the Shrine there and pray with Jude.

On the weekend before and on the Feast Day itself, of course, we normally have hundreds of pilgrims visiting us, but unfortunately the risks posed by these numbers means that we cannot have any public celebrations this year.

We are planning to transmit a Mass from the Shrine on the Feast Day which you can watch live or later. We are hoping this will take place at 12pm. I will be celebrating the Mass with the community here. We will also have a number of 'talking heads' videos about the Shrine and Saint Jude, as well as opportunities for prayer and reflection.

For those of you who are

not online, we would like to ask you to consider joining us in praying the novena to Saint Jude at 11.30am every day for the nine days from 20 October (enclosed with this newsletter). All your petitions will be with us at Mass and your candles will have been lit here or in other communities for his Feast.

As they say, 'those that pray together, stay together'. Let's all pray together those nine days and especially on the Feast and be together.

Of course, I never thought I would ever have to say this, but please join the Shrine online or via a local setting - the Shrine is sadly going to be closed for visits during the normal Feast weekend and day. Thank you for your understanding. Let's pray together wherever you are instead.



Saint Jude preaching - Shrine of Saint Jude (Adam Kossowski)

“ ..a fresh look at his letter in the New Testament.. might prove fruitful for us today.. ”



Relic of Saint Jude

YOU MIGHT BE forgiven for thinking that Saint Jude doesn't have much to tell us about COVID-19 and the pandemic it has caused. After all, he lived nearly 2,000 years ago in a very different society from ours and neither he nor any of the other apostles had any medical knowledge, as we would understand it. However, maybe a fresh look at the letter in the New Testament which bears his name might prove fruitful for us today.

No one knows for sure whether the apostle Jude who appears in the gospels is the same person that wrote the letter of Saint Jude. In one sense, that

doesn't matter because the belief of the early Church was that Jude of James or Jude Thaddaeus was the author, so for the sake of argument, let's go along with that.

Jude speaks only once in John's gospel in chapter 14 when Jesus tells the apostles he will make himself known to those who obey his commands and understand that Jesus comes from the Father and is in the Father. This is part of Jesus' mission to the world as messiah and Jude wants to go deeper into the question to understand what Jesus means.

Jude asks him *“Lord, how will you make yourself known to us, but not to the world?”* In other words, how can the traditional image of a 'globally recognised' messiah be squared with Jesus' own statement that he will make himself known. So, Jesus' identity will not be self-evidently clear to all; rather he will choose those to whom he wishes to reveal himself. Jude's question receives a clear answer from Jesus: *“All who love me will obey my teaching.”* The practical following of Jesus by obeying his commands will be recognised by the Father who together with Jesus will come and live with



Jesus and these loyal disciples.

I have spent a little time discussing these two verses from John 14 because Jude's question helps to understand what he writes in his letter. Looking through the New Testament to find the **Letter of Jude** you might easily miss it if you flick through too quickly. It is only 25 verses long! Yet concentrated in these few lines are some precious teachings which could illuminate our present predicament in 2020.

Jude's opening remarks are addressed to exactly the same people Jesus mentions in John 14: those chosen by the Father and protected by Jesus. Yet there is something amiss: Jude had wanted to write a letter of encouragement about salvation, but he feels compelled to deal

with the realities of the present circumstances. What seemed so simple and straightforward has become complicated and even a struggle – does that ring any bells today?

The changes we are living through prompt us to talk of a 'new normal', so profound and far-reaching are the effects of this pandemic. Naturally, we can feel disturbed and even agitated by the prospect of these unknown developments.

Jude reminds us that the true Messiah, Jesus, keeps people safe. *"I want to encourage you to fight hard for the faith that God gave his holy people. God gave this faith once, and it is good for all time."* The capacity for faith and the ability to believe are at the heart of discipleship. They provide a bedrock for our confidence that God does take care of

his people, but not in some theoretical or abstract way.

God's protection is seen in practical and concrete ways from his dealings with the people of Israel. Very often we are not conscious of God's positive involvement in our lives until after the event. Sometimes we are so busy asking for things and telling God what we want that we don't hear the answer! Jude alerts his congregation to the various ways over history that God has led, protected, guided and shaped his people as a demonstration of his concern.

Jude also reminds his listeners that God's people has always struggled to achieve its destiny, so the people must contribute something to the divine plan as well.

So, tranquillity and peace of mind are to be found not among the latest fads, suggestions and, dare I say, fake news. Rather it is the demonstrable facts of history that give Israel and us confidence. Jude offers a whole series of examples drawn from the Old Testament which I am not going to reproduce or comment on here.

Instead, may I suggest that this might be a good point for each of us to reflect a moment on those times we have felt God at work in our lives or maybe, after the event, realise that's what it was. Strangely, our map going forward is based on previous experiences. We don't have to re-invent God's protection or presence in our lives.

That almost insignificant figure and that briefest of letters have much to teach us in terms of realism, constructing a solid basis of faith and relying on God's protection. Seen in this way, maybe the 'new normal' won't look so different from the past experience of God's love.

"God is strong and can keep you from falling. He can bring you before his glory without any wrong in you and give you great joy. He



Window of the Resurrection, Shrine of Saint Jude (Richard Joseph King)

is the only God, the one who saves us."

"To him be glory, greatness, power, and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord for all time past, now, and forever. Amen".
(Jude 24-25)

WITH THIS NEWSLETTER I am sending the usual Altar List for the Dead for the month of November.

This list helps us to focus our devotional practice of praying for the souls of those who have died. They are part of our lives in a real way and we have not forgotten them. Just as we bring our loved ones who are still living before the Lord in prayer, so too we

remember in prayer those who are no longer with us. We also try to remember those who have no one to pray for them: the Holy Souls in general, rather than particular people we know.

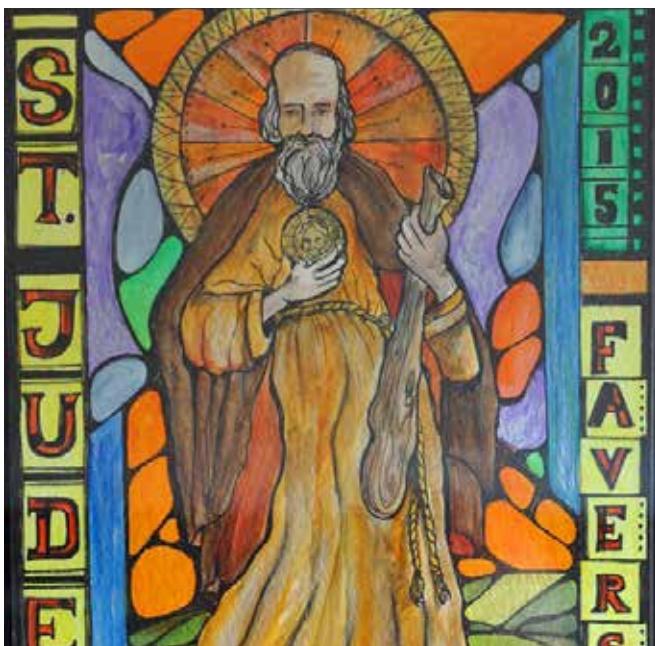
As you know, the Church sets aside 2 November as a special day of prayer and the whole month of November in general.

It is a humbling time, yet also a comforting one. It is humbling because it reminds us of a certain fundamental equality of our human destiny. It is comforting because it reminds us of God's love for us and the true gift of life after this earthly existence.

The Carmelites would be honoured to offer Mass for your dearly departed loved ones on 2 November, then throughout the year as members of the Holy Souls Society. Please list their names on the enclosed form and send it back to me, so we can place them before the altar of God and in honour of Saint Jude.

We continue to remain in union and solidarity with the Holy Souls as we celebrate the Eucharist because that celebration is with the Body of Christ on earth and in heaven. Mass is the great sacrifice of holiness, presence and mission. The Church prays for the dead in every Mass and so recalls every day those whose holiness inspires us and which we still feel and appreciate. Praying for the dead also reminds us that our ultimate mission is not on this earth, but to be with God in heaven.

In addition, I have sent our usual novenas. This time our newsletter is coming out slightly later than normal, so if you add intentions for the novena of masses for the Little Flower, please rest assured that we will be celebrating an additional novena of Masses in October to cover these later



A painting of Saint Jude sent to us in 2015

petitions you may send.

AS WE ALL KNOW prayer is very important and in this day and age, we can pray in many different ways! An area where I know many of you worry and pray for is the children of the world, especially in these difficult times - indeed when you receive this newsletter, many will have been at school for the first time in months!

Over the lockdown, Matt Betts created two videos about the Shrine which have helped many people to pray with us. So in October, we would like to try something else: a video of pictures of

Saint Jude from the children.

If you know a child between 1 - 12 who would like to do a colour picture of Saint Jude, please get parents permission, and send the pictures to our address before 20 October. Please address the envelope "Jude video".

We won't be able to use them all and we won't name the children - except their first name and age - but we will try and add as many as we can to our new video. As Jesus said: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these".



A FINAL THOUGHT - our Carmelite Communities across the country pray for the friends of Saint Jude daily, as well as here in Faversham. Please be assured of our prayers always.

May Saint Jude intercede for you and Our Lady protect you!
May the healing Presence of God be with you and the whole world.

Kevin Alban O.Carm.
Prior Provincial

Notice Board



Remember our Novenas
Novena to the Little Flower
23 September - 1 October 2020
Novena to Queen of the Most Holy Rosary
29 September - 7 October 2020
Novena to Saint Jude
20 - 28 October 2020

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



Join us from home
20 - 28 October

Join us from home in praying the novena to Saint Jude at 11.30am every day for the nine days. Let us pray and be together wherever we are.

Saint Jude Virtual Feast

20 - 28 October 2020

*A message of hope for
today*



www.togetherwithjude.org

Join us every day
20-28 October 2020
ALL WELCOME



 Carmelite Friars, PO Box 289, Faversham, ME13 3BZ

 01795 539 214

 newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk

 www.stjudeshrine.org.uk

Donate online: <http://tinyurl.com/Donate2Jude>

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



Registered Charity: No. 1061342