

SAINT JUDE FOCUS

www.stjudeshrine.org.uk



News from the Shrine of Saint Jude - March/April 2025

*Saint Jude -
Apostle of Hope
Summer Celebration*

31 May 2025

Pilgrims of Hope



11.00: Devotions with Anointing

13.30: Open Air Mass

14.30: Procession to the Shrine

**Refreshments &
piety stall available**

ALL ARE 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. The 'Saint Jude Focus' has been created to compliment the quarterly newsletter which is written by the Prior Provincial. The Focus includes extra information on future events and other interesting stories that friends of Saint Jude may find of interest.

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.

In this edition of the 'Saint Jude Focus', we reflect on the season of spring, on Saint Jude and being pilgrims of hope. Next we commemorate the five-year anniversary of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and then we reflect on remarkable Carmelite women.

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

HOPE

2025 IS AN EXCITING YEAR FOR THE Shrine of Saint Jude.

First, the Shrine has been designated as a jubilee place of worship by the Archbishop of Southwark for the special jubilee 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

Secondly, later this year, we will be celebrating seventy years since our foundation by Fr. Elias Lynch, O.Carm.

This is certainly an exciting year for our favourite Apostle.

Please save the date for two future events later this year:

Summer Celebration

Saturday 31 May 2025

Feast of Saint Jude celebrations -

Saturday 25 October, Sunday 26 October and Tuesday 28 October 2025

All are welcome. Please visit: www.stjudeshrine.org.uk or call 01795 539 214 to book a pilgrimage or for more information.



S^T JUDE →

Saint Jude, Spring and Hope

"No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow" - old English proverb

SAINST JUDE IS THE Patron Saint of Hope, and in this year we can be pilgrims of hope perhaps guiding people to find out about him.

I have had the privilege of working with the Carmelites at the Shrine and throughout the Province for over ten years now. One of the highlights of that time is being able to speak to friends of Saint Jude - many of whom tell me about the hope they experience through the Apostle - knowing that, like him, none of

us are forgotten by God.

Now we are once more enjoying the beginnings of spring - a season that provides hope for the future.

It brings forth new life and important hope of sunnier and more colourful landscapes. It is the season of new starts and ideas bursting from the ground like the return of daffodils and bluebells. God is ever present in this season of hope.

In February, many of us commemorated 'Holocaust

Memorial Day' which gave us a chance to remember the past, learn more about it and empathise with others today. We can then take action for a better future. One of the victims of this terrible time was Anne Frank - in her diary, she wrote that those who could should: "*...go outside, to the country, enjoy the sun and all nature has to offer. Go outside and try to recapture the happiness within yourself; think of all the beauty in yourself and in everything around you - be happy...*".

How right she was. As we consider hope and spring, let us ponder the first part of a poem by William Wordsworth called: '**I wandered lonely as a cloud**'.

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

*Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.*

- William Wordsworth (1770 – 1850)

The poem encompasses the thoughts of the poet after he has wandered over the hills with their never-ending row of enchanting spring flowers. They impressed him so much that he compares the flowers with the sparkling stars of the galaxy. He is captivated by the startling view of nature. This everlasting impact, triggered by nature, often serves as a delight for the poet, when he feels low or lonely at home.

The infinitesimal nature and expanse of the spring flowers and the galaxy of stars remind us of the greatness of God - and thus, the hope he provides. A hope that we can share with others.

Here are three suggestions for this season.

First, go outside - especially if you are working from home or at home, stuck in an office/school all day - go out and enjoy God's creation. Breathe in nature. Remind yourself about what has changed since winter and go find those golden daffodils!

Secondly - please come and see us. The Shrine is open every day and the offices are open Monday to Friday from 9am - 5pm each day. We would love to meet you and share these beautiful gardens with more friends of Saint Jude - come any time or come and visit us on 31 May 2025. The Garden of Hope and Whitefriars contemplative gardens are all "fluttering and dancing in the breeze" - all are welcome.

And, finally, as Pilgrims of Hope, we would like to invite you to write a message of hope for our 'Garden of Hope'. We will include these in new artwork later this year. Simply send a couple of sentences to our PO Box and we will try and include them.

"For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him". - Colossians 1:16

by Matthew Betts





Covid-19 - Five years later

SUNDAY 9 MARCH 2025 was a Day of Reflection across the UK for the COVID-19 pandemic - it marked five years since the start of the UK lockdown.

Over Lent, let us take the opportunity to pray and remember those who lost their lives since the pandemic began and to honour the tireless work and acts of kindness shown during this unprecedented time.

The Shrine was closed from that day and did not finally open again until 19 July 2021. However, we were

able to celebrate Mass in the Shrine on the Feast Day that year, but otherwise (apart from the daily prayer of the Carmelite friars) no one visited.

The Shrine of Saint Jude team were able to work throughout the Pandemic - either at home or in the office - helping supporters with their prayer requests and being available to everyone who wrote or called us.

We also produced daily reflections, which then moved to weekly reflections. These remain on our website as they

are still as useful now as they were then - written by many Carmelites and friends of the Shrine. My favourite reflections were those written on 'Pandemic Heroes'.

We were also able to publish two books of reflections. There are only a few more available if you wanted to collect one as a memory of this time. Please call the office to purchase.

In some ways, it all seems so long ago, but in other ways, it was all too recent. Saint Jude, pray for us.



Remarkable women

www.stjudeshrine.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day fell - as ever - on 8 March. 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 here in Faversham.

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>

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