

The Carmelite News

FEBRUARY 1960 NUMBER

WHITEFRIARS • FAVERSHAM • KENT

“A HAPPY NEW YEAR”

Christmas and New Year have come and gone and I do not remember so dark and dismal a time for many years. We never seem to get rid of the grey skies and dark mornings even for a day. I like to see good hard frost in winter because so often it brings with it winter sunshine.

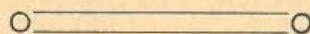
In one corner of our garden there is a cluster of Christmas lilies. They are in full bloom, but somehow it is a watery, ivory, sort of whiteness one sees in the flowers. In another corner there are some budding primroses and a few violets. I wondered about that, but the gardener told me that it was all because of good drainage; as good an explanation as any.

REX AND THE BURGLAR

We have an Alsatian dog and he is the constant companion of the gardener; but the gardener goes at midday on Saturday and does not return until Monday morning. It is only in that interval that Rex condescends to notice any of us. To relieve his boredom he will come into the kitchen, even into the dining-

room and he might even come upstairs, but he carries with him an air of great toleration. He makes it quite clear that he is talking to us only because the gardener isn't around and that he won't put up with it for long. He knows and even welcomes the Staff as they come to work. We thought everyone was scared of him until a burglar paid us a visit before Christmas and got away with about £50 after bursting open some steel cabinets.

The burglar wore gloves and we will never see him again. The worst side of it is that he took with him about 150 unopened letters and that is going to cause complications in our post. People will be writing to ask us if we have received membership fees that they sent, or even Mass intentions. That is why people who are sending Postal Orders should always cross them and put either Carmelite Press, or Barclays Bank, Faversham, or else my name. In that way they cannot be cashed except by us or at the Bank mentioned. Very many thanks if you will remember this.



1960

The old year went out in black skies and drizzly rain. I was glad to see it go because on the whole it was not a good year for me. Here's wishing you all good health and good fortune for 1960.

I do not remember a winter where the evenings closed in so rapidly and the mornings loomed so darkly, but

as we all know humans can live through anything. The human spirit, like the moon, rides high above the daily disappointment seeking an occasion to celebrate amid the gloom.

In the East End of London a publican rang Scotland Yard to say that a bunch of hoodlums were wrecking his place. When the police in their

hurry van arrived, the only drunk they found was himself, so they took him away and he was fined £2 in the morning. He won't forget the New Year.

LANES

Faversham is a small town and it is full of lanes. There is something friendly about a town with lanes in it, because lanes are friendly places. If you meet people in the lane (cycling prohibited, penalty £2) you are supposed to bid them the time of day. They look at you with expectation and it is regarded as a lack of etiquette to go your way in silence. If you meet the same people in the High Street they wouldn't look at you, they certainly wouldn't know you or recognise you. Pubs love to have a doorway opening on to the lanes.

JOCK

One of our pubs is called "The Hole in the Wall." As I came home on New Year's Eve through the lanes I met Jock, kilt and all. His red Highland face gleamed at me through the night. He stopped and so did I.

"Where can I get a drink in this b----- town?" "That is easy enough," I said, "the place is swimming in it. We have two breweries in the place." He looked at me in pity, "Show me the man who can drink beer on New Year's Eve." and he forthwith produced from beneath his kilt a half bottle of Scotch. He invited me to have a swig.

I'M TOLERANT

Now, I am not adverse to a glass of whisky under normal conditions but I have never yet drunk it from underneath a Scotsman's kilt, so I declined. He didn't like that at all! He outlined his opinions about Englishmen pretty vividly, but I gathered that the reason for it was that they just didn't know how to celebrate New Year's Eve. I was wondering to myself how Jock had found himself in the town of Faversham on New Year's Eve when I saw him leaning forward and peering at me, "But you are a b----- Irishman!" I waited no longer but wished him a Happy New Year. "Hogmanay" and a Happy New Year to you all.

MODERATION

It is 10 o'clock in the morning but it is so dark that we are working with lights on. What a change from last Summer when the sun burned holes in our back! As a woman remarked to me "I wonder if the good Lord has a sense of moderation?" I said to her, "He must have, or He wouldn't be where He is."

There is a story about a farming area in Scotland during the dry summer. The farmers were getting anxious about damage to the crops for lack of rain. Farmers in Scotland don't like too much stalk in the corn, but they like to see it over the ground; they like it to stand up. They decided to go to the minister and

ask if he could offer a prayer about it. The minister said he could, and would; and did. And the result was rain, rain, rain. It carried the choking dust away in a sea of mud. The parched fields closed up again and the dykes became rivers. And still it rained. The little foot bridges were carried away swamped by raging torrents that came down from the hills. The farmers were aghast and the minister bewildered, so bewildered that he fell upon his knees, saying, "Lord, this is reedeeculous."

Looking out at the black weather we are having now, I am inclined to agree with the meenister.

OUR DRAW

Each year we hold a draw in aid of the St. Jude Burse No. 2. St. Jude's Burse No. 1 was subscribed by

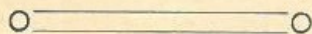
a lady in memory of her son who was a submarine commander and lost his life during the last war. She com-

pleted that burse and it is known as St. Jude's Burse No. 1. Then we started St. Jude's Burse No. 2. We used to invest the money that came in and as occasion demanded we sold the investments. Now we are keeping the burse steady.

Each year we run a draw in aid of St. Jude's Burse No. 2. It is a good draw. The prizes are good. The first prize is £100 in cash and four prizes of £25 in cash. It is restricted to members of the three Societies, **St. Jude**, the **Little Flower** and the **Holy Child**. Each member receives only **five tickets**; of course a member can write for more, but we avoid unloading a large number of tickets on anybody.

Just five tickets, because the average family runs about five—father, mother and three children. We

don't like people running around selling books of tickets to those who don't know anything about us. This is a friendly draw amongst the members of our Societies. It doesn't mean that you mustn't sell a ticket to someone else, but we want to keep it amongst ourselves. **We run only one draw each year.** We run it in the early months when the grass is thin, before the early bite. It tides us over the rocky road; **so please help us with our draw.** It is important to us. You will be supporting a student on his way to the priesthood. Please sell our tickets for us. As I have pointed out, you can do so within the circle of your own family. There is hardly a schoolboy now who cannot find a bob. Our draw will not interfere with local parish efforts, because the amount involved is only five shillings. It will do us good.



GOD SAYS SO

There are, we know, many things which God gives us without our asking for them. There are some things, however, which God means to give us on the condition that we ask Him. Without prayer, we do not receive them. These things are dependent upon our prayer, which is precisely the *cause* of our receiving them. Prayer matters, therefore, greatly in any person's life.

From *Growth in His Likeness*
by Sister Jane Marie Murray.

PETITION

Petition, asking for things, is only a small part of prayer; confession and penitence are its threshold, adoration its sanctuary, the presence and vision and enjoyment of God its bread and wine. C. S. Lewis.

... Don't confuse me with the facts: I've made up my mind.
Ilford. P. Helps.

O LORD support us
all the day long
of this troublous Life
until the Shades lengthen
and the busy World is
hushed, the fever of Life
is over, and our work is
done.
Then LORD in thy great
Mercy, grant us safe
lodging...a holy rest...and
peace at the last through
CHRIST our Lord.

Newman.

NOT THE ANSWERS

... This is a non-profit making organisation: it wasn't intended to be, but that's the way things turned out.

Sanderstead.

D. S. Tait.

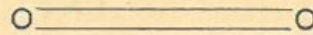
A man wanted to get his rather dim witted son into the wine trade. His friend promised to do his best, but would like to see the young man for a few questions.

The young chap appeared. The wine merchant said, "Your father has been asking me to take you into our business and we are inclined to do so. There are great opportunities for alert, intelligent young men in the trade. First, a few questions as a matter of form. Now, tell me, if I mention 'Haig'—the word 'Haig'—what does it bring to mind?" "Ah! I know, the 1914 to 18 war, Earl Haig, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces and founder of Poppy day." "Well, that's true enough," said the business man, "not exactly the answer I was looking for, but true enough. Now, what about 'Gordon'?" "Gordon," was the reply, "a great man in

India and the Far East, Empire builder, General Gordon." "Quite true, but still not the answer I was expecting."

"Another question, 'Booth,' what does that bring to your mind?" "Booth—General Booth, the great evangelist of the East end of London," said the young man. "That also is true, but I was looking for a rather different answer. Just one more question—'Vat 69,' what does that bring to your mind?" "I know the right answer to that one," said the young man—"that's the Pope's telephone number."

"Well," said the business man, "you are a smart young fellow, but I don't think you art *cut out* for the wine trade."



THANKS

Thank you St. Jude.

C. Shaughnessy, Leigh.

Thanks St. Jude for favour received.

F. McKenna, Co. Louth.

Grateful thanks to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for favour received.

E. Brierley.

Grateful thanks to the Sacred Heart, Our Lady and the Saints.

M. McCurdy.

Many thanks for special favours received. Mrs. M. Preston, London.

OUR COMING NOVENAS

OUR LADY OF LOURDES	- - -	Feb. 3rd — Feb. 11th
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER	- - -	March 4th — March 12th
ST. JOSEPH and ST. PATRICK	- - -	March 9th — March 19th
OUR LADY OF SORROWS	- - -	March 15th — March 23rd
ST. JUDE EASTER NOVENA	- - -	April 16th — April 24th

OUR BURSES

	Already acknowledged	Increase
The St. Jude Burse No. 2 ...	£457 11 6	now £498 11 6
Holy Child of Prague Burse ...	28 1 0	30 0 0
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Burse ...	14 11 6	15 10 0
Our Lady of Lourdes Burse ...	12 0 6	13 10 0
Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Burse	42 15 0	45 0 0
Little Flower Burse ...	18 7 6	19 17 6
Sacred Heart Burse ...	12 15 0	14 0 0
St. Anthony Burse ...	14 17 6	16 7 6
St. Joseph Burse ...	11 10 0	13 0 0
St. Kilian's Burse ...	7 0 0	8 0 0

Our Lady keep you! Yours in Carmel

M. E. Lynch O.T.