



# THE CARMELITE NEWS



*From the National Shrine of Saint Jude*



SPRING 2022



## **Dear Friend of Saint Jude**

**A**s we gently transition from winter to spring with increasingly more daylight hours, it is good to feel again the warm sunshine softly kissing our brows. Our gardens in Faversham are awake. It will not be long before Saint Jude's Garden of Hope and the beds around Whitefriars will be dazzling in colour, as God's own creation opens itself anew to the touch of new life. The daffodils are already *"fluttering and dancing in the breeze"*.

### **Does God dance?**

**W**e hope and pray that, whatever is happening in your life, you will experience the great hope that friends of Saint Jude know when we allow our innermost selves to be held, embraced and healed by our creating, reconciling, restoring and – dare I say? - dancing God

who always rejoices to be greeted by open, receptive hearts. Perhaps those who allow hope to triumph over discouragement and fear will find themselves internally, in the words of William Wordsworth, like daffodils in God's garden, *"Tossing their heads in sprightly dance"*.

With the easing of Covid restrictions, the daily procession of pilgrims is increasing. Although not everyone can visit this intimate Shrine of Saint Jude, we continue to be united in a bond of prayer that moves beyond space and time to offer support and encouragement. Together we become shafts of light that pierce through darkness. Where there is light there is hope, and with hope people flourish in offering and receiving love. Together we form an essential part of God's

magnificent and varied garden where flowers blossom and birds sing. Someone asked: *"Which is more important? To love or to be loved?"* A wise person replied: *"Which is more important to a bird? The left wing or the right wing?"*

### **Lent**

**O**n Ash Wednesday we begin the season of Lent – forty days and forty nights in preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter. In ordinary circumstances, blessed ashes are used to mark our foreheads with the sign of the Cross. We hear again the call to repentance, to refocus our lives on the way that God sets before us in the person of Jesus.

On 25 March we celebrate the Annunciation of Mary. She committed her future

*Light and  
Love in the  
darkness*



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



Ash Wednesday

to God’s will so that God’s desire to be among us in the humanity of Jesus might come about. Later she would also share in his passion when he was led to the Cross. Allowing God to be at the centre of our lives means saying Yes to God’s ways. We yield to the impulse of God’s love that is at the heart of creation. This passionate love yearns to be unveiled, released and shared in human hearts. Living consciously in the presence of God creates in us a beautiful harmony with the divine; it brings internal peace and strengthens our authentic relationships with others. Even here and now we can taste something of eternity when we unite our wills with God’s.

As a boy I remember my mother teaching me basic dance steps. With the aid of a kitchen stool (having graduated from the broom!), she taught me how to do the waltz. I learned that it wasn’t merely about getting the steps right and ensuring that my shoulders remained smoothly parallel with the floor. It also involved allowing soft, round flowing movements to be in harmony with the music, mood and, of course, one’s partner. During Lent might we re-learn the steps of God’s dance? Can we allow our minds, hearts and behaviour to flow fluidly without resistance with God’s own breathing? I wonder if our rigidity might be transformed during Lent into a liberating Christian discipleship that is energetically, spontaneously and deeply responsive to the very life-force of God within each of us.

### **Praying through Lent**

**S**aint Jude observed, imitated and grew in the prayer of Jesus. Jesus’ prayer was about living God’s will to the point of complete self-giving. It was an intense experience of being in harmony with God. Everything in the life of Jesus demonstrates his complete focus on and



orientation towards the will of the One who sent him to share divine life.

As we engage with the Lenten gospel readings, we witness Jesus in his temptation in the desert before his ministry began, in his encounters with people in real need, in times of conflict with those who could not accept his teaching, in his prayer of complete self-abandonment in the Garden of Gethsemane, and his ultimate self-giving in total love on the Cross. It all proclaims eloquently beyond mere words an attitude of total fidelity, confidence and hope.

Let's see our Lenten pilgrimage as a time to accompany Jesus in his journey not only to the Cross but also to the Resurrection. As we, like Saint Jude, grow in our sense of being his companions, we pray for the courage to release our grasp on our plans for ourselves and allow God to be at the centre so that God is our greatest love. With the light of Easter beckoning, we keep focus. So often we know that, to transcend our subtly addictive, familiar attitudes and behaviour, we need a higher offer or hope-filled horizon. For the Christian, this is the call of Resurrection hope.

During Lent, join me in using two prayers.

### Charles de Foucauld

**B**orn in 1858, Charles was raised in a wealthy family, who abandoned his faith and later became a soldier and explorer. Rediscovering a new expression of faith, he became a religious brother and latterly a hermit who served among the Tuareg people in the Sahara Desert in Algeria. He was killed at his hermitage in 1916. He will be officially declared a saint by Pope Francis on 15 May 2022. His famous '**Prayer of Abandonment**' is a most beautiful expression of trust and surrender:

*Father,  
I abandon myself into your hands.  
Do with me what you will.  
Whatever you may do, I thank you;  
I am ready for all, I accept all.  
Let only your will be done in me, and in all your  
creatures.  
I wish no more than this, O Lord.*

*Into your hands I commend my soul.  
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,  
for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,  
to surrender myself into your hands  
without reserve and with boundless confidence,  
for you are my Father.  
Amen.*

## Titus Brandsma

**B**orn on 23 February 1881, Titus was a Dutch Carmelite friar, a priest, a professor of philosophy, a journalist and an advisor to more than thirty Catholic newspapers. During the Second World War, he used his influence to oppose National Socialism and ultimately paid for it when he was killed by lethal injection in the concentration camp in Dachau, Germany on 26 July 1942. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on 3 November 1985, and we are now eagerly awaiting the announcement of a date for his canonisation.

Many will remember Fr. Piet Wijngaard and Fr. Wilfrid McGreal who were so dedicated to the Shrine of Saint Jude. Each had a strong attraction to the example of



Icon of Titus Brandsma and Edith Stein - Shrine of Saint Jude

Titus. Fr. Piet, as his health declined, was often heard as he climbed the stairs to his room praying, “*One for Jesus; one for Titus.*” There is a contemporary icon of Titus in the Shrine of Saint Jude (see above), which

they both admired.

While in prison, in the February before he died, Titus composed a beautiful prayer, ‘*Before an Image of Jesus Crucified*’:

*Dear Lord, when looking up to thee,  
I see thy loving eyes on me;  
love overflows my humble heart,  
knowing what faithful friend thou art.*

*A cup of sorrow I foresee,  
which I accept for love of thee.  
Thy painful way I wish to go;  
the only way to God I know.*

*My soul is full of peace and light,  
although in pain, this light shines bright.  
For here thou keepest to thy breast  
my longing heart, to find there rest.*

*Leave me here freely all alone,  
in cell where never sunlight shone.  
Should no one ever speak to me,  
this golden silence makes me free!*

*For though alone, I have no fear;  
never wert thou, O Lord, so near.  
Sweet Jesus, please abide with me;  
my deepest peace I find in thee.*

*Amen.*

## Praying with and for you

The Carmelite community is very much aware of so many aching hearts who live with tremendous concerns and heavy burdens. Daily we pray for all the friends of Saint Jude – those who can visit and those who keep in touch through this newsletter. Our own faith in the Resurrection of Jesus and his life-giving presence among us stirs our hearts to intercede with and for you.

## Saint Jude Enablers

We are tremendously grateful to you for enabling so much good to happen in this country and abroad by your prayer and generous donations.

Following the devastation caused by the Christmas typhoon in the **Philippines**, you enabled us to send a contribution of £10,000 to the Carmelites involved in the repair and support work



Because of your generosity, we send an annual contribution to the Carmelite Missionary Sisters in **San Salvador**. In January three young Carmelite friars made their Solemn Vows in their chapel in which Saint Oscar Romero was assassinated.



Also in January five young men began their Carmelite journey as pre-novices in San Salvador, and three Carmelites were ordained priests.



You have also been supporting two friars in **Timor Leste** who have been fine-tuning their skills to serve the people of their country.

Later this year, another friar from East Timor will come to England to improve his English.

Thank you for your continued support.





**Think Vocation!**

We are pleased to tell you that Brother Matt from Sheffield, who is in Salamanca in the European Novitiate Community, is doing well. Brother Richard is also benefitting from his MA studies in London. These are generous men who are offering their lives to God in Religious Life. Like all the friars, they come from ordinary families.

Please pray that others will consider our committed way

of life. Do more than pray! Do not be afraid to suggest to young people that God may wish them to become a religious brother or sister. People coming to Shrine of Saint Jude are always happy to meet one of the friars. Who knows? Perhaps one day that might be someone you have encouraged. Or, if you are a young person, that might be you!

God calls each of us by name to fulfil some specific task. I pray that, as we move

through Lent towards the celebration of Easter, you will hear your name spoken tenderly by the God who raised Jesus from the dead, the same God who will raise us up and offer us new life. May we become light and love in the darkness.

Happy Easter!

Fr. Brendan Grady, O.Carm.  
Prior Provincial

**Notice Board**

**Remember our Novenas**

**Novena to Saint Joseph**

11 - 19 March 2022

**Novena for Easter**

8 - 17 April 2022

**Novena to Saint Jude**

20 - 27 May 2022



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"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

- Romans 8:28

Shrine of Saint Jude - a message of hope for today  
[www.stjudeshrine.org.uk](http://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk)

*May mercy, peace and love be  
yours in abundance*

Letter of Saint Jude, verse 2

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