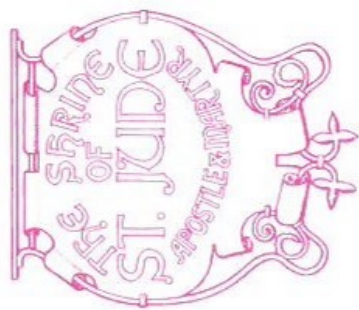




The Carmelite News



**SEPTEMBER
1997**



THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. JUDE, FAVERSHAM



THE LITTLE FLOWER: By the time you receive this we will have come to the end of the centenary year of the death of the Little Flower. We are expecting a great turn out for the Solemn Mass in Westminster Cathedral with Cardinal Hume. We will have our own special Mass and Blessing of the Roses here in Faversham on her feast at 6.00 pm. I trust the Little Flower will hear our prayers as we honour her in our own simple small way. You may remember in the December newsletter Bro. Michael Manning mentioned a "showdown" with this remarkable little saint. He writes "while I was a monk in the Benedictine abbey of Neuburg, near Heidelberg, one of my fellow monks, talked to me about his devotion to St. Thérèse of Lisieux. He showed me prayer cards of her, mostly from paintings done by her sister Celine and showing her as a sugary little nun clutching a large bunch of roses. As a new convert to the catholic church this was all I needed. These pictures fulfilled all my worst dreams from my time as an Anglican. I turned down his kind offer to obtain cards for me and put St. Thérèse to the bottom of my list of saints to ask for intercession. A number of years later, having left the Benedictines and, by the grace of God, being at Aylesford for the first time I decided to read a little about the saints of Carmel. I couldn't find a leaflet on St. Thérèse and so I borrowed from the Third Order Library, thanks to the Tertiary Secretary, a book called "In Search of St. Thérèse" and started to read it. Well it would appear that this was what the

"Little Flower" had been waiting for, a chink in my armour, and she took full advantage of it. I stayed up most of that night reading the book and the next few days I spent looking for other material on St. Thérèse. What I didn't realise was that my visit, coming at the end of September, was near to the Feast of St. Thérèse. As the day before the feast arrived the sun was standing high in the sky and it was one of the hottest days of the summer. Thérèse chose this day to give my pride a final blow. I was approached by the same secretary and asked if I would help her with some preparations for the following day. So it came about that I spent a large part of the day out in the scorching sun picking roses, that symbol of all that I had disliked in Celine's pictures of Thérèse, to be blessed on the Feast of St. Thérèse. At the mass on the 1st October I was there and reverently waiting to receive my rose, blessed during the celebrations. I had come full circle and I thought it fitting that I send one of the roses to my friend in Neuburg. And what have I learned from this? That underneath the roses and picture postcard images of St. Thérèse there is a powerful saint, a woman who by her very weakness is strong, who in her suffering triumphed and still found time to serve and love her fellow sisters and the whole of humanity. A wonderful role model for us all, men or women, lay or religious, young or old. During this centenary year I have often had reason to think back over that day in September and the day I picked roses for St. Thérèse; may she look in favour on her devotee and all who call upon her name and intercession".

You may recall I mentioned a booklet on the saint that we published for the beginning of the centenary year.

Well, we have another for the close of the year. It is a simple booklet called *Reflections on the Sacred Scriptures with St. Thérèse of Lisieux*. It is beautifully printed and is a handy one to carry in your purse. It can be used either by individuals, families or groups. It is only £1.20 plus postage.

"Measure wealth not by the things you have, but by the things you have for which you *would not* take money". Anon.

NEVER MIND MAC'S MIND
Mac lay dying. His wife and friends were at his bedside to hear his last words. "Tammias owes me fifty dollars," whispered the sick man. "What a mind!" cried Mac's wife, "clear and strong to the end." "And I owe Dugan one hundred dollars," came the faint words. "Oh, the poor man," sobbed his wife. "Take no notion of his delirious wanderings."

DEPARTURES' AND COMMITMENTS: Sadly I have to tell you that two of our simply professed men left us in the early summer after quite some time thinking, praying and getting advice. They realised that God was not calling them to our way of life. They left with gratitude in their hearts for what they had received while with us. I feel sure your prayers helped them to come to a right decision. I am confident that the time with us will be a great help to them now as they start in new professions and indeed for the rest of their lives. We wish them every success and God's Blessing in their new way of life. Thank God we have seven left. Two of them will make their final profession in the Autumn, both of whom have written letters here. They

are Bros. Michael and Mark. Three fine young men in the novitiate will make their first profession in September and hopefully another starting the course the same month. I trust you will keep them in your prayers that the Master of the vineyard and His Blessed Mother will guide, strengthen and protect them.

ST. JUDE: We have had a number of groups coming here for a half day retreat as well as a constant stream of families and individuals almost daily. A group of Philippinoes came for Mass and devotions on their way to Canterbury. They were a joy to have as their singing and music were so uplifting and joyful and they themselves were so cheerful even though the tales of what is happening to their people at home was heart rending. They had a birthday party, in the hall, for one of the group. On another day one grateful client left the following message for others: "*Don't give up on missing persons. Our son has contacted us after twelve years (thirteen Christmases). Our neighbour's daughter has returned after six years silence. Thank you, St. Jude*".

As the Feast of St. Jude is on Tuesday, 28th October, we will have a special Pilgrimage Mass at 12.30 on Sunday 26th October with devotions at 4.00pm, for those who cannot come on the 28th. The Masses on the Feast itself will be at 9.30 am.; 11.00 am.; and 2.30pm with devotions at 4.00 pm.

This is an ideal time to remind ourselves that we should try to remember daily the intentions and needs of all the other members of St. Jude Society.

In that way we show charity to others in need and we ourselves receive the help from the prayers and intercessions of the others. It is living out the communion of saints and building up the Church in a small but powerful way. It is really heartening and uplifting to hear of the faith of so many who, with many and great problems, accept with fortitude the trials that come their way thanks to the intercession of St. Jude, Apostle, Martyr and Kinsman of our Redeemer.

APOLOGIES When I printed the Summer Newsletter I had the least trouble, so far, and I thought God is good and at last we have solved the problem. But we had not. I was horrified when I found that some people got two sets of tickets. One was bad enough, but two! I do apologise. It was the computer's fault. I do hope it is rectified now. As I often say to the wonderful ladies here "let me back to the old slate and slate pencil"!

Many thanks for the great response to the draw. The winners' list is at the end. Each time we send a newsletter the first few days have a great number of replies with the result we cannot answer them immediately. You see, the ladies work only until 1.00 pm, as they have families or other involvements. So I ask your patience if you don't get a reply for a few weeks. We could get more people to work in the office but then your hard earned donation would go on wages and not to the work of the Carmelites, the reason you give it. We try to do our best. But we do pray for you.

PRAGUE: I am attempting, again, to organise a pilgrimage to the Shrine of

the Divine Infant of Prague next May. I have got the best quote possible, although I know it is a bit much for many. So if you are interested please let me know before the end of November. To make it viable I need 40 to 45 pilgrims. The price is £570 (all inclusive tips etc.) for 8 days departing from London Gatwick Airport. Insurance is extra. I know that many of you will have the extra expense travelling to Gatwick. If you want more information please drop me a line, addressed to "*Prague Pilgrimage*", at this office and I'll send it to you.

OLD CRAFTS: I was almost hypnotised one day in the grounds of a retreat centre, where I was for a day, to see a number of ladies carding wool and spinning the yarn. It was so peaceful. One could imagine the people of old doing it in every house. I was struck by the possibility of them meditating on the Scriptures as they worked. I could not help recalling the Book of Proverbs where it says "A perfect wife - who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls....She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy". It was reassuring that not all the ancient crafts have died out despite the high technology of the modern age. Nowadays we are so caught up in machines and technology there is no time to exercise the God given human skills and talents. We are becoming a generation of button pushers and dominated by machines in the midst of noise with no time to reflect on or listen to the voice of the Lord or to enjoy the beauty of nature and creation. We have lost the sense of awe and wonder, which needs

to be cultivated if we are to contemplate the transcendent beauty and infinite mercy of our Heavenly Father.

"Better to eat a dry crust of bread with peace of mind than to have a banquet in a house full of trouble".

Prov. 17:1

THE HOLY SOULS: In the Book of Wisdom we read "Death was not God's doing, he takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living. To be - for this he created all; the world's created things have health in them, in them no fatal poison can be found, and Hades holds no power on earth; for virtue is undying". Here we see the optimistic view of the author. Sin and death came into the world through man's pride and disobedience. Because we are all tainted is why we pray for each other and also for the dead who cannot help themselves. Since we are all imperfect we pray for them particularly in November, the month dedicated by the Church to the Holy Souls. We call them the Holy Souls because they are going through a period of purification before entering Heaven. They are assured of heaven so they await their entry with great peace. We are told that their greatest pain is the sense of separation from the goodness of God. It is because of that pain that we offer prayers and good works on their behalf. They cannot commit any sin now. They cannot do any good works to merit God's forgiveness and love so we do them for them. If we have something unpleasant or difficult to do and we try to do it willingly and to the best of our ability we can offer it up for the Holy Souls and it will benefit them. Since they are so close to God and to us we should pray to them for their help in our daily difficulties. They have gone through

life and now know the value of the little sacrifices and difficulties that they did not use fully while on earth. We can do them so much good if only we could get into the habit of offering up for them up with a cheerful heart the little crosses we have each day.

Two heads are better than one so are two hands on a wheel.

OCTOBER is the month of the Rosary. But I'm afraid the TV and Video as well as the radio have pushed it out. Before the modern age of high technology the rosary was a great bonding event in the family. It is true that the family that prays together stays together. Maybe the cause of the lack of interest in the Rosary is that it is not sufficiently modern. Pope Paul VI in his letter on Mary, "To Honour Mary" said that we should try new forms of the devotion to suit modern times. Here at St. Jude's devotions I tried new mysteries "The Merciful Mysteries" - 1st Mystery 'The Name of Jesus' with reading from Matthew 1: 18-25; 2nd Mystery 'Jesus and Sinners' from Mark 2: 15-17; 3rd Mystery 'The Pharisee and the Publican' from Luke 18: 9-14; 4th Mystery 'The Good Shepherd' from John 10: 11-16; 5th Mystery 'The Good Thief' from Luke 23: 39-43. Many found the reading and meditation very helpful and said so, which was very encouraging. Obviously older people like the old ways but we should try to pass on the value of the Rosary to the rising generations even if it means some changes, which are based on the Scriptures and the teaching of the Church.

OUR LADY'S DOWRY was the title given to this land before the reformation because of the great devotion of

the people to Our Blessed Mother and the number of shrines dedicated to her. Our Lady of Evesham was one such. Evesham is a town in Worcester. About the year 700 AD a swineherd was astonished to see in a group of blossoming trees, a trio of lovely maidens. He reported it to the local bishop who went to the spot and was privileged to see the vision. He recognised Our Lady carrying a book and a cross with which she blessed him. Our Lady said to the bishop 'behold the place I have chosen'. The bishop had a church built in Our Lady's honour. A great abbey was also built in her honour. Unfortunately very little of it remains now. The reformers did their work thoroughly. But a chapel was built there in 1889 and a church of "The Immaculate Conception and St. Egwin" was built in 1913. Public processions started in 1952 and are held on the Second Sunday of June.



Prayer to Our Lady of Evesham:

Virgin most holy, Mother of the Word Incarnate, Treasurer of graces, refuge of sinners; We fly to your maternal love with lively faith and we ask you to obtain for us the grace ever to do the will of God. Into your most holy hands we commit the keeping of our hearts; asking you for health of soul and body, In the certain hope that you, our most loving Mother, will hear our prayer. Amen



May Mary our Mother watch over and protect you until we meet again.
Yours sincerely,

H. A. Brennan, O. Carm.

Hugh Alphonsus Brennan, O. Carm.,
Shrine Director.

Winners of 1997 Draw

Congratulations to the following who won the following prizes - £500: Roberts, London 71276; £100 each: Scales, Norfolk 67044; Page, Sheffield 13652; Wilding, Clwd 30495; Wade, Wexford 16444; Wilson, Leeds 13706; £50 each: Da Cory, Edinburgh 24352; Taheny, Sligo 19202; Hayden, Dublin 12556; Fernandes, London 31310; Scanlon, Birmingham 30878; £25 each: Bossano, Gibraltar 34553; Stewart, Derry 41636; Kohle, Essex 24489; Frendo, Malta 79730; Burrows, Manchester 72402; Reilly, Antrim 39930; Thornton, Cavan 55590; Madgwick, West Midlands 13074; Bremner, Orkney 36596; Reavey, Co. Down 43059.

Our sincerest thanks to all who supported the draw.
We do appreciate your help.

DO NOT FORGET OUR NOVENAS

The Little Flower: September 23rd - October 1st
Feast of the Holy Rosary: October 7th - 15th
St. Jude: October 20th - 28th

The Carmelites, Whitefriars, FAVERSHAM, Kent • ME13 7JN
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