



THE CARMELITE NEWS



From the National Shrine of Saint Jude



AUTUMN 2025



Dear Friend of Saint Jude and valued friend of the Carmelites,

From Indonesia

Last time, I mentioned that I would be in Indonesia in September for the six-yearly General Chapter of the Carmelite Order. So, greetings from Malang! Yes, the flights were long, but the welcome from our Indonesian Carmelites has been superb. I am not always sure what I am eating, but it all seems nourishing. Oh yes, and the mosquitoes seem to be having a feast!

It is good to re-connect with friars from around the world, as well as form new bonds. Communication can always be challenging, but our common roots as Carmelites and our hope-filled desire to share our spiritual heritage enables a sense of unity that transcends limiting boundaries. Simultaneous interpretation at the sessions works well too! Please pray that the

Holy Spirit will lead the worldwide Carmelite Order into God's future. Pray too that the intensive work and discernment of the General Chapter will bear good fruit.

Part of a worldwide family

Gathering as a global Carmelite family provides an opportunity to see where we all fit into a global tapestry. We can see the development of communities and ministries throughout the world. For our own Province, we celebrate our return to this country in 1926 at Faversham after centuries of absence since the Reformation. As this year we mark the 70th anniversary of the consecration of the shrine to Saint Jude, we are so grateful for what you have all made possible. Through your prayer and sacrifices, you are an integral part of a worldwide family and

mission. Your Carmelite brothers pledge to honour your support and pray for you every day.

Do not lose heart

Sometimes projects, efforts, initiatives or even relationships in which we may have invested time, energy and commitment may appear to come to nothing. We can be left feeling disheartened. Do you remember the story of Peter and his companions working all night to catch fish without any success (Luke 5:1-11)? Jesus appears and invites them to try again, but in a different direction. They are astounded at the resulting catch of fish. Sometimes a change of perspective, inspired by the presence of Jesus, is all that is needed for us to be stirred again to a new hope.

Be surprised

Disciples of Christ try to listen to his voice and act on what he says. At the wedding feast at Cana (John 2:1-11), when the wine had run out, the mother of Jesus – whose birthday we celebrate each year on 8 September - tells the stewards to “do whatever he tells you”. Again, people

are amazed. As friends of Saint Jude know, if we include a real openness to God in all our decision-making, planning and action, perhaps we will be surprised at what happens.

Hope series

During this Jubilee Year of Hope, you may have discovered our online

Carmelite series on hope. You can find the short reflections via the Saint Jude website each week.

I thought you might like one written by Francesca Giorda (added below). Fran is very familiar with the Shrine. She has also been involved in Carmelite initiatives for young adults.

Hope in motion by Francesca Giorda

Planting seeds

Last April, I visited a Carmelite community in Lima, Peru, where I could witness the power and dedication of the Carmelites' work in planting God's seeds. Their action and ministry stretch from the wealthy areas of Miraflores, a vibrant community of the faithful, all the way to the suburbs where the shanty towns loomed over the church where we arrived as Mass was ending on a Sunday morning.

Palpable hope

Hundreds of people of all ages crowded around the priest, asking for a blessing. Hundreds of children gathered into groups and enthusiastically discussed and learnt the Word of God. Those people's hope in God was palpable. This scene touched me profoundly. I had never witnessed such an active participation and zeal in a parish community, and for a moment I tried to imagine how it might have felt to be present in Jesus' times, how the people crowded around him asking for healing, and how they hoped and believed that by simply touching his garments they would be saved.

Movement

I have often reflected about the meaning

of hope and why it is a word that is never mentioned in any of the Gospels. And yet, over time, hope is a concept that has become associated with Christ and his message, and is now one of the theological virtues, together with faith and charity. The Latin word for hope, *Spes*, means moving or tending towards. So, at its very roots, hope is not static but something constantly developing and becoming.

Changing perspective

According to the Gospels, Jesus did not directly talk about hope. Still, he talked about becoming. He urged us to embrace a certain way of thinking and acting, different to what people were, and still are, used to. 'Metanoelite' he said: changes perspective. He made the last in this world, the first in the kingdom of God. He made the meek the heirs of the earth and promised freedom to the oppressed.

Sowers

By encouraging us with his 'Metanoelite', Jesus turned hope into reality. By changing ways of thinking and acting, according to the Father's will, by modifying the soil of our minds and hearts, and turning thoughts of despair into trust, anger and fear into



love, by forgiving ‘those who trespass against us’...we bring God’s kingdom into being now. This is how we can provide fertile ground for the seeds sown in us by God. And once the seeds find the right environment to sprout, grow and multiply, we can become sowers ourselves, sowers of those same good seeds God gifted us with.

Energy

I like to see hope as potential energy, like a seed, a stored potential in each one of us, ready to be set into motion to become kinetic energy, a growing tree with its branches reaching out into the world. Jesus developed his full potential to redeem us, he gave himself for us, with no reserves, and he invites us to follow his example. We have been called into this world to activate our potential, our talents and make them fruit. And we are called to do this in the here and now, in the space-time of God.

Light

Hope is more than wishing for something better for the future. It is a deep and active faith set into action through our daily dedication to building the kingdom of God and the trust in God’s constant and ubiquitous presence while inspiring and guiding our work. Hope is like a light that

never fades. It helps us to see through the shadows of doubt and fear. Hope leads us to the fullness of life in God. Jesus invites us to not cover this light or put it under a bed, but rather to put it onto a stand so that it can be seen and can allow others to see clearly too. We are always called to keep the light burning and to spread it around us, to reach out to others.

Setting hope in motion

As we move through this Jubilee year, there is an echo of what a Jubilee year was in Jesus’ days. A Jubilee year was declared in Israel every 50th year, to restore social equality among the people of the Covenant: slaves would be freed, all the lands would be restored to their owners, and all debts would be forgiven. These three promises are still very much present and pressing in our modern world. War, poverty and suffering were as real then as they are real now, and the need to continue building God’s kingdom was alive then as it is now. We do not know ‘the day or the hour’ when we will be set free, our land will be restored and debts forgiven, but ‘the kingdom of God is at hand’ now. Every day, Jesus keeps calling each of us to plant the good seeds and set hope into motion.

Richard Green ordained

One of the many highlights during the summer was the ordination to the priesthood of our Carmelite brother, Richard Green, on 5 July. It was a wonderful occasion with a great spirit of prayerful joy. Bishop Paul Hendricks, who ordained Richard, shared personally about his own experience of being a priest, encouraging Richard to learn from the people he seeks to serve in this new chapter of his life. Richard's preparation for priesthood has been long, and you have supported him all the way. He has studied hard and has had good pastoral experiences over many years. It feels important that all who are called to service among God's people continue to develop a listening, hope-filled heart: listening to the gentle whispering of God, and being equally attentive to the experience, insights and needs of the people they serve. Please continue to pray for Richard. On 11 August he moved from Reading to join our brothers in our Newcastle community.

A new face in Faversham

Visitors to Faversham may have the joy of meeting another one of



Fr. Richard with Bp. Paul Hendricks and fellow Carmelites and friends

our Carmelite brothers, Pat O'Keeffe. He is a very friendly, listening and kind-hearted friar. After years in Cheltenham, serving in school chaplaincy and other ministries, Fr. Pat had a well-needed sabbatical period. He joined Kevin Melody and Paul de Groot in the Carmelite community at Whitefriars on 30 June.

Congratulations

This year, we also congratulate Richard Copsey, O.Carm. Fr. Richard professed Simple Vows as a Carmelite friar on 8 September 1965, so this year he marks 60 years as a consecrated religious. 2026 will be another milestone for him, as he celebrates

“...a great spirit of prayerful joy...”

his 90th birthday. He is now living in our Aylesford community and amazingly is still active in ministry and continues with his Carmelite historical research.



Fr. Richard Copsey with pilgrims

Young people celebrate hope

Approximately 1 million young people gathered in Rome for their celebration of the Jubilee of Hope that culminated in Mass with Pope Leo on Sunday, 3 August. In preparation, a

group of young adults and friars from Britain travelled to Rome on 30 July for a time of reflection, prayer and community-building with other young adults from around the world who are associated with the Carmelites (see the

photos, below). They came back exhausted but truly enlivened after such a great experience. In October in Lisieux, there will be an international meeting of friars and young people to prepare for a European gathering next year.



Into Autumn

As we ease gently into autumn, the changing colours of the leaves can remind us of God's beauty and creativity. On 1 October we celebrate the feast of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. She had a keen sense of nature and found beauty in the smallest of things. If you are able, perhaps a walk in nature, observing the changing natural world, might provide an opportunity to reflect on her teachings of love and simplicity.

We are really looking forward to our celebration of Saint Jude in a special way this year – the seventieth anniversary of the Shrine. It will be great to be with those who can come on 25-26 & 28 October. You are also very welcome to our online Saint Jude novena preparing us for his Feast (20 – 28 October).

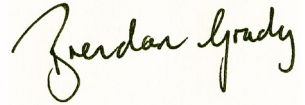
If you can't be with us physically, join us in prayer and remember that we can always light a candle at the shrine for you and your loved ones. We especially

remember those who have gone ahead of us during November.

More details of the Feast celebrations are on the back of this newsletter.

Hold us in your heart when you pray and be sure that we are pledged to praying for you.

Your brother,




Brendan Grady, O.Carm.
Prior Provincial

Remember our Novenas

Novena to the Little Flower (23 September - 1 October) - **Novena to the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary** (29 September - 7 October) - **Novena to Saint Jude** (20 - 28 October)

Notice Board

Online Novena to Saint Jude 20 - 28 October 2025



Join us on Zoom at 6pm
each day & pray with
the Carmelites:
www.TogetherwithJude.org

Meeting ID: 890 3367 1545
Passcode: 327958

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



 www.stjudeshrine.org.uk

 www.stjudeshrine.co.uk

 [tinyurl.com/JudeFB](https://www.facebook.com/JudeFB)

 [tinyurl.com/JudeBlueSky](https://www.tinyurl.com/JudeBlueSky)

Feast of Saint Jude

25 - 28 October 2025



Whitefriars, Tanners Street, Faversham, Kent

Saturday 25 October

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

Sunday 26 October

12.30pm: Saint Jude Mass, followed by anointing

Tuesday 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.

Popular Prayers

A brand new prayer book from the Carmelites...
Order from: <https://tinyurl.com/PopularPrayers>
or via the enclosed intentions sheet.

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

 01795 539 214

 newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk

 www.stjudeshrine.org.uk

Donate online: www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/donate

Online shop: <http://tinyurl.com/SaintJudeShop>



Registered Charity: No. 1061342

All photos © Carmelite Charitable Trust, except the gospel on page 5 which is © istockphoto.com. istockphoto.com have all been purchased and are used with permission. Carmelite News has been written by Fr. Brendan Grady, and is designed and edited by Mr. Matthew Betts. Photos taken by Mr. Matthew Betts, Fr. Brendan Grady, and Mr. John Toryusen. The newsletter is correct at the time of printing. Contact the editor on: newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk.