



Newsletter

**A PRAYING COMMUNITY
IN LONDON SERVING
GOD'S PEOPLE**

www.carmelinthecity.org.uk

May/June 2017

Volume 10. Issue 3: 10th Anniversary Year

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May-June: Easter and Pentecost

Dear friends

First I must wish you every joy and blessing of this Easter season. My apologies for not being at the last meeting. I had the opportunity to re-visit a small village in north Norfolk after more than sixty years where I had lived with relatives during the 2nd world war. The village is very close to Walsingham and on the Saturday afternoon as you were meeting, I was at the shrine to remember you and say a prayer.

I have heard from Martin, Isabel, Maureen, Anne and Mariusz that you had a very good meeting and discussion. Our thanks to them and to Mariusz for the following note summarising the meeting:

The afternoon session of May meeting was centered on the theme "Carmel, the Future: a place and a journey". We used excerpts from the letters by: Fr Michael Cox addressed to Carmelites and by Fr Joseph Chalmers "Carmel. The Future" and "Carmel: A Place and a journey into the third millennium". Small group discussions were focused on the desert experience, following Christ, need for silence, contemplation, mysticism and the value of building community. Afterwards we shared our thoughts with the whole group. We realized such important and deep ideas need more time to address and internalize so we decided to continue the discussion and sharing during our next meeting.

I am looking forward very much to hearing your thoughts at our next meeting. Last week I was invited to attend part of the Provincial Chapter at Aylesford Priory. This important meeting takes place every 3 years when the friars discern their mission with their newly elected Prior Provincial, Fr Kevin Alban, and his Council. This year we reflected on Pope Francis' teaching in *Evangelii Gaudium* and how it might be lived in the light of our Carmelite Constitutions. Lay Carmel has a vital role to play in this new journey. We do not know where the journey will take us but we trust in the Holy Spirit to show us. But we do know that it will be a time of change. In my experience, what happens in Carmel is a mystery; we want answers and look for signs but it doesn't work like that. Very often we are left with the questions: What will it look like? Will someone tell us? Well, I think that the answer is 'NO!' I sense that the friars have sufficient confidence in us to make our own decisions about the structure which is right for us for the future within the guidelines of our Third Order Rule and Statutes. The friars are there to 'help us reach the goals which we have set for ourselves'. (Constitutions Ch V111.109)- but it is up to us to know what these goals are and communicate them appropriately. We cannot expect the friars to read our minds! I have also recently visited the Third Order Chapter at Leigh on Sea. There, too, we had a very useful discussion about the future and how we need to get to know one another better and share ideas. We might begin by meeting up at Aylesford with other Lay Carmelites from the South East for the pilgrimage for Our Lady of Mount Carmel on 16th July. It would be a good start to getting to know each other better before we meet at Minsteracres <http://www.minsteracres.org/> in September.

All good wishes and blessings.

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Dates to remember

16th May
St Simon Stock

25th May
St Mary
Magdelene de'
Pazzi, nun.
O.Carm.

27th May
St Augustine of
Canterbury

28th May
The Ascension of
the Lord

31st May
Visitation of BMV

4th June
Pentecost Sunday

11th June
Most Holy Trinity

Your prayers are asked for:
The sick,
especially Pat
McManus and Fr
Wilfrid McGreal
O.Carm.

For those who
have died: Bryan
Deschamp. RIP.

For our children
and young people
who are receiving
Holy Communion
for the first time,
for their families
and all who help
to prepare them;

For those young
people recently
confirmed;

For all the lay
people who serve
to make our
parishes
welcoming,
praying
communities
through a variety
of ministries,
seen and hidden.

Details of forthcoming events

27th May Aylesford Priory. Day retreat to close anniversary year of St Mary Magdelene de' Pazzi. Led by Fr Kevin Alban O.Carm.

27th May. Summer celebrations at Shrine of St Jude, Faversham. See website/ newsletter for details.

24th June. Carmelite Pilgrimage to Walsingham. See Assumpta for details

Carmel in the City meetings

Our next meeting is on 3rd June

Formation group meets at 10.30.

11.30. Quiet prayer.

12.00. Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion followed by bring and share lunch.

13. 30. Business meeting.

13.45. Afternoon session. Carmel – A place and a journey. Continuing the discussion.

15.00. Lectio Divina ending at 15.30.

1st July. Celebration of our Lady of Mount Carmel. Mass with Receptions and Professions in the Third Order.

Martin Pendergast shares the following:

Bryan Deschamp and I were confreres in Rome's San Alberto International Community in the late 1960's. A member of the Australian Carmelite Province and a graduate of the Catholic University of Leuven (KU Leuven), he received a doctorate in theology for his work on Blessed John Soreth. This was his life's work, published shortly before his death -

http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod_id=IS-9782503547657-1

After 15 years in the Carmelite Order, Bryan became a Theology Tutor and later Dean of Trinity College, Melbourne, Australia, an ecumenical centre. In 1989 he joined the United Nations as part of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, focusing on the realisation of the rights of children. He died in Rome in January 2017, following failing health, and was buried there in May 2017.

Pray for a restless, but committed soul!

See this interview with Bryan on John Soreth:

<http://ocarm.org/ebook/citocmag/no13/Eng.pdf>

May he rest in Peace

A note from the Editor: You can always let me or Sylvia know if you would like submit an article to go into the Newsletter. Sometimes, like today, we have a little space available! Kim.