
THE CARMELITE NEWS

JUNE — JULY, 1978

WHITEFRIARS — FAVERSHAM — KENT

Published by the Carmelites of England and Wales

DOWN UNDER

I'd like you all to meet one of our Australian friends from the state of Victoria. She is a regular reader of the Newsletter and has some advice for people like me, or you, who get sore feet walking around St. Peter's or the Pyramids (or parts of Wales on a Sunday looking for a glass of beer). She says that after similar discomfort—and I'm not quite sure whether it was St. Peter's, the Pyramids or Wales on a Sunday—she takes a pair of shoes or sandals a half or even a whole size bigger than usual and uses them for trapezing around. So there speaks the voice of experience. Thank you, A.

She does give one warning though. "Keep to the normal size for the other things!" The mind boggles. Imagine me trying to climb all those steps or walk across Rome with one hand clutching an outsize pair of trousers to keep them up and the other pushing up a hat whose brim kept flopping down over the eyes! How could

OUR COMING NOVENAS—

June 2nd - June 10th
THE SACRED HEART

July 8th - July 16th
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

August 16th - August 24th
ST. JUDE

you drink a glass of beer? Thanks again for the warning, A., and thanks for writing to us. And, incidentally, thanks to all those who wrote saying they enjoyed my last letter, especially the bits about the children.

*The call to freedom
is at the same time
a call to responsibility.*

Harvey Cox

MARY'S MONTH

May is the month dedicated to Mary. It's a good idea, I think, to have times at which we remember people, like birthdays, anniversaries, jubilees, mothers' day, fathers' day and so on. Otherwise there's a danger we would just take people for granted. Remembering someone's birthday lets them know they are special to you. So the month of May is the time we remember Mary, Mother of Jesus. We remember her at Christmas, of course, but here, half way through the year we think of her again.

She freely chose to go along with what God asked of her. She took on the responsibility of being wife to Joseph and mother to Jesus. Surely there must have been great fulfilment and joy in her life, for which we are glad, and great sorrow and hurt, for which we are sorry. She's really one of us isn't she?

When we think of her, pray to her, during May let's not put her on a pedestal in our minds that keeps her aloof and remote like some damsel in an ivory tower. She's one of us with her sleeves rolled up and sweat on her face. What's so special about her, then? The fact that she responded fully to what God asked of her.

Now we're like her in having sleeves rolled up and sweat on our faces and in being responsible for and to other human beings. The question is, "Am I like her in my response to God?"

It's not a matter of having visions or inspirations. It's a matter of doing what I know to be right or at least trying to do it in the circumstances of my daily life, taking into account the needs of my husband, my wife, my children, my parents and so on. Now it's not always easy to balance everything and come out with a nice neat answer. The account book of life doesn't work that way. So what is important is to try and to keep on trying to get the right balance. It is the trying that is our response to God. So perhaps during May we can daily ask Our Lady to help us to try and to keep on trying to respond to God and to the people

*Do not despise your situation.
In it, with God's help,
You must act, endure, overcome.*

God has brought into our lives as well as we can. *To try is already to respond.*

KEEP MOVING

Some time ago I read in the paper about a man who was arrested by the police. They had to rush after some other character so they handcuffed our friend to the bumper of their car and ran after the other man, who got away.

When they returned, neither their car nor the man they had handcuffed to it were to be seen. He'd simply lifted up his end of the car, walked round the corner and down the road! There's no holding some people.

So if you can't get rid of the things that hold you back, keep moving and take them with you!

DRAW OR RAFFLE?

Do you like puns? Well you'll hate this one. Englishman: "What's the difference between a draw and a raffle?" American: "Well, a draw is for keeping things in, and a raffle is for keeping thieves out!"

Now our Draw, Raffle, Lottery, Flutter—call it what you will—is very much in your hands—sorry, no pun intended! But it's true. We depend on you to help us keep our heads above financial water and this Draw is one of the main ways to achieve success. We've changed the time this year to avoid clashing with Aylesford, so we shall have to

THANKS

Thanksgiving to St. Jude for request granted.—A.H., Adare.

Grateful thanks to the Sacred Heart, Infant of Prague, Holy Spirit, Our Blessed Lady, Sts. Anthony, Jude and Martin and the Holy Souls for wonderful favours received.—N.F., Cork.

Heartfelt thanks to St. Jude for successful position.—M.L., S.E.22.

Grateful thanks to Our Blessed Lady, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Anthony for favours received.—Unworthy Sinner, Galway.

Thanksgiving to Little Infant of Prague, Our Lady, Sts. Anthony, Anne, Jude, Joseph and Blessed Maximilian Mary Kolbe for favours received.—M.D., Crumpsall.

Thanksgiving to St. Jude and St. Anthony for many favours received.—B.H., Blackpool.

put in that little extra effort to persuade people to part with their money for a good cause. I know people are always being asked for something—so why shouldn't they be asked for us? Please do your best—and get someone else to buy. Don't just fill them in yourself! Anyway, I know you'll do what you can. Thank you for it in advance.

THE HIDDEN GEM

“There's a green eyed yellow idol
To the North of Katmandu”—
and all that Mad Carew stuff and the broken-hearted woman — I remember it well as a party piece being recited to a background of piano music before a hushed audience—and sometimes not so hushed!

Having said that, I must tell you that the Gem I'm talking about has nothing to do with idols in or out of Katmandu, but refers to a church in Manchester, St. Mary's Mulberry Street, tucked in between Deansgate and Albert Square in the very centre of the city. It was built in hard times and opened in 1794, a gem of a church inside but completely hidden away in the mass of buildings surrounding it. It's still hidden away, dwarfed by modern buildings now with a deserted bomb-site next door to give a little tone to the area. Most of the old dwellings have gone, bombed—or

flattened by business development, and, if I remember rightly, the official number of parishioners is twenty-seven.

But people still go there in their hundreds—young and old, men and women—from their work in the city. Far from becoming a deserted church it has had a re-flowering of its apostolate.

It's got quite a number of our Newsletter circle among its congregation, and I had the great pleasure of meeting some of them when I was there in March. Hello there, you folk from Manchester and Salford and Stockport and parts north. It was good to see you.

THE VOICE OF THE LAITY

You know we're all supposed to listen to each other nowadays? Well, there was I, preaching in the Hidden Gem—and they were certainly listening to me because I was doing all the talking, and when I stopped to draw breath I listened to them saying nothing, so everything was as it should be and all in line with Vatican Two.

Then I made some reference to St. John's Gospel and said that he was getting a bit long in the tooth when he wrote it and, looking around the congregation, I added

THANKS

Thanksgiving to St. Jude and St. Martin.
—C.C., Welchtown.

Grateful thanks to The Sacred Heart, Our Lady, St. Jude, St. Martin and St. Therese for wonderful favours received. — A.M.C., Ireland.

My grateful thanks to Our Blessed Lady, The Sacred Heart, St. Jude and St. Martha and St. Brigid and St. Anthony for favours received.—E.F., Greenore.

Our grateful thanks to St. Jude, and Our Lady for favours received. — M.McG., Glasgow.

Thanks to St. Jude, St. Martin de Porres, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Our Lord's Sacred Heart and Precious Blood for great favour granted.—V.C., Northampton.

Ever grateful thanks to St. Jude for petitions granted now and all over the years.—M.O'B., New Ross.

Thanks to St. Jude, Sacred Heart, Our Lady and St. Anne for favour received.—A.F., Carluke.

Grateful thanks to the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Joseph and St. Jude for favour received.—Anon., Sussex.

(with a smile of course!), "Like some of us here". Quick as a flash, a young man of about sixty sitting a few rows away said, "Speak for yourself, Father!"

What do you think of that? Who said the Church is dead? Dialogue is the name of the game. Anyhow we all had a good laugh and everyone went home the better for coming to church and praying a while, though I have a niggling feeling that the laugh did more good than my sermon!

**A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO
ARE FOUND OUT**

*Lord, give me true sympathy
for those who must pay
for their sins,
—and keep mine a secret.*

DATES TO REMEMBER

The 2nd June is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Really it's a mid-year reminder that God *did* become man and still lives and works among us. It's a day for praise and thanks and trust—he knows our needs from the inside.

16th July, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and 20th July, St. Elias the Prophet, are special days for

Carmelites and all those associated with them. So let's remember each other especially on these days.

Sometimes it is not easy to know what to do; sometimes we know but it is not easy to do it; and sometimes we know and we do but with no love to lighten the knowing or the doing—for ourselves and for others. We need the spirit of love, of hope, of joy.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*O Guide our minds with thy blest
light,
With love our hearts inflame;
And with thy strength which ne'er
decays
Confirm our mortal frame.*

I hope the Summer will shine on you—and you will smile on others! God bless for now.

Until next time

Our Lady keep you,

Edward Augustus Lam.

THANKS

Thanks to St. Jude for prayers answered.—M.M. Ely.

Thanksgiving to St. Jude for safe and successful operation.—A.B., Offaly.

My thanks to St. Jude, and Father Titus Brandsma.—C.F., Benton.

Heartfelt thanks to Sacred Heart, Lady of Good Counsel, through intercession of St. Anthony, St. Joseph, St. Rita and St. Martin for wonderful favour received. — M.H., Drogheda.

Thanksgiving for request granted, through intercession of St. Jude. — G.G. Mc.D., Magherafelt.

Thanksgiving for many favours received through intercession of St. Jude.—M.L., Rhode.

Thanksgiving for favour received through intercession of St. Jude for grandson.—M.P., Northwood.

Heartfelt thanks to St. Jude for suitable employment obtained.—M.M., Ennis.

Thanksgiving to Sacred Heart, Child of Prague, Queen of Holy Rosary, Queen of Knock, St. Martin, powerful St. Jude, Holy Souls, Pope John, Holy Spirit for favour and peace of mind granted.—Grateful.

Thanksgiving to St. Jude for prayers answered.—K.C., Ballinasloe.

Thanksgiving promised to St. Jude for favours granted.—M.B., Belleek.

Thanks to Sister Benedicta, St. Jude and the Blessed Trinity, Our Lady and all the Saints for requests granted.—M.F., Houghton le Sp.