

SAINT JUDE FOCUS

www.stjudeshrine.org.uk



News from the Shrine of Saint Jude - February/March 2024

Saint Jude Summer Celebration

1 June 2024

*Praying with Saint Jude
and the Apostles*



11.00: Devotions with Anointing
13.30: Open Air Mass
14.30: Procession to the Shrine

**Refreshments &
piety stall available**

ALL WELCOME

Coaches welcome - please book via 01795 539 214

Shrine of Saint Jude, 34 Tanners Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7JW





WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE LATEST ISSUE of *Saint Jude Focus* - updating the friends of Saint Jude.

Lent started on Ash Wednesday. This is the annual occasion when we can focus on our faith, the way we live it, and the way we might change our lives in the light of faith. The Carmelites pray for you throughout Lent.

Some important dates for your diary: the next Summer Celebration will take place on 1 June - all are welcome. And, remember please take a look at our website - there are plenty of online events too.

Finally, please note that it is now not possible to post letters with stamps that have a large image of the late Queen icon - they must have a barcode. Thank you.

Thank you for your support of the Apostle of Hope and his Shrine. Happy Lent.

Matt

THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO FRIENDS WHO walked twelve miles, or supported the initiative to raise money for #SaintJudeEverywhere in December.

December is not always the best month for walking, but that did not stop you from giving it a go. We want to particularly highlight two people this time who joined in.

First, thanks to Joseph Santoso who walked 12 miles in Singapore. Secondly, thank you to Tim Bowman (pictured below) who walked Bewl Water. According to the Bewl Water website, no list of walks in Kent would be complete without walking here!



Amazing - thank you to both Joseph and Tim, plus everyone else who stepped out for 'Jude Everywhere' last year!



S^T JUDE →

A man in the shadows

SAINT JUDE IS mentioned very rarely in the gospels and on only one occasion does he actually speak.

It would be easy to suppose that Saint Jude was only a minor figure in the life of Jesus but this is to misunderstand the way the gospels were written. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote their lives of Jesus long after he had died and risen again. The first to write was Mark and his gospel is thought to have been written sometime around 60 AD or shortly after, that is nearly 30 years after the Resurrection.

Luke and Matthew wrote their Gospels a little later, probably around 70 AD and they took advantage of Mark's Gospel, copying many of the accounts of Jesus's preaching and miracles - adapting and rewriting them, of course, in their own style. John's Gospel comes last, around 80 AD or even later and was written, not by John himself, but by one of his followers who collected together all the stories about Jesus which John had recounted to his Christian followers.

Each of the Evangelists

wrote the life of Jesus in their own style and used a variety of sources for their information. Luke and Matthew had copies of Mark's Gospel before them but also they shared another source - a collection of the sayings of Jesus - which has now been lost. Also, the world at that time was a very oral one, not many people could read or write. So events were remembered and passed down by word of mouth. Those who had known Jesus while he was alive would have shared their memories with others interested in



Shrine of Saint Jude

“...[Jude] is not just a passive bystander, listening to Jesus...”



Jesus and his disciples

the Christian faith, who in turn, would have passed these memories on to their friends. Of course, in such a culture, stories can become embellished and more elaborate as time goes on. At the time the Evangelists were writing, there would still have been some oral memories circulating in small Christian groups, in families and in the villages where Jesus visited.

It also needs to be remembered that the Evangelists are not writing biographies of Jesus in the same way as a modern historian would write a biography. They do not mention what happened each day, what Jesus had for breakfast, or where he went

for lunch, all such details are left unstated. The Evangelist focuses on what will help the reader to believe in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, so the focus is on the miracles worked by Jesus, his teaching, the parables, etc. and of course, his crucifixion and resurrection as the final climax.

So, where does Saint Jude come into this scene? Firstly, he is not just a passive bystander, listening to Jesus and being part of the crowd. He was selected by Jesus as an apostle so he must have had a special role. Why apostles? Well, when Jesus returned to Galilee after being baptised by John, he began his mission by going into his home synagogue and, after reading a passage from the prophet Isaiah, he starts to preach. At first, the people were amazed that he preached with such authority and their amazement increased as he began to heal people who came to him. So the crowds flocked in from far and wide to hear his preaching and to hope for a cure from their illnesses. These crowds grew so great that it is recorded that Jesus and his disciples couldn't find time even to eat a meal. Even Jesus' mother and his relatives came from

Nazareth worried about his behaviour and the pressure on him.

At a practical level, the solution to the crowds was to get matters better organised and it is here that the apostles come into their own. Jesus didn't have the time or energy to do everything himself so the apostles, led by Peter, became Jesus' support team. As Jesus moved around, some of the apostles would be sent on ahead to the next village to inform them that Jesus was coming, to choose a suitable site where Jesus could talk to the people, an open grassy space, with a mound or platform for Jesus to be visible to all, and so on. Also, there would be a need for somewhere for Jesus and his disciples to sleep afterwards, and to see if there was some wealthy person who could provide a meal for Jesus and his companions. It is worth noting that there are references to a group of women who assisted Jesus by providing funds and looking after meals, etc.

When Jesus himself arrived at the village and the crowds began to start gathering, the apostles would have had a role in shepherding

the people to places where they could sit and keeping the place clear where Jesus was to stand. When Jesus arrived, the apostles would have cleared his path through the crowd, guarded him from those rushing to touch him and then, while he was preaching, would have carefully positioned themselves to prevent the crowds from closing in on Jesus.

In modern times, the nearest equivalent to the apostles would be the roadies who look after travelling performers. Modern performers are surrounded by a large and highly capable team of assistants.

Saint Jude as an apostle was chosen for this role not simply for his faith and belief but because of his talents and ability, as someone who could be part of a team, helping, assisting and supporting Jesus. Not as a silent observer but as an active supporter, helping Jesus to spread the Good News and the coming of the kingdom.

However, the apostles were not simply a support group, they were being prepared for a more creative role in spreading the Good News.

Once Jesus felt confident in their ability, he sent the apostles out in pairs to preach the Good News themselves. He gave them instructions how to behave, to travel lightly without spare clothes, to depend on the charity of others for where to stay and how to deal with any rejection. This was training for their future apostolates. After the Resurrection, the preaching role would be passed on to the apostles. Saint Jude himself would have played a significant role in this, one assumes, although sadly no records of preaching survive. There are legends that he spread the gospel in Eastern Europe, which would be quite logical if he had followed in the footsteps of Saint Paul and made his way through Turkey and up through Greece. Whatever happened, Saint Jude surely showed himself as a capable and able helper for Jesus and that talent would have stood him in good stead as he sought to pass on the Good News which he had received from Jesus himself.

Fr. Richard Copey, O.Carm

This reflection was originally written for the Guild of Saint Jude in October 2022.



Remarkable women

www.stjudeshrine.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day falls on 8 March this year. Celebrate Carmelite women by visiting us and viewing some of the beautiful art here, or simply visit our website. Here's just one remarkable Carmelite woman.

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux
"I understood that all we accomplish, however brilliant, is worth nothing without love." - Saint Thérèse

Saint Thérèse (1873 – 1897) was a French Discalced Carmelite nun widely venerated in

modern times. Whilst still young she entered Carmel of Lisieux, where she lived in the greatest humility and evangelical simplicity and confidence in God. By word and example she taught the novices these same virtues.

She is popularly known as "The Little Flower of Jesus" and has been a highly influential model of sanctity because of the "simplicity and practicality of her approach to the spiritual life". Offering her life for the salvation of souls and the spread of

the Church, she died on 30 September 1897.

Together with Saint Francis of Assisi, she is one of the most popular saints in the history of the church. She is also a Doctor of the Church.

The statue pictured above is from the small shrine to Thérèse and Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Why not read more about the other remarkable Carmelite women on our website. Let's celebrate them together.

www.stjudeshrine.org.uk


Remembering the Shrine and the Carmelites in your Will

Your legacy will help the Carmelite Charitable Trust and the Shrine of Saint Jude to ensure that the work and ministry of the province and the Shrine will continue for many generations to come.

It is thanks to so many of the legacies of the past that we have been able to continue our work, building God's Kingdom on earth even when your earthly life is over.

Please call 01795 539 214, scan the QR Code, or visit www.stjudeshrine.org.uk for more information.



 <https://tinyurl.com/JudeFB>

 twitter.com/saintjudeshrine



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