



# The CARMELITE NEWS

WHITEFRIARS,  
FAVERSHAM, KENT.

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## The VII. Centenary Year of the Brown Scapular 1251—1951.

THIS is 1951 and I am starting it off on my back. I scalded my left foot by accident and had to go to bed. Then, I promptly caught bronchitis, and the doctor tells me I will be in bed for quite a while, so I am trying to get through correspondence in a horizontal position.

1951 is going to be an important year in the history of the Carmelites. The rededication of the Friary at Aylesford to Our Blessed Lady of Mount Carmel will in itself make the year important beyond all others, but it is doubly important when we can associate with the rededication of Aylesford the Seventh Centenary of the Scapular Vision.

We are working terribly hard to put Aylesford into a state of repair for the occasion. We knew of and expected plenty of trouble when we bought the place, but one can always have one's expectations surpassed. We have had to start practically from the beginning in replacing the services. The buildings are

quite a distance from the mains, which follow the main road to "The Friars." The gas mains were corroded and leaking; the water mains were leaking; the electricity was so overloaded that it threatened to burn the place down; the sanitary arrangements for buildings of that size were totally inadequate even for domestic occupation. Every time you put a pick in the ground it costs £400.

We have completed the repairs to the roofs and they are now intact and safe against the weather. The old guest house has been repaired and is now the Pilgrims' Hall. Our main problem is to build a new kitchen and complete, before next July, two sanitary blocks that are absolutely necessary for dealing with a crowd.

Money seems to be getting short and some of the very generous donations we received in the beginning are fading away, but we are relying on a source of small faithful subscribers who never let us down.

### Our Lady's Year.

THE Holy Year was in a very real sense Our Lady's year, and perhaps it will be recorded in history as the Holy Year of the Assumption. The Proclamation of the Dogma on that memorable November 1st was, indeed, the grand climax of the Holy Year. Leading up to it were many Marian congresses in the Eternal City, notably the International Carmelite Scapular Congress, marking the opening of the Seventh Centenary Year of the institution of the Brown Scapular, and the Marian Congress sponsored by the great Franciscan Order. These congresses brought special joy to the heart of the Holy Father,

and his most earnest supplications for prayers were addressed to their members. The new invocation in Our Lady's Litany should be very dear to us, for it will be ever a reminder to us of our privileged generation. "Queen assumed into Heaven, pray for us."



### Scapular Centenary Year.

1951 will be a Carmelite Holy Year. During it the Order will celebrate the Seventh Centenary of the Scapular. July 16th, 1951 will be the 700th anniversary of the Scapular Vision, and on that day the Scapular Centenary year will come



to its solemn close. It will be a day of great solemnity in Carmelite monasteries and churches all over the world. The wearers of the Brown Scapular will also participate in the special scapular celebrations. As the Holy Father has so clearly explained, those who wear the Scapular are affiliated with the Order of Carmel and share all its good works and spiritual benefits.

### Spread the Scapular Devotion.

THE Centenary has a twofold purpose. First of all it is intended as a solemn act of homage and devotion to the Queen of Carmel for the great gift of the Holy Scapular. Secondly, it has as its aim to spread as widely as possible the scapular devotion. A generation ago, in our own country, the wearing of the Brown Scapular was a universal custom. Now-a-days it is being neglected. It is hoped that such neglect will be remedied and the universal use of the Brown Scapular restored to our Catholic people. You can all help in this work for Our Lady's honour and for the good of souls, by wearing the Scapular or the Scapular medal, and by getting others to wear it. We ask each wearer to get another during the centenary year. Many will, we hope, get a number of new wearers. Thus devotion to Mary Queen of Carmel will be strengthened and the power of her maternal protection made more manifest.

### Consecration to Mary's Immaculate Heart.

THE devotion of our time is, beyond doubt, the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Holy Father himself has linked this devotion with the Scapular of Carmel. He has told us in His Centenary Letter that it is "a sign of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary," and adds, "a consecration which

in recent times We have so strongly recommended." So we can say that consecration through her Scapular, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, sums up to the purpose of our Centenary, according to the wish and desire of the Vicar of Christ. This gives the fullest significance to our wearing of the Scapular. It is an entirely new aspect of the Scapular devotion which should have the widest possible appeal, and bring new members everywhere to the feet of the Queen of Carmel. If you have made your consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary you should also wear her Scapular, the sign of that Consecration.

### The Scapular Apostolate.

A SPECIAL Scapular Bureau has been established for the Centenary year. Its purpose is to further in every way possible the Apostolate of the Brown Scapular. All matters connected with the Scapular Devotion are dealt with. Should any of our readers have questions or enquiries they may communicate with this Bureau. The address is:—

Rev. Fr. M. E. LYNCH, O.Carm.,  
*Spiritual Director,*  
Scapular Bureau,  
Whitefriars, Faversham, Kent.

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### OUR COMING NOVENAS

OUR LADY OF LOURDES	-	Feb. 3rd—11th
SAINT PATRICK	... -	Mar. 8th—17th
SAINT JOSEPH	... .. -	Mar. 11th—19th



## EVERY MAN A PENNY.

OUR Collection Box Scheme is going very well. We have nearly five hundred boxes out and we have ordered more.

These collection boxes are going to be very useful. The overhead costs are a little high but if they can be filled even once a year they will provide a generous return. Some of our collectors do amazingly well. It is, of course, a question of the collector taking an interest in it.

That is one good thing about our boxes—nobody has a box who has not asked for it, so that the personal interest is there. Some boxes fill up so quickly that the job of emptying them must wait for an idle moment. Family boxes fill up about twice a year. Factory boxes can fill up about once a fortnight, and boxes in some public houses fill up nearly once a week. Contributions come in not merely from Catholics but from people with no religion at all. People do not seem to mind subscribing

to a Catholic charity nowadays as long as the cause is good.

Bruce Marshall has written another marvellous story about life in Paris. The principle character of which is a marvellous priest called L'Abbe Gaston. The title of the book is "Every Man a Penny." I am just thinking what a nice title it would be for our collection box effort.

We will send out a circular letter to the box-holders soon with a special word of encouragement to them.

There are nearly forty men working on the repairs of Aylesford at the moment and contractors' bills are enormous. We are trying to finish major repairs to the buildings before the rededication ceremony on July 16th of this year. The possibility of providing a modern independent Catholic school in connection with Aylesford is gradually becoming a reality. It will be another major development in the Catholic life of North East Kent.

### Centenary Stamps.

WE are sending you some samples of our Centenary Stamps. They are used to decorate the backs of envelopes and we hope that many will use them to advertise the Seventh Centenary of the Brown Scapular.

It is exceedingly difficult to find the sticky paper to produce these designs, so the number we may be able to issue is restricted. All our postings in 1951 will be overprinted with a Centenary notice and those of our members who like our stamps will perhaps be moved to send a few pence to defray the expense of them. We can send a sheet of 36 for sixpence.

### Burial Habits.

WE have now arranged to make Burial Habits for those who desire them. These things are always required in a hurry and our normal experience is to receive a telegram asking us if we can supply them. I have therefore, arranged to have the Habits made in our Scapular office as one of its ordinary practises.

The Habit is of brown woollen material consisting of tunic, hood, belt and scapular. The details we require are height and some indication of size; in other words, whether thin or stout. The tunic is made to button at the back, the collar also buttons at the back and the girdle is of the same material. The buttons are sewn on and it is only a matter of a needle and cotton to change the position. The sleeves are gathered in at the wrist in a cuff. The cowl goes over the head and is buttoned on to the tunic at the shoulders. The Scapular is worn on the breast. The normal cost should run out at about £3/10/0. The material we are using at present is 100% wool, but a cheaper material would be more suitable if we could get it.

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### Parade.

The Rev. W. J. Hargrave Thomas, Anglican Vicar of Needham Market, is on the lookout for cheerful hymn tunes. He suggests that the hymn "To Thee O Lord our hearts we raise" should be sung to the tune of "The Girl I left behind me."



You can't prevent the birds of sadness from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair.

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When the news went round that the Bishop had bought a helicopter, one of the parish priests suggested putting in anti-aircraft guns.

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A French Under Secretary of State was invited to the Silver Wedding of a distinguished Englishman. "Silver Wedding," he asked the Englishman's nephew, "It is a ceremony which I do not quite grasp." "My uncle and aunt," was the reply, "have lived together for twenty-five years without being separated for a single day." "Ah" said the Frenchman, "and now he marry her!" "C'est magnifique."

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A man was going home one night walking with one foot in the gutter and the other on the foot path. A friendly policeman noticing this went up to him and said, "Don't you think you have had enough to drink and that you ought to go home?" "Drunk" said the man, "Did you say I am drunk." "Yes, said the policeman." "Great Lord, said the man, I thought I was a cripple."

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A Tourist entered a restaurant in China and ordered a stew, which he ate with great relish. When paying his bill he jokingly remarked: "I hope you didn't kill a dog to make it." The Proprietor with a very serious mien replied: "Oh no, we found him dead."

## Lonely Hermits.

I WONDER, does any form of life ever entirely disappear or does every mode and way of life repeat itself in the turn of the centuries?

They say that there are hermits today all over the Far East and that the mode of life is not extinct. The English climate is not suitable for lonely living of that sort. Popular imagination feels rather lonely without hermits. Discover a genuine hermit with a beard in the hills of Scotland or Wales and it would take only a little publicity to turn him into a national character.

Amusing details are told in history of hermitages put up in the 18th Century garden "wildernesses." Parts of the garden belonging to large country houses were allowed to grow wild and then a winding path led up to a so-called hermitage. To complete the heremital effect hermits were advertised for. In one case it was specified that hair and nails must never be cut. An advertisement from Preston, Lancashire, offered a chamber organ, and in this case the successful applicant remained four years. What an attraction to visitors!!

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The last of the Aylesford pilgrimage to Rome returned to Aylesford on January 2nd, and their return marked the dedication of the Pilgrims' Hall.

It was a cold miserable day and it rained with an intensity that betokened anger. Anyway, the pilgrims had tea in the new Hall and it was dedicated for the use of all those who follow after.

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

## Carmelite Aylesford Pilgrimage to LOURDES.

Provisional dates: MAY 4th—12th.

For Further Information, Apply:—

The Hon. Sec., PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE,  
"THE FRIARS," AYLESFORD, KENT, ENG.