



# THE CARMELITE NEWS



*From the National Shrine of Saint Jude*



SUMMER 2018



## ***Dear Friend of Saint Jude***

I hope that you had a good celebration of Easter and are now looking forward to the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in July.

I would like to take the opportunity in this newsletter to reflect on Mary's place in our lives.

We are all very familiar with her role as mother – of Jesus, of the Church, and of each one of us. She intercedes for us with her Son and watches over us with a mother's protection. However, in recent years we have rediscovered a Carmelite tradition of calling her also our sister.

Interestingly, Pope Paul VI in the very ceremony that he proclaimed Mary as the Mother of the Church on November 21, 1964, also drew attention to her role as sister: *"...she is, however, very near to us. A daughter of Adam like us, she is therefore our Sister by the bonds of nature."*

What is the importance to us of this human connection to Mary? She is the guarantee of Christ's true humanity. He had a true human body which is distinct from his divinity and therefore not just an apparent body, yet Christ was not divine merely because God's spirit dwelt within him and therefore

he was not adopted in any sense, but truly God. If Christ's humanity were only apparent, then human salvation would not be real either. In giving flesh to Christ, Mary gives what all humanity possesses.

The force of calling Mary "sister" is very significant for a clear understanding of the reality of human salvation and it is not simply a reminder that Mary was human and gives an example to humanity, but that the flesh she gave to the Word of God is the reason why humanity is truly redeemed.



Mary and the Christ Child with the Holy Spirit - Shrine of Saint Jude

“ their first oratory to Mary is a way of celebrating their imitation of her virtues from the beginning ”



The Visitation - Rosary Way

Mary is the connection between the reality of the Incarnation in Christ truly taking on human flesh and the reality of human salvation in that her flesh which she gives to Christ is common to humanity.

In the Carmelite tradition, the dedication of the hermits of their first oratory to Mary is a way of celebrating their imitation of her virtues from the beginning. The connection between Mary and the hermits is later expressed in the Institute of the First Monks (a late medieval

text) in the title “sister”, again denoting this shared commitment.

About 100 years after the Institute, the Dutch Carmelite, Arnold Bostius, presents a comprehensive portrait of the relationship between Mary and the Carmelite Order. He continues to use Ribot’s title of sister for Mary as a sign of the common ground between the Virgin and the Carmelites: “so dignified, so holy, to have a sister, a mother, a spouse and a patron.” Bostius also uses sister in a more liturgical context, using the title in a number of hymns. For example, “O to me you are a sister”, “O my bride, sister”, “O sister who descends on Carmel”.

The common vocation shared with Mary leads Bostius to endow the title sister with an intimacy and sense of community which distinguishes his Mariology and is at the root of a flowering in devotion and theology in the 17th century in the “Mystical Marian” school of the reform of Touraine.

# JOHN

I hope that this short explanation of Mary as our sister serves to deepen our appreciation of Mary in our lives as we prepare for the feast day.

I would now like to take the passage from John's Gospel that we will be using on the solemnity:

*Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.*

John 19: 25-27

The scene presented in the Gospel reading is one where the feminine dominates: three women who have accompanied Jesus to his death on the cross. The disciple closest to Jesus, "beloved", is also present as a witness to that mutual love. But that disciple also represents all the followers of Christ whom he loves – all of us.

Jesus' words to his mother in consigning all of us to her care in the person of the beloved disciple make us her sons and daughters. At the same time, John points out that the disciple takes her to himself and brings her into his own home. Perhaps it is not too much to say that the first Christian community is formed at the foot of the Cross, in its shadow, and that Mary is a central element in that community. We see

her in Luke's gospel in the upper room praying with the disciples. There is also a legend that after the resurrection, Mary continued to live near that garden where her son rose, teaching the disciples the secrets of the Incarnation.

I invite all of you to join us on the Solemn Commemoration of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, either in person or in prayer. Reflecting on Mary as sister, and as the central figure in the Church and in our Order, is a worthy way of preparing for her feast.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel





**A**S you can see from some of the photos, we had a wonderful Summer Celebration at the end of May. Saint Jude was keeping an eye on us and the sun shone throughout - except for one small shower of rain in the morning.



It was great to meet many friends of Saint Jude in a warmer environment than at the October Feast!



I particularly enjoyed leading the procession from outside, through the church, and then past our beautiful shrine. I would like to thank all the pilgrims who joined us; the music group; Fr Brendan and the community; Matt and his team. A truly glorious day!

**W**E have had another busy time at the Shrine. Just after Easter, we welcomed Nic May to the Shrine Office team as the new team leader. Nic will be working closely with Matt in continuing to develop our work at the Shrine.

On 25 May 2018, a new law came into effect in the UK called General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We are part of the Carmelite Charitable Trust.

The legal basis on which we hold and use your personal data is through

“legitimate interest”. We count the supporters of the Shrine and the readers of this newsletter as those who have shown an interest in us and the Carmelite Order. We classify this support as a legitimate interest for holding data about you.

Your data is safe with us and we take the obligations of data protection very seriously.

Your interest and support in our newsletter is very important to us - thank you. Our new privacy policy is available on the Saint Jude website ([www.stjudeshrine.org.uk](http://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk)). If you need more information on GDPR, please visit the Information Commission website ([www.ico.org](http://www.ico.org)).



**T**HANK you for all your financial support and for all your prayers, without which the province could not continue.

I am also very appreciative of your personal good wishes which are a source of great hope to me.

Until next time, may God bless you and Our Lady of

Mount Carmel intercede for you,

Kevin Alban O.Carm.  
Prior Provincial

---

## ***Notice Board***



### **Remember our Novenas**

Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel: 8 - 16 July 2018

Novena to Blessed Titus Brandsma: 19 - 27 July 2018

Novena to Saint Jude: 4 - 12 August 2018

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



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**



### **Pilgrimage to Canterbury**

Would you like to join us on a pilgrimage to Canterbury in October? Walking and/or coach. Contact us at our postal or email address if interested.

Reflection & Prayer with  
**St. Jude**

National Shrine of St. Jude

**FAVERSHAM**

**Saturday, 7 July**

**ST. JUDE: DISCIPLE OF JESUS**

Becoming hope-filled disciples; creating islands of hope

*Fr. Brendan Grady, O.Carm.*

**Saturday, 4 August**

**ST JUDE: APOSTLE OF HOPE**

Prayer, hope, transformation and mission

*Fr. Kevin Alban, O.Carm.*

**Saturday, 1 September**

**ST JUDE: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT**

walking with Jesus with hope in the good times and the bad

*Fr. Francis Kemsley, O.Carm.*

**Saturday, 17 November**

**ST JUDE: WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION**

Praying with hope for the dead

*Fr. Ged Walsh, O.Carm.*



**CARMELITES WELCOME ALL**

- 11.00 Mass
- 11.45 Talk on theme
- 12.30 Prayer Together
- 13.00 Conclusion



**ST. JUDE FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS: 27-28 OCTOBER 2018**



Carmelite Friars, PO Box 140, ME20 7SJ



01795 539 214



newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk



www.stjudeshrine.org.uk



Registered Charity: No. 1061342