



Newsletter

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

www.carmelinthecity.org.uk

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October- November 2017

Dear friends

It is almost a month now since the National Gathering of the Third Order of Carmel in the British Province met at Minsteracres retreat centre near Durham. Carmel in the City was very well represented with Isobel, Anne, Champo and Mariusz joining me and making an excellent contribution. As you know from our reflections on Carmel and the Future, the Third Order has been undergoing a process of renewal following the teaching of the 2nd Vatican Council, especially developments in the contribution of lay people as we understand more about our own unique lay vocation within the Carmelite Order. Over the past 20 years or so, we have worked towards having an elected Moderator (leader) and Council (advisors to the Moderator) which reflects the process and organisation of the friars and nuns. And, I'm very pleased to report, with the guidance of Fr Kevin Alban, our Prior Provincial and the prayers of Fr Michael Cox, our National Chaplain, as well as all the help from others along the way, not least, Fr. Brendan Grady, Fr Tony Lester and John Berry, all the hard work, patience and prayers have borne fruit!

The results of the elections were:

Moderator: Rosie Bradshaw, leader Brighton and Hove, Third Order community

Councillors: Isobel Kernthaler (CITC); Teresa Kelly (Newcastle); Anne Hayden (Aylesford); Johan Bergstrom-Allen (York).

Veronica Errington continues as Third Order Secretary.

The Council will be meeting shortly to begin their programme of work for the next 3 years. Please say a prayer for them as they generously give their time, energy and wisdom to help support and develop Carmel in Britain, into the future.

The National Gathering was an opportunity for many people to meet Fr Michael and get to know a little more about his role. We were delighted that Fr Michael was also able to be at our October meeting for the feast of the Holy Rosary and to receive the final Profession of Annie Taylor. Congratulations to Annie! Fr Michael has left some notes of his talk which I'll ask Kim will send with the link to this edition of the newsletter. If you know of anyone who would like a copy but who does not have access to a computer, please would you make a copy for them? That would be a great help. Thank you.

Our next meeting is 4th November, Fr Chris Vipers, will preside at Mass and we will be praying especially for our deceased members, May and Rosalind, as well as other members of the Carmelite Family and our own family members. In the afternoon we will be continuing our Carmelite reflections using a booklet from the General Commission for Evangelization and Mission available on the Carmelite website www.ocarm.org. You might like to have a look at it beforehand. All good wishes and blessings,

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Dates to remember

28th October.
Ss.Simon and Jude. Apostles

1st November
Solemnity of All Saints

2nd November
All Souls' Day

8th November
Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity

9th November.
Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

14th November.
All Carmelite Saints

15th November
All Carmelite Souls

Your prayers are asked for: the sick, especially Pat McManus, Julie Gallagher, Charlie Perman, and Fr Wilfrid McGreal O.Carm

-for those who have died, our relatives and friends; all members of the Carmelite Family; those who have supported us on our journey of faith remembering especially Fr Pat Cope who died recently.

May they rest in peace.

Details of forthcoming events

**Saturday 28th October and Sunday 29th October:
Feast day celebrations at St Jude's Shrine, Faversham.**

For more details see www.stjudeshrine.org.uk

6th- 10th November: Living Wage week. Look out for an announcement on Monday, 6th about the London Living Wage!

25th-26th November: First meeting of the newly elected National Council

Carmel in the City meetings

Our next meeting is on 4th November

Formation group meets at 10.30.

11.30. Quiet prayer. **12.00.** Mass with Fr Chris Vipers followed by bring and share lunch. **13.30.** Business meeting. **13.45.** Afternoon session. The Word that visits me in the Silence of my Solitude, including Lectio Divina **ending at 15.30.**

2nd December. Towards Advent and Christmas: In the Beginning was the Word. Programme as above.

Words to ponder:

The early Carmelites went into the solitude of the desert to focus their lives exclusively on God. Their mountain was the land of Elijah, whose sojourns in the desert led later generations to identify him as the paradigm of the monk. In solitude, life is met in its starkest terms. One either passes through the desert victorious or one succumbs. The Carmelite is encouraged to make his cell a desert within the desert, to stay in or near it day and night meditating on the law of the Lord.

Desert literature understood inner life as a combat with demons as adversaries. The Rule of Carmel is, in part, desert literature...In order to defeat the foe, the Carmelite is urged to put on God's armor: a breastplate of justice, a shield of faith, and a helmet of salvation; he is to take up the sword of the spirit. The Rule reminds the Carmelite of Isaiah's words: Your strength will lie in silence and hope. A desert carefully tended becomes a garden. In the imagination of Carmelites, Mount Carmel represents not only the solitude in which the hermit wrestles with demons, but it also represents a flowering of new, verdant life. The invitation to Carmel offered by the tradition is an invitation to open one's life to the loving activity of God and so to the blossoming of one's life. The garden is a counter-symbol to the desert. Mount Carmel represented solitude and stark battle to the Carmelite, but it was also a place of physical beauty which offered fresh water, thick forest, striking vistas and the company of wild animals. *The Carmelite Way: An Ancient Path for Today's Pilgrim.*

John Welch, O.Carm. 1996.