

THE CARMELITE NEWS

he goes home. The Bird Market is in a back yard surrounded by tenements. The birds are hung in cages on the walls and there you see every type of Irish songster. There, too, you see, that peculiar type of Dubliner, the small man with the bright eye and the soft and friendly wheedling voice. He has no pretensions to being well dressed, and *his* style is a mixture of the past and the present, "the hat me father wore" and whatever came after it.

You pay a penny to go in—that is to keep the kids out. A great treat for the children is when father takes them to see the birds. Everything from a linnnet to a cockatoo. Finches, bullfinches, green finches, chaffinches, blackbirds, thrushes, skylarks and whatever comes between. It is a regular auction, not a haphazard

the bird seed if you are dealing with an Irish bird caught upon the plains of Kildare or Westmeath. A few grains of wheat and a good fat worm, a chunk of bread and water and your thrush or blackbird or finch or chaffinch will sing as gaily as you like.

The birds are caught in thin silk nets on a dry day, and every bird-catcher has his own individual trick, his favourite hunting ground. Some of them catch as many as twenty a day. They must be caught young, and never in the breeding season. Birds that are taken from the nest just before they fly are never the best. They need the air, and the wind and the bough first, or they will never become the songsters of the heart.

To say that the birds are loved and carefully tended, is only a little expression of

Carmelite International Holy Year Pilgrimage to ROME

1950

Special Audience with THE HOLY FATHER.

To open the 7th Centenary year of the Scapular Vision to Saint Simon Stock.

Under the leadership of the

Very Revd. W. MALACHY LYNCH, Prior of Aylesford.

Leaving London on the morning of Thursday, August 3rd. Arriving in France, Friday, August 4th. Mass on Saturday, August 5th in the 'Carmine' of Florence—the great Church of the Carmelites.

Continuing by C.I.A.T. special coaches to Rome, via Assisi. Remaining in Rome for the five days allowed to pilgrims. Special Audience with THE HOLY FATHER. Pilgrims will be presented to The Holy Father by the Most Revd. E. KILIAN LYNCH, Prior General of the Carmelites.

Booking still open.

Price from England 45 gns. Ireland 48 gns.

Enquiries—The Prior's Office, "THE FRIARS," AYLESFORD, KENT.

affair. If what you want is not there today, it will surely be there next Sunday. If you want expert advice on what bird to buy, how to feed it, how to cage it, or even how to talk to it,—there you will find the acknowledged experts in the art.

Very few women are seen there. If you ask the reason why, you will be told that women's ears are not sensitive to the songs of birds. That is queer, but it is true! The great bird lovers are men. Is there a cobbler in Dublin who has not got his bird? Is there a cobbler who does not talk to his bird throughout the lonely day? and the bird in its cage is as well known a sign of a chemist's shop as the coloured globes in the apothecaries' window.

The price is your own, starting at a bob, but you would surely find something really good at a pound. Then you buy the cage and the bird seed. You need not bother about

what they mean to their owners. They become the friends of the family and particularly of the children. They have their own pet names and in a quiet hour they have the freedom of the room. Sometimes they are proudly displayed in the front window facing out on the busy street, and when the bird sees the children coming home from school, as they crowd round the window, it puts on a peal of song that is full of joy and gladness at the faces it knows.

There is no such thing as rough handling of birds. They are bird fanciers. They would rather look at a bird, listen to a bird, admire a bird, buy a bird and sell a bird, than do anything else. You remember the little man in "Odd Man Out." Perhaps he is the type of many you would see there, of the man who goes home and whispers to the birds of how he is going to talk himself out of a fix.

To Parents and Teachers

A NEW CHILDREN'S PRAYER BOOK.

THE JUNIOR PRAYER BOOK is the fruit of many years experience of teaching religion in the Junior School, and, though simple, contains a good deal of useful material for the Junior child as such. Much contact with these children has led to the conclusion that a very serious cause of 'leakage' of adolescents from the Church is to be found, not in the later years of school life, but in the very important bridge years of nine, ten, and eleven. It is in these years that the children, while not yet ready for Secondary School work, tend to grow bored with the Infant School approach to religion, and this is the psychological moment in which to arouse in the child a personal love of Our Lord as a Person. This is the object of the JUNIOR PRAYER BOOK. Doctrinal knowledge is translated into the devotional acts of their every day life, and the children are led to unite

themselves to the offering of Christ the Victim in the Sacrifice of the Mass, to tell their sins to the One Whom they have sinned against, Christ on the Cross, and to receive His blessing at Benediction.

The PRAYER BOOK is intended to be as useful in the class-room as in Church, and the children will be greatly helped if the drama of the Mass, and the prayers, are explained and discussed thoroughly before the book is used in Church.

The price is 7/6 a dozen plus postage, retailing at not more than 1/- per copy. Many teachers will be able to order the booklet on their Requisition as the prayers it contains are all recommended by both the Northern and Southern Syllabus of Religious Teaching.

Copies may be obtained from the Carmelite Press, Faversham, Kent.

PARADE.

The Silliest of all Silly Stories.

A policeman was going down a London street and saw a man tapping on the wall with a two shilling piece. He looked and passed on, stopped and looked back and finally returned to ask the man, "What is it you are doing?" The man said, "I am tapping on the wall with a two shilling piece." "And what is your usual occupation?" said the policeman. "My usual occupation," said the man, "is telling the sex of unborn crocodiles." Even that didn't stop the policeman. "And why are you knocking on this 'ere wall with a two shilling piece?" "Because," said the man, "My usual job is not full time employment." Just plain daft!!

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The common run of English people hold steadfastly to a number of preconceived ideas. One is that every Irishman loves a fight, and another that all Frenchmen are excitable, voluble and quite irresponsible.

Here is an inscription on a tombstone in Montmartre:

"To the memory of M. Jobart, a most excellent husband and father. His incon-

solable widow still continues to carry on the grocery business in the Rue St. Denis, No. 242, near the Café Chinois."

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Line Out! A small boy was watching a telephone repair man climb a pole, connect the test set, and try the connection with the test board. After listening for a few minutes the youngster rushed into the house screaming: "Mama, come out here quick. There's a man up a telephone pole talking to Heaven."

Puzzled mother: "What makes you think he's talking to Heaven?"

Small boy: "Because he hollered: 'Hello! Hello! Good Lord, what's the matter up there? Can't anyone hear?'"

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St. Anthony of Padua is an honorary Colonel of the British Army from the time of the Peninsular war. He is entitled to wear the red sash of a staff officer. St. Anthony is so popular in Portugal, that it is only with difficulty they admit that he was an Italian and died at Padua.

THE HOLY YEAR.

The Holy Year is derived from the Jubilee Year of the Jews. It came every fifty years. It was an extension of the Sabbath which was observed by the Jews by Divine Command. The Jews worked six days a week, but the seventh day was the Sabbath. It was forbidden to do any kind of work on that day. Food that was eaten had to be prepared the day before, and nearly all human activity ceased except divine worship.

The Jews were largely a nation of peasants and small land owners, and even the land had a rest in its turn. A man might take the heart out of it for six years, but in the seventh year it was allowed to lie fallow. It was a year of rest for the land. Then since a bad year might come—plague among the cattle, or drought, it often happened that the poor man had to sell his land to the rich owner. Eventually, all the land of Israel would have passed into the hands of the big land owners. Then too, labour might be plentiful and wages drop below subsistence level, a man might have to sell himself into slavery and sometimes his wife and family too, in order to be fed. Over and above this, if a man fell into debt his creditor could sell him into slavery and his wife and children until the debt was paid. We have an instance in the Gospel, of a family that was sold into slavery for debt.

Well, the Jews had a way of putting things right. Seven periods of seven years were allowed to go by, and then the fiftieth year was a year of Jubilee. All the land went back to its original owners and all the slaves went free. Everything went back again to where it started. It did not matter how long, or how short a man was in slavery. It did not matter how little the rich land owner got out of his hard driven bargain. In the fiftieth year every man stood again a free man on the land of his fathers. That is why the Jubilee year was such a wonderful year in the life of the Jews.

The Church has taken over this wonderful custom. In the middle ages the Holy Year came once in every century, then it was proclaimed every fifty years, and now it comes every twenty-five.

That is why the Holy Father wishes that all who can, make the journey to Rome to gain the Jubilee indulgences. It will be a wonderful demonstration of Catholic unity, of that huge family that is spread all over the earth. Some will go by air, some by sea and over land. They will gather at the feet of our common Father to give him proof of the loyalty of his children.

There will be a Carmelite Pilgrimage too. Notice of which you will see in the *Carmelite News*.

OUR COMING NOVENAS.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES,	Feb. 3rd—11th.
ST. PATRICK	- - March 9th—17th.
ST. JOSEPH	- - March 11th—19th.

BROWN SCAPULARS.

Finally, we have cleared the bottle neck in the making of Brown Scapulars. Until a month ago we depended on supplies from outside. Several convents of nuns worked hard for us to give us the Brown Scapulars we require, but we never succeeded in getting more than a tenth of the number we need. Now, we have created a special department for the making of Brown Scapulars. We have three American, electrically driven, sewing machines and we employ a full time staff to turn out the Scapulars we need. We

can supply any number on demand. They are very well made and each Scapular has two small pictures showing Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Simon Stock. The material is good and they are strongly put together. Price is 6d. each. We are very much against the introduction of the old 1d. Scapular. A good Scapular at a proper price is our aim. The old 1d. Scapular was a shoddy, ill made, cheap looking thing, and I have often felt ashamed that the *Scapular Promise* was associated with something that looked so mean.

Our Lady keep you! Yours in Carmel, M. E. LYNCH, O.Carm.