
CARMELITE NEWS

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WHITEFRIARS, FAVERSHAM, KENT

Approaching Easter

PATRON OF BREADWINNERS

THE FIRST VATICAN COUNCIL proclaimed St. Joseph Patron of the whole Church. Before that there had been very little public devotion to him. According to Pope Benedict the Carmelites were the first to bring the cult or devotion to St. Joseph to Europe. In the last century the Popes seemed to try to out-do each other in asserting the importance of St. Joseph's patronage. Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical wrote "Now the Divine house which Joseph ruled with the authority of a father contained within its limits the scarce born church. From the fact that the Most Holy Virgin is the mother of Jesus she is the mother of all Christians whom she bore on Mount Calvary amid the supreme throes of the Redemption. Jesus Christ is in a manner the first-born of Christians who by adoption and redemption are his brothers. And for such reasons the Blessed Patriarch looks upon the multitude of Christians who make up the Church as confided especially to His trust. This limitless family spread over the earth, over which, because he is the spouse of Mary and the foster father of Jesus Christ, he holds a paternal authority."

St. Joseph was the breadwinner of the Holy Family. He has been patron of all bread-winners ever since. Wherever people work and pray, wherever labour and family life is honoured the Church holds up before the eyes of the people the example of the good and gentle Joseph. He is the pattern of every man who walks a

quiet road, who lays down the tools of his craft when God calls him to die. The humble lay brother who is responsible for the great shrine to St. Joseph in Canada once said "If you put a statue of St. Joseph in a field he will build a house over his head for Our Lady and their Divine Son." We cannot put statues of St. Joseph everywhere but we can do so symbolically in our hearts and he will build there the kind of home for Jesus and Mary that God would want our hearts to be. We can also put him in our homes so that our family will be an imitation of the home and family at Nazareth.

SISTER BENEDICTA

Edith Stein was born on the 12th October, 1893 in Breslau of Jewish parents. She was a very quiet and unassuming girl but very intelligent and hardworking. She became a great writer and philosopher. Many famous and learned people came to her for help and to learn from her. In 1921 she read a book called "The life of St. Teresa of Avila written by herself" and that started her on the road to the Catholic Church. She was baptised on New Years day, 1922. She continued to write and lecture for another eleven years until she entered the Carmelite Convent at Lindenthal, Cologne, in Germany in October, 1933. Crowds of famous people in Germany, University Professors, heads of religious Orders, heads of Training Colleges, students, Catholics, Jews, Protestants, all came to her reception, for they knew, loved and admired the great

Dr. Edith Stein, woman philosopher. Indeed "one of the greatest women of our time" as one of the Benedictine Abbots said of her. She was secretly transferred from the Convent in Cologne to Carmel at Echt in Holland because of the persecution of the Jews by the Nazis. One of her superiors testifies that "she was as obedient as St. Therese of Lisieux." In 1938, Sr. Benedicta of the Cross, as she was known in Carmel, wrote "I spoke to Our Saviour and told Him that I knew that it was His Cross which was now being laid on the Jewish people. Most of them did not understand it. But those who did understand must accept it willingly in the name of all. I wanted to do that. Let Him show me how. But in what the bearing of the Cross was to consist I did not yet know."

On the 2nd August, 1945 Sr. Benedicta started on the road which led to her Calvary. That day a Nazi policeman called at the Carmelite Convent in Echt with a van. Sr. Benedicta was given five minutes to get ready to leave. This was extended to ten minutes as a special favour. Then she was led away with a Sr. Rosa and others. That was the last time they were seen. She was first taken to hut number 9 of the transit concentration camp at Amersfoort in Holland. On the night of the 4th or 5th August she with many others were taken to another camp. It is not known for certain whether or not Sr. Benedicta was taken to Auschwitz.

The little evidence we have suggests that she was taken to that camp. One man who was in the camp said that the train with the prisoners arrived at around 10 o'clock. It is believed that all the victims on the train including Sr. Benedicta, were stripped of their clothes and made to walk a quarter of a mile to the chambers where they were gassed and then their bodies were burned in the crematorium.

The Informatory Process for her beatification has been started and many people are praying that one day she will be raised to the Altars. A great many letters have come in which report striking favours obtained through

Sr. Benedicta's intercession. She helps especially, it seems, those who are looking for jobs. If any of you obtain favours through her intercession please let us know, giving your name and address and as much detail as possible about the favour. We will not publish the letter, unless you wish, but we need to send all the information we can to Rome to help forward her cause.

By her life and death Sr. Benedicta lived what the Second Vatican Council said about contemplatives twenty years later, "No matter how urgent may be the needs of the active apostolate, members of those communities totally dedicated to contemplation will always have a distinguished part to play in Christ's Mystical Body. For they offer God a choice sacrifice of praise. By their example they motivate God's people; by imparting a hidden fruitfulness, they make the people grow. Thus they are the glory of the Church and an overflowing fountain of heavenly graces." We need many more girls and young women to carry on this great work. If you know of any who would like to follow in the footsteps of Edith Stein and the two St. Teresas and many other saints please tell them to write to me and I will be only too glad to put them in touch with our happy group of Carmelite nuns.

DAFFODILS

Daffodils always remind me of Lent. I suppose it is because so many decorate the Altar of Repose during Holy Week. I see the early ones are out again with their golden cups and bells reminding us that Spring is almost here. With it is Lent and Easter. The old rigorous fasts and hard penances are gone. It is, in a way, sad to see them go. On the other hand it is a good thing as it makes us do our own penances instead of just simply obeying laws. As you know, Our Lady when she appeared at Lourdes, asked for more penance. She was echoing the teaching of her Divine Son, "Unless you do penance you shall all likewise perish." We should try to be positive rather than negative in our

penances. It is a good thing to give up sugar in our tea, smoking, going to the pictures etc. But isn't it better to make an effort to go to Confession and Holy Communion more frequently, to pay more attention at our prayers and realise we are talking to God; to be charitable to our neighbours and make up any rows we might have with them; to be more charitable in our thoughts about people and to give them the benefit of the doubt until we are proved wrong; to be honest in our dealings. It seems nowadays that every kind of cheating and dishonesty is alright as long as we are not caught. It is almost as if the 7th commandment was changed from "Thou shalt not steal" to "Thou shalt not get caught" or "it is alright everybody is doing it." To stand up to this kind of attitude takes great courage and grit. But then we can do it if we want to as we have the Grace of God with us.

Like St. Paul we can do all things in Him who strengthens us. We should not be ashamed to say something is dishonest when we know it is. We should let our Christian light shine before men and, as Christ wants us, be true witnesses to His teaching. To be able to do this we need to fortify ourselves by prayer and penance and more prayer and more penance.

After the penances of Lent comes the joy of Easter. On Easter morning, or when we say the first Glorious Mystery of the rosary we see Jesus rising in great beauty, power and radiance from the tomb. The guards stagger away frightened by this great miracle. The dead, mangled body they saw put there a couple of days ago now comes forth in full perfect manhood. The Apostles run to the tomb to confirm what they heard is true; "The Lord is risen indeed."

He who bore all our sins and guilt has washed away all,
He who was mocked and insulted is now our Hope
He who was broken and bleeding is now our Joy
He who died has overcome death and is now our Glory.

We rejoice with His Blessed Mother and kneel in spirit to adore him. We ask that through His resurrection, we will overcome our sins, faults and

weaknesses so that one day we too, like Him, will rise glorious from the tomb to rejoice with Him and His Mother in the Kingdom of joy for ever.

Where faith is
There is Love

Where Love is
There is Peace

Where God is
There is everything
and nothing is wanting.

Where Peace is
There is Blessing

Where Blessing is
There is God

**Carmelite Pilgrimage to
Fatima**

September - 1971

8 days — £52

*Our Lady Keep You!
Yours in Carmel,*

*A. A. Brennan
O.Carm.*

Don't Forget Our Coming Novenas

OUR LADY OF LOURDES
February 11th—February 19th

ST. JOSEPH & ST. PATRICK
March 10th—March 19th

ST. JUDE
April 17th—April 24th

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STOP PRESS— Owing to the Post Office dispute it has been necessary to change the dates of the Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes to Feb. 11th—Feb.19th.

Thanks

St. Jude for favour received, S.E.S., Norfolk. St. Jude & St. Therese for success in exam., E.S., Llandudno. For recovery from stroke, M. McG. Clydebank. For great favours received, T.D. London, W.4. Grateful thanks, J.M.L. Lytham. Special Favour Received, M. D., Glasgow, S.W.2. Sincere thanks, E. P.H., London, W.7. To St. Jude and Forty Martyrs for special favour, A. E.G. Broadstone. Our Lady, SS. Joseph & Jude, V.K.R., London, N.W.3. The Sacred Heart and Our Lady, M.C., Ireland. Our Lady & Saints, M.H., Liverpool.

Price Conscious

- Kate* : "I am never going out with John again."
Peg : "Why not? I thought you were very fond of him."
Kate : "I can't stand a man who reads the menu from right to left."

Romance & facts of life

Henry's girl friend had dropped him for a more glamorous young man, repenting she wrote: "I am so sorry, I love you so much. Please forgive me. P.S. Congratulations on winning the football pools."

From a letter of Pope John - September 19th, 1959

A church constructed of stones is of little value, unless there match it an interior church in our hearts. Let an altar to the honour of the Blessed Virgin be erected in each of our hearts. Let families, held together by the holiness of marriage, reproduce the virtues of Our Lady's life by their love for one another, by sound moral lives, by a common spiritual life.

May Our Lady's protection defend our families.