

# The Carmelite News

WHITEFRIARS  
FAVERSHAM  
KENT



MAY—JUNE  
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1955

## SAINT JUDE, Apostle and Martyr

**N**OW, in regard to the Shrine of St. Jude. It may seem that we have been talking about it for a long time, but there is a special reason for that. The Shrine is being built by the voluntary contributions of the faithful and I see no reason to give away these voluntary contributions in interest to banks. We are building the Shrine as the money comes in. Up to the moment we have been getting on very well and I hope that the Shrine from a physical point of view will be finished by the middle of June. Then will begin the process of decoration.

Michael Leigh is one of the top line mosaic artists in England. On the lines of that old Dublin ditty, "So were his father and mother before." We are right in the tradition of mosaic artists. He studied in Italy, having behind him the lore of his own family tradition.

Then, there is Anthony Foster, who is a top line artist in sculpture; Adam Kossowski a Pole, who is making a name for himself in his adopted country. With these three men in charge of the job I do not think we can make a mistake. We will have a sanctuary in honour of St. Jude that will be worthy of the cause.

Those who come to see the Shrine of St. Jude will have all the amenities that should be provided for a pilgrimage. Well, perhaps, let us not say pilgrimage, but a bus load who would like to visit Faversham and pay a visit to the Shrine.

We have provided adequate toilet facilities in connection with the Shrine. There will be a Repository. But people cannot spend all day looking at a Shrine. There

is also a simple canteen service.

If people desire something more than that; bus loads of people can be accommodated at Delbridge House which is beside the Faversham railway station. Delbridge House is quite an experiment. It is a fine old Georgian house. A Club and a public restaurant combined; a garden and plenty of room to move round. We can, according to Club law, make people members of the Club on payment of 6d for the week of their visit, or for the day of their visit. Names and subscriptions must be sent beforehand to give us 48 hours notice in Club law.

Delbridge House is not just a Club, it is one of the smartest places in North East Kent. It is owned by the Carmelites, by a Board of Trustees of the priests of the Order. The management is Catholic, and it is residential. It has, I think the smartest bar and dining-room in North East Kent, and one thing that is not provided in normal places, a ladies' Powder room that will beat comparison with any hotel on the South Coast.

You may think it queer to have me talking like this, but I am an old soldier, and I have come to the conclusion that nothing is **too good for Catholics**; and another thing, we have got to show outsiders that we are **smarter** than they are, and that we have **no lessons** to learn from them.

Delbridge House has a small and smart dining-room; 25 to 30 people. A fine hall where you have facilities for music and dancing, and above all, toilet facilities for men and women, that are quite

out of ordinary provision. But we can cater for groups of over 100.

You may wonder why I do this. Alright, I have done it at great sacrifice. I have done it because I believe that we Catholics should set a headline and show other people how things ought to be

done in social recreation. Come along and try it! We have a Guest House in case you may think there is an overflow. Our Guest House is just as smart as the rest.

It is no harm to blow one's own horn occasionally. God be with you.



*Continuing the story of*  
THE CHILDHOOD YEARS OF  
ST. MARY MAGDALEN DE' PAZZI

by FRANCESCA VAN DER KLEY

**H**OW often Catherine regretted the passage of summer, when she must return to the city and leave "her children!" On this account, her parents finally consoled her by taking back to Florence with them a little daughter of one of their farmers, Giovanna. This child was brought up in their own home, and Catherine continued with delight her instructions in Christian Faith. The children and the servant-maids used to unite in devotions, because they were drawn together by Catherine's active, humble charity.

In a manner beyond her years, Catherine sensed the need and the privilege of taking part and in some sort sharing in the Passion of Jesus. She felt naturally impelled to suffer for her Saviour, and she was ingenious in finding ways to do so. The discipline was then a common instrument of penance, but she did not stop there. She broke off the thorny branches of the orange trees to fashion crowns and girdles to encircle her head and sides. Her nights were given in large part to penance, for then she thought to suffer undiscovered.

She prevailed upon the servants not to warm her bed, as was the custom in winter (when nights in Italy are decidedly cold). Then she would remove the mattress and lie down on the bare straw. Her mother found this out, however, and took Catherine into her own bed, fearing that her daughter would impose too much strain on her already delicate constitution.

It was not unusual for her to give three or four hours out of the twenty-four to prayer.

Her mother's confessor, the Jesuit Father Andrea de Rossi, had observed Catherine's spiritual development and had logically admired the child's perseverance. He decided to take special charge of her, and so gave her a book of Meditations on the Passion. "Read over the points for Meditation," he advised. "Then kneel down, and having recited the *Veni Creator* and the *Confiteor*, consider with ardent devotion what you have read and let yourself be guided by God." This was the whole of her human instruction in the matter of prayer, and it sufficed. Catherine held fast to the "one thing necessary." It was to lead her one day to the summits of the mystical life.

Catherine's first ten years were indeed a long, smoothly unfolding preparation for the Holy Eucharist. She had already yearned for this divine Sacrament. In those days, very young children were not admitted to this privilege. Catherine resigned herself then to enjoying the hope of some day obtaining the sacred favour and meanwhile taking pleasure in seeing others receive it.

Father de Rossi recognized that her holy envy and desire sprang from a devoted spiritual hunger and knowledge that outstripped her actual age of but ten years. So, to her immense joy he promised to fulfil her great wish on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin. She ecstatically received Holy Commun-

ion for the first time on March 25th, 1576, in the Church of St. Giovannino. Her abundant love was rewarded by her tenderly loving Lord. For she told in later years how sweetly her thirst was assuaged, stating that in all her lifetime she never felt a greater consolation of sacramental union. Having tasted, however, she was inflamed with a burning longing to receive regularly. And this her director permitted each week, to Catherine's intense joy.

She lived from one week to the next in holy longing for this celestial comfort and refreshment. Her one desire was to receive Jesus. Even her exterior appearance seemed to take on a new grace. The love that sought to melt her soul overflowed in such a way that all who saw her were filled with wonder and admiration.

Thus passed the first decade in the life of a soul for whom God had very special plans and who was ready to respond with complete generosity and surrender.

## BABY ELEPHANTS

WHEN I was a little boy I lived in Ceylon. The elephants there are the biggest in the world. They fascinated me. I used to ask my mother where elephants came from, and she told me "Oh, at first they are little baby elephants and then they grow big." I could not believe this! I could not believe that any animal so huge, so ungainly, so awkward, and so seemingly built without purpose, would have a baby. I just could not take it in.

But, one day, to my bewildered astonishment, I saw a baby elephant walking along beside its mother. I do not think that the creative power of God was ever so strongly manifested to my mind as at that moment. I became wildly excited. I ran up to the baby elephant and put my arms around his trunk. The mother elephant took me up in *her* trunk and dropped me straight into the middle of a prickly thorn bush growing nearby. That was the beginning of a beautiful friendship between me and a baby elephant. It lasted for years.

## WHO KNOWS?

The Inspector was examining class in history, so he asked Johnny Jones, "Who knocked down the walls of Jericho?" Johnny replied, "It wasn't me, Sir." So he went to the school teacher, "I asked Johnny Jones who knocked down the walls of Jericho and he said it wasn't him." "Well," said the teacher, "I know Johnny Jones, and if Johnny Jones said he didn't do it, then he didn't." The Inspector wrote to the Ministry of Education, and they replied that they were not interested in who knocked down the walls and that the question of compensation should be argued out with the proper authority.

## CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

Scolding little Bobby for his misdemeanours, mother asked, "How do you ever expect to get into Heaven?"

Bobby thought for a minute, and then said, "Well, I'll just run in and out, and in and out, and keep slamming the door — till they say 'For goodness sake, come in or stay out.' Then I'll stay in."

## A ROUGH CROSSING

A man was going home after closing time feeling rather unsteady. He came to a zebra crossing and thought it a good opportunity to cross the street. He wound his arm around the Belisha beacon, looked at the black and white stripes on the street, went down on all fours and crept to the other side. There he pulled himself upright again by the other Belisha beacon. Then he looked back at the zebra crossing and said, "What a funny place to leave a ladder."

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## NOT SO DUMB

A man who believed he knew all about parrots undertook to teach what he thought to be a young mute bird to say "Halloa" in one lesson.

Going up to the cage, he repeated that word in a clear voice for several minutes, the parrot paying not the slightest attention.

At the final "Halloa" the bird opened one eye, gazed at the man, and snapped out, "Line's busy."



## THE CARMELITE NEWS

*Mrs. E. Estill, of Whitley, Yorkshire, writes:*

Dear Rev. Father,

When reading your *Carmelite News* which you so kindly send me, I was interested to read that you knew of no one with the name of Linus.

I was present at a Baptism a few years ago and the Godfather's name was Linus and he also had a brother called Xystus.

They belonged to a good Catholic family I knew well, as we all went to school together at Egton Bridge.

I hope you do not mind me writing this letter to you, but in Yorkshire we still have one or two real genuine names, but I suppose they will eventually die out for the more popular ones of the present day.

Your *News* is most interesting, and I only wish I could help you more in all your good work.

Thank you *Mrs. Estill*.—ED.

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We are having much trouble with letters stolen in the post.

Will our subscribers please retain counterfoils of Postal Orders sent; register notes; and cross all cheques. Then, if no acknowledgment is received within a week please tell us and we will ask the Postal Authorities to make enquiries from this end.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to: REV. M. E. LYNCH, FAVERSHAM—and should be crossed. Faversham is important, because it means that they cannot be presented elsewhere.

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Thanks to *Mrs. Brennan* who sent £1 for bricks to St. Jude under promise of publication.

In grateful thanks to St. Jude for favours received. *Miss M. Spooner*.

*Mrs. P. King of Co. Waterford*, wishes to start a burse in honour of The Immaculate Conception B.V.M. We thank her. We will do so. Her first donation is listed below.

### OUR BURSES

	<i>Already acknowledged.</i>	<i>Increase.</i>
The St. Jude Burse No. 2	£904 6 8	now £938 6 8
Holy Child of Prague Burse	472 12 3	482 12 3
The Holy Face Burse	150 9 4	158 19 4
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Burse	200 3 6	211 13 6
Little Flower Burse	175 15 0	184 15 0
St. Anne Burse	39 3 6	46 3 6
St. Anthony Burse	110 0 6	118 0 6
St. Martha Burse	888 19 6	896 19 6
Sacred Heart Burse	364 6 0	368 16 0
St. Philomena Burse	15 18 6	20 18 6
Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Burse	10 0 0	—

### OUR COMING NOVENAS

SACRED HEART OF JESUS	-	-	June 9th—17th
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL	-	-	July 8th—16th
ST. ANNE & OUR LADY	-	-	July 18th—26th
ST. PHILOMENA	-	-	Aug. 5rd—11th

Our Lady keep you! Yours in Carmel

*M. E. Lynch O.C.*