

SAINT JUDE FOCUS

www.stjudeshrine.org.uk



News from the Shrine of Saint Jude - September/October 2024

Novena to Saint Jude

20 - 28 October 2024

*A message of hope for
today*



www.TogetherwithJude.org

Join us every day

6pm

20 - 28 October 2024

ALL WELCOME



WELCOME

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

Fr. Brendan recently reminded us that as Saint Jude became a personal and intimate friend of Christ, he increasingly understood and loved Jesus. This meant that after the Resurrection, Jude was able to preach the life of hope that Jesus offered. By being friends of the Shrine, we continue the work of Saint Jude by being Ambassadors of hope.

Please take a look at our various upcoming events within these pages. Please join us if you can - all are welcome.

October is a time to celebrate our favourite apostle - can you let us know why you have been grateful to Saint Jude. We would like to publish these during our special 'thank you' week.

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

Matt



CELEBRATION

THE WORD FEAST COMES FROM the Latin word *festes*, meaning 'joy' and symbolises a time of celebration. The Church has a year of feast days in this sense, partnered together with holy days of obligation and saints' days and days devoted to expressions of God's love in the lives of Jesus and his mother, Mary.

At the Shrine of Saint Jude, we celebrate a number of feasts, but a particular highlight of the year is the Feast of Saint Jude. If you have never been to see us, why not join us over the three days of 26, 27, 28 October 2024 - you will be very welcome!

All visitors to the Shrine feel a true sense of community and hope.

And remember, please do call us on 01795 539 214 or shrineoffice@stjudeshrine.org.uk if you want to visit as a pilgrimage group or individually during the weekend. All are welcome.



Saint Paul

SAINT PAUL IS THE ONLY Apostle who never met Jesus in person – and indeed, Paul begins his adult life as a persecutor of the new Christian faith, and was known then as Saul. He took part in the stoning and martyrdom of Saint Stephen (the first martyr of Christianity). However, on his way to Damascus (now in Syria) where he planned to persecute more Christians, he experienced a vision of Jesus Christ:

'As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed

around him.

He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.' – Acts 9

This experience changed Saul completely and gave him the conviction that he must bring Christianity to the Gentiles. After his conversion, Saul started to use his Roman name, Paul – though Saul is used at other times in the 'Acts of the Apostles'. He was baptised

and retired to Arabia for three years to pray and discern his mission.

On his return to Damascus, his enemies became so hostile that he had to escape into the night. He thus went to Jerusalem to seek out the other Apostles and was received with some hesitation until Cypriot, Saint Barnabas persuaded them to make him welcome. Paul was sent on his first mission with Barnabas soon afterwards, and they went to Antioch followed by Cyprus and Anatolia.



Twelve Apostles (Shrine of Saint Jude)

“...peace be with you, Foundation of the Church, Shepherd of the flock of Christ...”



Jesus and his disciples

This first missionary journey saw the birth of the church of the people/the church of the Gentiles, but it created the need in Paul's mind for some clarification on the growing church. Paul headed back to Jerusalem after this and attended the so-called 'council of the Apostles' to settle on an issue of whether the new 'Christians' had to adhere to the laws and life of Israel. It was decided there that the Jewish observance of Mosaic Law was not required for converted pagans, so not bound by the rules of Judaism. The only thing necessary was to belong to Christ, live with Christ and abide by his words. Exactly what we Christians try to do today. This decision changed

everything: the faith now spread all over the Roman Empire and beyond, and Paul was a big instigator of this.

In his second and third missions, he went around Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) until reaching Macedonia (thus entering Europe for the first time). He founded a community in Philippi (former home of Alexander the Great), travelled to Thessalonica, then Athens, followed by Corinth. In his third mission, he went back to Antioch.

Antioch is called "the cradle of Christianity" because of the pivotal role that it played in the emergence of early Christianity, and the name 'Christian' first emerged here (according to Saint Luke). From here, Paul went on to Ephesus, staying for two years but had to flee because local silversmiths were losing trade as people had stopped purchasing silver statues of pagan gods. Eventually, Paul ended up back in Jerusalem and was arrested for teaching against Jewish Law. Here he was attacked and beaten, but Paul invoked his privileges as a Roman citizen, which allowed him to appeal to the emperor in Rome.

Some scholars suggest that this journey to Rome should also be classified as a missionary journey, because he was able to convert and talk to people on the way. Before he reached Rome, he was shipwrecked on the island of Malta, where he made his presence felt. Paul is a very well-loved saint in Malta and there are many churches dedicated to him, including one called 'Saint Paul's Shipwreck Church'. Eventually Paul got to Rome and was under house arrest for two years, where presumably Christians looked after him in their homes. Here he wrote four more epistles known as the "captivity" epistles. At some point, the emperor must have acquitted him, because it is likely he then visited Ephesus again, and possibly Spain.

However, this freedom was not to last, and according to tradition, he was martyred in Rome during the persecutions of Christians by the Roman Emperor, Nero. As he was a Roman citizen, he was beheaded and was buried in a Roman family's tomb outside the walls of the city (this is where the city buried their dead). The basilica of 'Saint Paul outside the walls' was founded over the place of

his burial, and recently in 2006, Paul's tomb was on display.



It is said that Saint Peter and Saint Paul suffered martyrdom on the same day and were led together until they were separated: Peter for Nero's Circus; Paul for the Salvian Springs. They did not say goodbye, instead Peter said: "Go in peace, Preacher of glad tidings, Guide of the Just in Salvation"; Paul replied: "Peace be with you, Foundation of the Church, Shepherd of the flock of Christ".

Many people like to think of Saint Paul as the Apostle of the people – he was one of the first to go out and spread the Good News to Europe and much of Asia Minor. Paul was a powerful thinker and though his epistles were written for practical needs, these led to the

development of Christian theology and are now the principal foundations of the Christian faith.

What of Saint Paul's legacy? I leave you with the words of travel writer, HV Morton: "So [Peter and Paul] went to their martyrdom, in the year 67AD. Less than forty years had passed since that night in the Upper Chamber of Jerusalem; less than forty years since the Agony in the Garden and since the Cross had been lifted on Calvary. In that little time, the grain of mustard seed had taken root, and the shadow of God's Kingdom was upon the earth."

Saint Paul, pray for us - help us to keep spreading the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

by Matthew Betts

Originally published on the Saint Jude website - June 2022

SAINT JUDE

FOOTPRINTS OF HOPE

www.stjudeshrine.org.uk



ONE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE FOR A 'FOOTPRINT OF HOPE' AT THE SHRINE

Earlier this year, the Shrine of Saint Jude lay bricks on a new path for our 'Footprints of Hope' project. The path is a beautiful addition to the Shrine map, but we're pleased to advise we have a few more spaces left.

We therefore want to offer friends of Saint Jude one more opportunity to have a special name engraved on a brick.

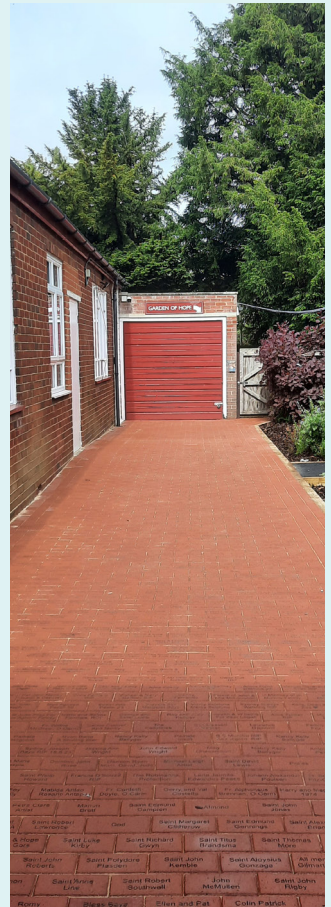
Make your mark and remember your friends and loved ones in a special place of hope and peace - this is your

last opportunity to add a chosen name(s) for just £42 per brick. There is now no limit to how many bricks you can order.

Your brick will be set on this new path from the Whitefriars Contemplative Gardens to the Garden of Hope and will be available for many years to come.

Donate for your footprint, here: www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/footprints or call 01795 539 214.

All bricks need to be ordered by Friday 6 December 2024, but please let us know ASAP as we only have a few spaces available.



Feast of Saint Jude

26 - 28 October 2024

34 Tanners Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7JW



Saturday 26 October

12.30pm & 2.30pm & 4.00pm: Saint Jude Mass,
followed by anointing

Sunday 27 October


12.30pm: Saint Jude Mass, followed by anointing

Monday 28 October

12.30pm: Saint Jude Mass, followed by anointing

ALL ARE WELCOME

Please call 01795 539 214, visit www.stjudeshrine.org.uk,
or email: shrineoffice@stjudeshrine.org.uk for more
information.

 <https://tinyurl.com/JudeFB>

 twitter.com/saintjudeshrine



 **Carmelite Friars, PO Box 289, Faversham, ME13 3BZ**

 **01795 539 214**

 **newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk**

 **www.stjudeshrine.org.uk**

Donate online: **<https://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/donate>**

Online shop: **<https://tinyurl.com/SaintJudeShop>**



Please recycle or pass this communication on to a friend after you have finished reading it - thank you.



Registered Charity: No. 1061342

Front cover, pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 © used with permission from istockphoto.com - all other photos © Carmelite Charitable Trust. istockphoto.com have all been purchased and are used with permission. Focus has been written, designed and edited by Mr. Matthew Betts. The Focus is correct at the time of printing. Contact the editor on: newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk.