

SAINT JUDE FOCUS

www.stjudeshrine.org.uk



News from the Shrine of Saint Jude - May/June 2026

Saint Jude - Apostle of Hope Summer Celebration

30 May 2026

Ambassadors of Hope



11.00: Devotions with Anointing

13.30: Open Air Mass

14.30: Procession to the Shrine

**Refreshments &
piety stall available**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Coaches welcome - please book via 01795 539 214

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





WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE LATEST ISSUE of *Saint Jude Focus* - updating the friends of Saint Jude. The *Saint Jude Focus* has been created to compliment the quarterly newsletter which is written by the Prior Provincial. The *Focus* includes extra information on future events and other stories that friends of Saint Jude may find interesting.

In this edition of the *Saint Jude Focus*, we reflect on Saint Joseph - a just man as we celebrated his second feast day on 1 May. We also reflect on the recent pilgrimage to the Shrine by the Archbishop of Canterbury who visited us before Easter this year. The Shrine is proud to be part of several pilgrimage routes and we welcome everyone.

Thank you for your support of the Apostle of Hope and his Shrine. We hope to see you these next few months now that the days are longer and sunnier! *Matt*



100

This year, the whole Carmelite Province will be celebrating one hundred years since the Carmelites returned to Britain after the Reformation.

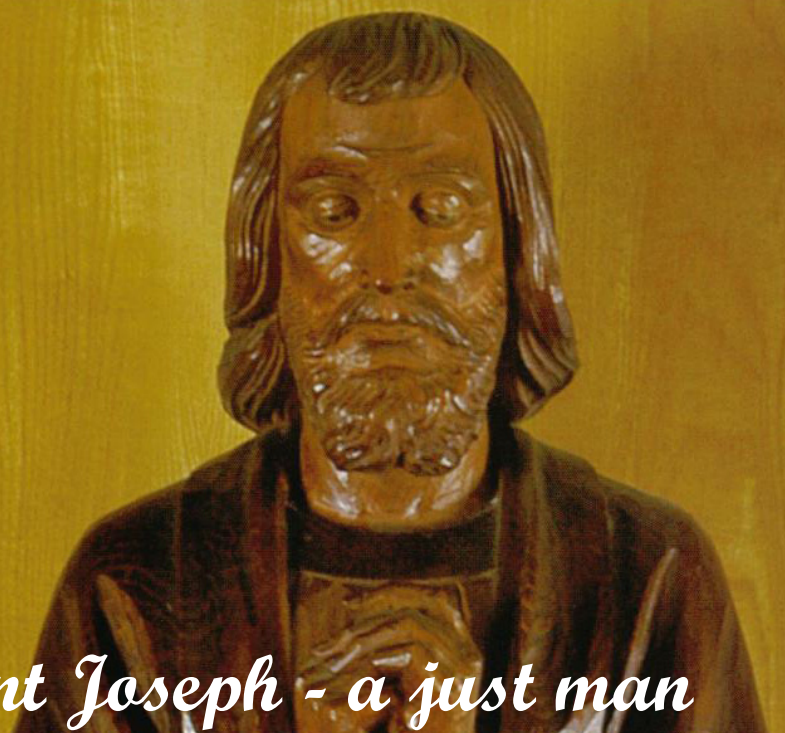
This important moment back in 1926 eventually led to the founding of one shrine (Saint Jude) and the re-founding and return of the Carmelites to another (and much older) shrine at Aylesford Priory. We have a lot to be grateful for.

Thank you for all your support whenever you first became a friend of Saint Jude.

Please save the date for later this year:

Summer Celebration
Saturday 30 May 2026

All are welcome. Please visit:
www.stjudeshrine.org.uk or call
01795 539 214 to book a pilgrimage
or for more information.



Saint Joseph - a just man

"Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families." –

Saint Pope John Paul II

THERE IS SOMETHING quite intriguing about a saint we know so little about – yet often (as with Saint Jude) – it is possible to reflect on them further, helping us to understand better. With that in mind, let's find out what we can about Saint Joseph...

First, let's look at the sources. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote their accounts of Jesus years after he had died and rose again. Mark was the first

to write around 60AD and then the others followed. Luke and Matthew had copies of Mark's Gospel to utilise, and they also shared another source – which was a collection of sayings of Jesus – long since lost. Mark never mentions Joseph, but he does appear in Luke and Matthew. Additionally, many of the facts of Jesus's life were provided by those present at the time of his life but, over decades these were embellished or added to. Memory is

never perfect. Finally, it is important to remember that the authors of the four Gospels were not writing a historical biography – such things were relatively rare in this period and often 'historians' of the period included fictional bits*. The Evangelists are therefore not writing about what Jesus had for dinner – they are writing about what will matter for the followers of Jesus. Unfortunately, this lack of biographical detail for Jesus applies to Joseph too.

Our information about Saint Joseph is fleeting at best and we have to piece things together and reflect on what we know. This, of course, makes him even more intriguing. Let's investigate Saint Joseph further...

There is no information about Joseph as a boy or as a young man. The first we read about him is as an adult – that he has Davidic lineage (descended from King David), he is a carpenter and is a righteous man. The evangelists tell us that he is the spouse of Mary, from whom Jesus was born, conceived by the Holy Spirit. Joseph accepts this fact with faith after receiving the message from an angel in his dreams: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home," the angel said. "For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." He accompanies Mary to Bethlehem, names the baby Jesus, goes to the temple with Jesus and Mary, and then is told to

flee to Egypt: all assisted by God. Eventually, the family return together to Nazareth in Galilee. All these dreams are like the occurrences of his namesake in the Old Testament – this Joseph is thus a connector to the Old and New through his heritage and his name, but also through these little reminders.

The last time we hear about Joseph is when Jesus is twelve. He accompanies a large group of their relatives and friends to Jerusalem on pilgrimage. On the day of their return, Jesus "lingers" staying in the Temple – Joseph and Mary don't realise straight away and are not able to return to Jerusalem until three days later. They find Jesus is fine and in discussion with the elders "listening to them and asking them questions". Mary and Joseph are surprised about his advanced learning, considering his young age, but ask him why he disobeyed them by staying. Jesus answers: "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?". In these small moments, we

are given an indication of what is to come. We don't read about Saint Joseph again, which suggests that he dies before the public ministry of Jesus begins.

As the quote from Saint Pope John Paul II above indicates, Saint Joseph throughout these fleeting appearances is a just man, a tireless worker, an upright guardian for Jesus. All mentions of Joseph are about him protecting and saving Jesus and Mary – making sure that Jesus can save us. Joseph is thus our friend and guardian, protecting and enlightening our families and making sure the future is safe...

Perhaps Saint Joseph should also be the patron saint of faith?

Devotion to Saint Joseph began almost immediately with the early Christians. In the East, the Greeks celebrated Joseph three times in a year, whilst in the West, Saint Bernard, Saint Thomas Aquinas and Saint Bridget were all big advocates of the power of prayer to Saint Joseph. Sixtus IV was the first Pope to officially recognise the feast of Saint Joseph in 1474. By 1955, the

memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker was added to the calendar by Pius XII and celebrated each year on 1 May – so Joseph becomes a rare but special saint with two feast days. On 8 December 1870, Pius XI declared Saint Joseph patron of the Universal Church; Leo XIII invoked him as a model for family fathers and workers.

For the Carmelites, the Principal Protector of the Carmelite Order. Why is he important to the Order?

First, the Carmelite charism is so deeply rooted in the Gospels where Joseph has an important part to play – Carmel was also founded on a mountain in the land of Joseph and Jesus.

Secondly, as the Carmelites spread across the world, their dedication to Saint Joseph grew, for example Saint Teresa of Jesus became a huge advocate for him. In her

Book of her Life, Teresa explains when she was younger, she suffered from a serious illness, so severe that her grave was already being dug. In this painful time, she took Saint Joseph as her advocate and earnestly commended herself to him. Later, Teresa could not recall any occasion when Saint Joseph had failed to grant what she had petitioned. The saint suggested that “anyone who cannot find a master to teach [them] prayer, they should take this glorious saint for [their] master, and [they] will not go astray”. Teresa wanted everyone to be devoted to Joseph because of her own impressive experience of the good she obtained from God.

In 1680 the general chapter of the Carmelites unanimously chose Joseph as the principal protector. Ever since then, the Carmelites have prayed to

Saint Joseph as protector.

Dedication to Saint Joseph continues and develops in so many ways too. Pope Francis had a dedication to ‘Sleeping Joseph’ - he had a statue of ‘Sleeping Joseph’ in his study and whenever he had a prayer intention that needed God’s intervention, he wrote it on a note and put it under the statue so he could dream about it.

Let us all pray to Saint Joseph, a man who protected Jesus and Mary (he could have easily decided not to!) and ask him to intercede for all our needs. Saint Joseph, pray for us.

PS: The Ancient Greek historians Thucydides and Herodotus would often add fictional speeches to their ‘histories’, and this method of history carried on in subsequent biographies throughout the ancient world.

- Matt Betts

For Saint Jude from a friend:

"Heartfelt thanks to Our Lord, Our Lady and St. Jude for wonderful miracle. Please continue to help".

Would you like to thank Saint Jude? We can add to a future Focus - please write to shrineoffice@stjudeshrine.org.uk.



A very special visit

The British Province of Carmelites were proud that during a personal pilgrimage, the Archbishop of Canterbury was able to visit two Carmelite shrines – Aylesford Priory on Friday and the Shrine of Saint Jude on Saturday.

After walking from our sister shrine at Aylesford – Archbishop Mullally met family and children from the primary schools in Ospringe near Faversham before coming to the Shrine of Saint Jude.

The Archbishop and party were greeted by

Carmelite friars: this time – Shrine Chaplain, Br. Paul de Groot, O.Carm and Fr. Patrick O’Keeffe, O.Carm.

They were then led on a tour by Mr. Matthew Betts which included the ‘Footprints of Hope’, the ‘Garden of Hope’ and the shrine itself. The ‘Society of Saint Theresa’ based in Croydon were at the Shrine at the same time (on a separate pilgrimage) – and were overjoyed to meet the Archbishop.

It is the first time in modern history that an Archbishop of Canterbury has undertaken a

pilgrimage like this in the lead-up to an Installation. The Archbishop, along with her husband Eamonn, walked the 140km route along the Becket Camino from Saint Paul’s Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral, reflecting on her life pilgrimage from Bishop of London to Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Archbishop gifted a beautiful scallop shell to the Shrine – the traditional sign of a pilgrim.

Remembering the Shrine and the Carmelites in your Will

Your legacy will help the Carmelite Charitable Trust and the Shrine of Saint Jude to ensure that the work and ministry of the province and the Shrine will continue for many generations to come.

It is thanks to so many of the legacies of the past that we have been able to continue our work, building God's Kingdom on earth even when your earthly life is over.

Please call 01795 539 214, scan the QR Code, or visit www.stjudeshrine.org.uk for more information.



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

☎ 01795 539 214



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