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# THE CARMELITE NEWS

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WHITEFRIARS — FAVERSHAM — KENT

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## HAMLET

I couldn't help smiling as I listened to the radio at 7.30 this morning. They were talking about a school here in England that was going to present "Hamlet". Well, you say, what's so funny about that? After all, lots of schools do it. That's true, say I, but these young people were not putting on the play in the school hall or indeed in the Town Hall but in Elsinore in Denmark, where Shakespeare makes the action take place. Unusual, you say, but still not funny — in fact, something of a distinction. Yes, indeed, say I, and the point was made that it was the first time an amateur cast had done this, i.e. played "Hamlet" at Elsinore. Ten minutes later another point was made. A certain gentleman had rung up to say that he had been in the cast of an amateur group which had played "Hamlet" in Elsinore in 1934, fifty-one years ago. I could not help smiling!

To be fair, the present young cast not only smiled but laughed aloud at the way they had been caught out. So youthful enthusiasm was preserved, truth did out, pride took a fall, humility took a bow, and all because somebody took a fit of laughing.

## THE SUNSHINE OF YOUR SMILE

You know what a difference it makes to people after a run of grey, drizzly, dreary days in winter when there comes one of those heaven-sent brilliantly sunny, dry days? It is as if June had been transplanted into January, for that day anyway.

We all feel the better for it: a lift in the heart, a cheery greeting, a smile on the face, life's burden not quite so heavy on the back. It's a lovely feeling.

But have we got to wait for the weather to do this for us? In my experience the sunshine of a smile works the same wonders, and even more, as the sunshine from the skies.

Your smile can bring warmth and hope to the lonely, the discouraged, the despairing. It can bring comfort and encouragement to the weary, the worried, the timid. It can bring balm to the hurt, solace to the sorrowful, cheer to the sick. It turns away anger, heals resentment, opens the door to reconciliation. It costs you nothing but the effort, and is cheap at the price. You will never make a better investment if returns are what you are looking for: "God loves a cheerful giver".

*Lord, when I am hungry  
Give me someone to feed.  
When I am thirsty,  
Give me water for their thirst;  
When I am sad,  
Someone to lift from sorrow.  
When burdens weigh upon me,  
Lay upon my shoulders  
The burden of my fellows.  
Lord, when I stand  
Greatly in need of tenderness,  
Give me someone who yearns  
for love.  
May your will be my bread;  
Your grace my strength;  
Your love my resting place.*

### **TICKETS PLEASE**

Once again we ask your help in selling raffle tickets. It is not a matter of taking your co-operation for granted, but we know from past experience of your generous support that you will do what you can. On the other hand we are well aware that some of you cannot manage to get out to sell them for one good reason or another: house-bound, not too steady on the old legs (and not because you should put more water in it!), just not well or strong enough to do anything but the bare essentials, and so on. Our packing machine doesn't know you, though, so we have to put tickets in for everybody or for nobody. If you cannot manage to sell them, just destroy them please and don't worry any more about them.

### **HELP STILL NEEDED**

Despite all that has been done and donated there is still great need for more help. Already this year we have managed with your help to send substantial contributions of money to people in need in particular to our own Carmelite Missions and to an Order of Sisters who are working among the hungry people of Ethiopia. Later this year we plan to

send one of our younger men to Zimbabwe to help there for a time.

At home our students spend part of their summer break working with and for people in need and with those whose job it is to help them. They work for instance with probation officers, social workers, in homes for handicapped people, young and old, with alcoholics, down-and-outs, in hospitals and so on. One of them who is approaching ordination will be doing the hospital chaplains' training course at Wakefield — you have been warned!

### **MISSION COMPLETED**

Jesus never intended to stay among us in the flesh of his humanity for more than a few years — less in fact, than half the traditional three score years and ten. He was to be for all mankind the Way, the Truth and the Life. Once he had shewn this, his job was done so far as his earthly presence was concerned: "Father, I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do". Jn. 17,4.

The revelation of God in Jesus was the first phase, so to speak, of the Christian era. The revelation of Jesus through the Holy Spirit is the second phase. But while only a few people living at a particular time in a particular country could experience the first revelation, millions of people all over the world and from one century to the next have the opportunity of experiencing the second — and you and I are among them.

Jesus came into our world, mixed in with us, lived our life, accepted our limitations, rejoiced with us, suffered with us, died with us. To crown it all he rose from the dead and ascended to his Father, giving us his word that he would take those who tried to

follow him in his living and dying, with him in his resurrection and ascension. Though their effects remain, those events, centred on the person of Jesus, are over; but the lesson of them, the message they tell, still needs teaching, still needs telling, still needs interpreting, understanding and applying in each generation.

## THE QUESTION AND THE ANSWER

There remains the question: who is to do the teaching, the telling, the interpreting, the understanding, the applying — and how?

The answer is: the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit; but not in isolation from the whole of humanity; rather in conjunction with it. We must never forget that the whole of humanity is God's creation endowed with His gifts, while the Church is like the yeast working upon it — yet still part of it. *How?* By the working of the Holy Spirit.

## PENTECOST: NEW CREATION

The Incarnation is *God showing us* what it is to live for God. Pentecost is *God asking us to show* what it is to live for God.

In Genesis we have God's invitation to humanity to accept responsibility for God's creation: "Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and living animals on the earth". Gen. 1, 28.

In the Gospels we have Jesus' invitation to his disciples and those who came after them to bring his teaching and his message to all humanity: "Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of

the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes to the end of time". Lk. 28, 19-20.

It is, however, not only teaching in the sense of expounding and explaining that Jesus means but also, and even more, teaching in the sense of practising what we preach, i.e., bearing witness to the truth we profess by living it in our everyday lives: "You too will be witnesses". Jn. 15, 27.

He was going back to his Father so that his Church, people like you and me, should have the opportunity to bear witness to the truth, to his Father, as he did. If he made us responsible for his creation in the first place it is not surprising that he should make us responsible for this, is it?

## GOOD FOR US

It is good for us to have responsibility. Only through responsibility do we come to maturity. Only through this responsibility of bearing witness to Jesus do we come to "the full stature of perfection", as St. Paul puts it. But we need help to do this. We need guidance in uncertainty, we need light in darkness, we need encouragement in failure, we need strength in weakness. Jesus knew this and provided for it:

*"It is for your own good that I am going because unless I go the Advocate will not come to you . . . The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you . . . When the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth."*

Jn 14; 15; 16.

## BEGINNING

The coming of the Holy Spirit upon the infant Church at Pentecost was but the beginning of the work of that Spirit in the Church. There is a continual and uninterrupted outpouring of the Spirit upon the Church in its individual members every minute of every day. It is a living presence in our hearts. It is given to all who are open to it. It is equally present to the least as to the greatest. It is for everyday living as well as for extraordinary witness. It is for you and me.

*“Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me”.*

## MAY AND JUNE

May is the month of Mary in our tradition, and it so happens that this year the feast of Pentecost falls in that month. Perhaps there is a lesson for us in that coincidence.

It is precisely Mary's openness to the Spirit that enabled her to fulfil her mission of bringing Jesus to the world that was, and still is, waiting for him.

**We acknowledge your  
many letters of thanks,  
for favours received.**

She brought him to birth and to manhood and encouraged him to fulfil his mission. She was also a tremendous influence upon the early church as it met new situations, clarified its thinking, adjusted to the needs of the apostolate. Surely she is a model for us in this?

June, by tradition, is the month when we remember again the humanity of Jesus, especially the love his Sacred Heart has for us. Let our love for him be shewn in the care we have for others — even in a smile!

May the summer sun bring you warmth and joy.

*Our Lady keep you.*

*Edward Hughes Lane*

**P.S. Aylesford Spring Fayre:  
27th May.**

## Our Novenas

**Sacred Heart of Jesus  
June 6th—14th**

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
July 8th—16th**

**St. Jude  
August 16th—24th**