



The Carmelite News



FEBRUARY 1988

WHITEFRIARS, FAVERSHAM, KENT

THE MEANING OF EASTER

It was a small shop in a small town, but the window was attractively displaying some religious books, arranged around a bright poster proclaiming "Jesus died for our sins and rose again to lead us from darkness to eternal life." A woman walking down the street stopped and looked at the poster. After a few minutes she went into the shop. "Tell me," she said to the assistant, pointing to the window display, "About what it says there. Is it really true? Did Jesus die for me?" "Oh yes," said the assistant, "It's true." "And did he truly rise

again?" "Oh yes, truly he rose." "And do we all really share in that victory?" "most assuredly," said the assistant, a little bit puzzled by all this questioning. "Didn't you know? Haven't you heard the story before?" "Oh yes," said the woman, "many times, but I just glory to hear it again."

Katherine Hankey expressed the same idea wonderfully in the hymn she wrote in November 1866 which begins "Tell me the old, old story . . ." In the second verse she touches on a real human weakness: "Tell me the story often,

for I forget so soon." As soon, in fact, as we meet, or even just think about, someone we don't get on too well with, someone perhaps we think "did us down" years and years ago. And so the Church tells us the story again. By the time you read this Lent will have begun, and our thoughts turn to the sombre glory of Holy Week and then further ahead to the brightness of Eastertide. Let's glory again in the passion of Our Lord and revel in the splendour of Easter joy: God sent his only son into the world so that we might have life through him. He was wounded for our transgressions . . . and with his stripes we are healed. Alleluia.

EDITH STEIN'S FEAST

The wheels of the Church turn very slowly, but they have turned, and Blessed Teresia Benedicta's feast day has been fixed as **August 9th** and so on that day she can be celebrated wherever the Carmelite influence is at work.

A SORRY STORY

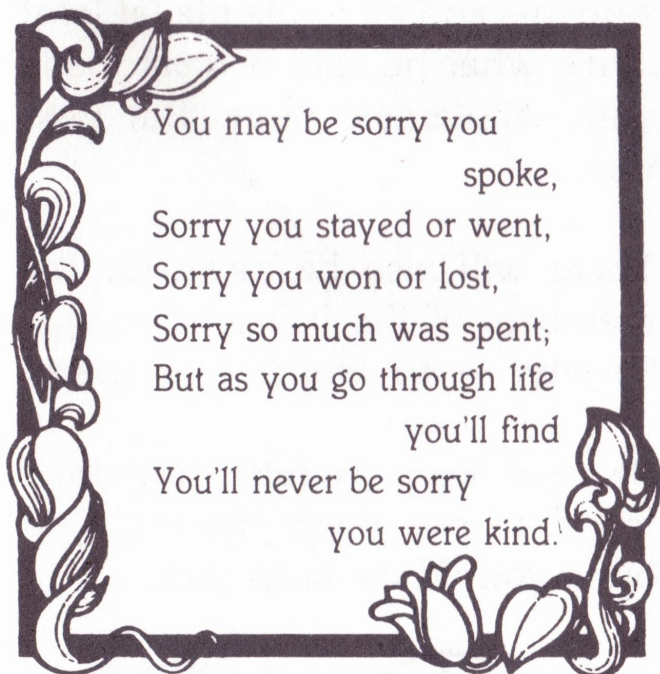
With Easter on the way you might

think Christmas was well behind us, but not so here in Faversham. The root of the problem is your generosity to the Carmelites. After we sent out the last newsletter at the beginning of December we were overwhelmed with your letters. They arrived by the hundred each day — far more than we could possibly reply to as they arrived. So we have got behind in acknowledging them. We try to acknowledge every letter we receive — indeed that is our aim and that is why we feel bad about getting behind with the replying. So in case you are one of the people waiting for some acknowledgement of something you sent weeks ago, let me explain what happens when your letters get here.

All your letters are opened straight away when they arrive, and are entered in a Register. So if you tell us your name and address, when you sent it, and, if there was money in it, how much and in what form (cash, Postal Order, cheque etc.) we can check in the Register in a few minutes whether

The Friars Appeal

One of the disadvantages of being guardians of tradition is the matter of keeping up old buildings. The Carmelites at Aylesford — the Mother House in Europe — have some magnificent but neglected, thatched barns, and they hope to convert them into buildings of service to the many many people who visit Aylesford Priory for all sorts of reasons. This conversion is going to be expensive — restoring old buildings held in trust for future generations, always is, so the Aylesford friars are appealing for help, and they have appealed to us, so some of our readers will find a letter from Aylesford arriving in the next few days. If you don't get one, and yet would like to help you can send your help through us here at Faversham.



You may be sorry you
spoke,
Sorry you stayed or went,
Sorry you won or lost,
Sorry so much was spent;
But as you go through life
you'll find
You'll never be sorry
you were kind.

or not we have received it.

(Most letters sent do in fact reach us safely. In the last eight months, out of the thousands of letters addressed to us we only know of two which never arrived.) Then after the letters are registered, any money in them is taken out, noted in the Register, and banked. This way there is no money left in the office for any burglar that may drop in.

So if you are getting anxious, and you had sent a cheque, please enquire first at your bank before you write again. If the cheque has been cashed, we have got the letter and it is waiting in the queue to be answered. Again I say that as far as we can tell virtually all your letters do reach us, and they will be answered — please be patient with us. We have one or two ideas in the pipe-line to speed up the job of sending a reply of some sort to every letter, but I fear things will get worse before they can get better. Let me tell you why that will be.

On the 14th October last year the south of England was swept by a violent storm which did a great deal of damage. We lost most of our orchard and most of the glass in a small greenhouse, but that was all and we were very thankful to have got off so lightly when so much damage was done. Now as part of the modernisation of the Newsletter Office we are building an extension on the old office building, and of course it needs a roof. The walls are up, the timber for the roof is in position, but there is no roofing material to be had because repairing all the damage to farms and houses around us has used up all the stocks of roofing material. So, the chaotic time of roofing, knocking down walls, installing new office furniture, altering the heating and lighting, fixing the computer and its terminals, and generally sorting things out is still to come — in fact it looks like happening just when your replies to this issue of the Newsletter start pouring in — while we are still coping with the last of the backlog from Christmas!!! So please bear with us. We are doing our best, though it may seem rather second-best to you as you wait for your replies. I think we had better light a few candles to St. Jude ourselves!

*Fill us at daybreak
with your kindness,
that we may shout for joy and
gladness all our days.*

Psalm 90, v. 14

MEMORY LANE

I don't know how old you think I am — and I'm not telling — but we get asked some questions that reach a long way back. Sometimes we can find the answer, but sometimes not. Can you help us with this one?

Do you know a prayer that begins "Hail and Blessed be the hour and the moment"? If so, can you tell us the rest, and perhaps where it comes from? I wondered if it is the first line of a hymn, but that is just a guess.

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*A **GRANDPARENT** is something so simple a child can operate it.*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

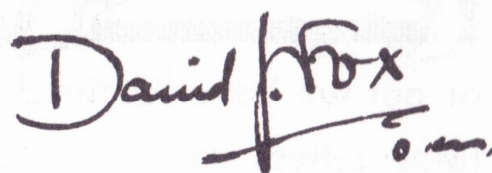
OUR STUDENTS are the reason for the very existence of this Newsletter because they are our future (but keep it quiet: don't tell them or they will become drunk with power) so you will be pleased to hear about a new venture getting under way, but it will have to wait till next time because I received some hard words about the small print we had to use to get everything in the last Newsletter.

I must tell you about one of our

students and an apple pie (at least that's what he said it was) made with wholemeal flour. But next time.

There will also be news for the members of the Infant of Prague Society — so watch this space!

Be good, keep the faith, and don't forget to say your prayers. God bless you: Mary keep you.



David J. Fox, O.Carm.

FORTHCOMING NOVENAS

To St. Patrick —
March 9th - 17th

To St. Joseph —
March 18th - 26th

Easter Novena —
April 3rd - 11th

To St. Jude —
May 1st - 9th