

SAINT JUDE FOCUS

www.stjudeshrine.org.uk



News from the Shrine of Saint Jude - September/October 2025

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.

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



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.

We are now coming up to the most important celebrations on our calendar - the Feast of Saint Jude. However, we are also celebrating seventy years of ministry at the Shrine since its foundation in 1955. Please do consider joining us on our celebratory weekend in October - you will be very welcome!

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

Matt



PILGRIMS

THE WORD PILGRIMAGE COMES from the Latin word peregrinus - literally translated as someone who has come from afar.

I have just returned from a pilgrimage to the French town of Lourdes with the Catholic Association this year. My family and I had missed seven years of this joyous place and we had forgotten how important the friendships are, to work as volunteer pilgrims, and then the 'reboot' you receive when returning home. As current 'Pilgrims of Hope', we all have much to celebrate wherever we go on our journeys - including here in Faversham.

On 10 and 11 October, the ecumenical charity 'Churches Visitor and Tourism Association' are holding a few talks (and their AGM) under the theme of 'Pilgrimage'. We are proud members of the CVTA and you are welcome to attend if you are able. Please look at the advert on the back for more information and to book your place.



WHY WAS THE SHRINE of Saint Jude founded in 1955? Did Saint Jude visit Faversham back in New Testament times?

The quick answer is no, but the reason for its foundation is still fascinating.

It all started with the development of the work of the Carmelites who returned to England (after the Reformation) nearly one hundred years ago in 1926.

After being invited to run the Catholic parishes of Sittingbourne and Faversham by the then

Bishop of Southwark, the Carmelites began to make their presence felt. By 1938, the Carmelite Press was founded to print materials for various clients, who by their donations, would support the work of the Carmelite friars. The Press printed a newsletter called 'Carmelite News' (which we still produce four times a year) and kept supporters apprised of the developments in Faversham and beyond.

'Carmelite News' thus became an important communications link between the Order and its

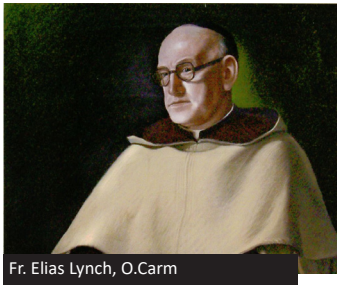
supporters. In many ways, all other communications including this one ('Saint Jude Focus') are all descended from those first ones.

The work of 'Carmelite News' and the Carmelite Press was supervised by Fr. Elias Lynch, O.Carm. By the early 1950s Fr. Elias received an increasing number of requests from readers for prayer cards of Saint Jude. Having distributed such a card, donations to "The Shrine of Saint Jude" and requests for prayers started flooding in. Such a shrine did not exist, but perceiving



Twelve Apostles (Shrine of Saint Jude)

“...I was caught in a tidal wave...people started sending in petitions for Saint Jude...but no shrine existed...”



Fr. Elias Lynch, O.Carm

the need, Fr. Elias quickly developed a place of prayer and devotion to the Apostle Jude alongside the parish church in Faversham.

Fr. Elias, recorded his reflections on it all at the time:

"I did not know much about the devotion to Saint Jude when I started producing religious pictures. They were the usually accepted ones - the Sacred Heart, the Immaculate Conception and so on - in black and white, not very good, nothing original. In fact, we were rather ashamed of them. Printing is a peculiar job. You produce a whole page of print and then you feel you ought to lighten it up a little bit. So, you put in a picture. We had

rotten paper during the war. Anyway, we produced black and white pictures of the saints, in connection with the Novenas we sent out during the year.

Once you start producing religious pictures, people get the idea that you are unlimited in your range. They think that you can supply any religious picture they like to name. Our great trouble was Saint Jude; the Apostle and Martyr. People used to write to us and say, "Have you got a picture of Saint Jude?" Now, that poses a difficulty. He, or she, is a well meaning religious person. If you haven't got a picture of Saint Jude, you have to write back and say "No". That means a personal letter and costs 3d. It involves personal correspondence. In the end, we decided that the only way out was to print a large number of pictures of St. Jude and send them out to everybody. I found an old German picture of St. Jude with a club big enough to murder anyone, and I reproduced a quarter of a million pictures of Saint Jude and his club, with prayers in honour of Jude, and sent them out broadcast to all who called on us.

I got more than a surprise. I was caught in a tidal wave

People started sending in masses of thanksgiving to Saint Jude; donations to the Shrine of Saint Jude - which didn't exist; petitions to the Shrine of Saint Jude - which didn't exist."

"Start dealing with a movement like that and you have got something on your hands. The upshot of it was that we decided to create a Shrine of Saint Jude, Apostle and Martyr. The trouble was to build it;

to put something there that would be recognisable as a Shrine of Saint Jude. The war ended. We got building plans and started work. After two years - it is there."



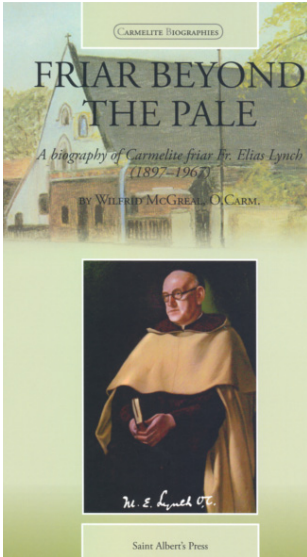
On 28th October 1955, the Bishop of Southwark Cyril Cowderoy (pictured above), assisted by the Prior General of the Carmelite Order, the Prior of Aylesford, and many other priests and religious, dedicated the Shrine of Saint Jude. Bishop Cyril described the shrine as "a jewel for the diocese".

Originally published on the Saint Jude website



Book of the Month

www.stjudeshrine.co.uk



heart and soul to readers in the English county of Kent, his native Ireland, and throughout the world. At a time when the Carmelite Order, the Church, and society were in constant change. Elias shares with us his personal reflections in a way that is at once poignant, often humorous, and always warm...

In one of his letters, Elias said: *"If we do not leave behind us something, however imperfectly expressed, as a memory of the Carmelites of our time. [They'll] say, 'This is what a Carmelite of 1961 thought and did'".* And now we can!

The life and insights of Elias Lynch are presented to us by Fr. Wilfrid McGreal, O.Carm. At the time, Fr. Wilfrid was Prior Provincial in Faversham.

“...his personal reflections [are] poignant, often humourous, and always warm...”

THROUGH HIS LETTERS to fellow friars, and through his newsletter, Fr. Elias Lynch - founder of the Shrine of Saint Jude - communicated his

Until the end of October, this book is for sale at £3.50 (64% off) - to purchase call 01795 539 214; or visit <https://tinyurl.com/JudeElias> or please write and include £2.50 for a postage donation.

Become a member of the Guild of Saint Jude TODAY

1. Members share in the daily Masses
2. Members share in special Masses
3. Members share in our daily prayers
4. Members receive a Handbook of Devotions
5. And support the Shrine of Saint Jude

Membership is open to all those who have a devotion to Saint Jude

<https://tinyurl.com/GuildSaintJude>



Churches Visitor and Tourism Association Conference and AGM: 10 - 11 October 2025

Theme - Pilgrimage

Shrine of Saint Jude Welcome Centre, 34 Tanners Street,
Faversham, Kent, ME13 7JW

ALL ARE WELCOME

Book your place by visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/JudeCVTA>

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