



# Newsletter

A PRAYING COMMUNITY IN LONDON SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

## Summer Edition

July - August 2019

*"When the field of vision has been unified, the inner being comes to rest, and that inner peaceableness flows into the outer world has harmony and compassion." Cynthia Bourgeault*

Dear Friends,

Summer is with us- at last! Not only the calendar but also the weather has changed these past few days. And the Church's calendar too, has changed. Since Pentecost Sunday we are now in what is called Ordinary time- although the past couple of weeks have been far from Ordinary as several Feast days or Solemnities have followed one another... Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi, Nativity of St John the Baptist, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Saints Peter and Paul, to mention some of them.

July brings us a little quieter time, liturgically speaking, but still there are several important Feast days and for us, as Carmelites, the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on 16th July and St Elijah on 20th are high points of the year. This year, 16th July has especial significance as the friars celebrate the 50th anniversary, the Golden Jubilee of the Province, with our Prior General, Fr Fernando.

This will be Fr Fernando's last visit to Aylesford as our Prior General. His term of office ends at the General Chapter in September when elections for the next 6 years will take place. You will remember that we used the **Instrumentum Laboris**, the preparatory document for the Chapter, to guide our Listening Session at our February meeting. I will be passing on your comments on this and any more suggestions you may have, to the Preparatory Commission at the end of July. Any thoughts, please, by the end of July.

As you know, it has not been possible to arrange accommodation at Aylesford for all those who would like to come for the weekend events and Celebrations, but I hope that you may manage to get to the pilgrimage on

Sunday, 14th July. Fr Fernando will celebrate Mass at 11.30am including the Reception into the Third Order of Teresa Torres and Alessandra Menendez from Carmel in the City along with other Third Order Receptions, Professions and Renewal of Promises. Please pray for them all.

The day is also an opportunity to meet other lay Carmelites from across the South East, including those from Aylesford, Faversham and Leigh on Sea. The St Simon Stock room will be a base for the day to meet one another over a cup of tea and to share news. The Aylesford Third Order members have kindly offered to provide tea and coffee and light refreshments for day visitors. Do come if you can. You, and family and friends, will be most welcome!

I was sorry to miss the June meeting when Luigi Gioia spoke about his book on contemplative prayer. As you know, I was in the Holy Land, Galilee, to be precise, and remembered you all at Mass on the Mount of the Beatitudes. I have heard that Luigi's talk was very inspiring and helpful and look forward to hearing more about it. It would be very good if someone would write a paragraph for the next newsletter about what particularly struck them and has helped them.

We will not be meeting this coming Saturday, 6th July, as I hope to see many of you at Aylesford on 14th July. And, as usual, we will not meet in August either. Our next meeting will be on 7th September when we look forward very much to Alessandra's next talk and reflection on *Laudato Si'*. All good wishes and blessings.

Sylvia

## Details of Forthcoming Meetings/Events Carmel in the City.

### NO CARMEL IN THE CITY MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST

**Saturday, 13th July.** Aylesford Priory. A day of prayer, reflection and preparation for the coming Feast. Fr Fernando Millan Romeral. O.Carm. Prior General

**Sunday, 14th July.** Our Lady of Mount Carmel Pilgrimage, Aylesford Priory. With the Prior General, Fr Fernando Millan Romeral. 11.30am Mass with Third Order Receptions, Professions and Renewal of Promises. 2.15 Spiritual talk. 3.30pm Rosary Procession led by Lay Carmelites followed by Benediction. Your help will be appreciated.

**Saturday 17th August.** Pilgrimage to Shrine of St Jude, Faversham with OCD Seculars. Meet at 11.30am for tour and prayers at the shrine. Mass at 2.30pm approx. followed by anointing.

**Saturday, 7th September.** Carmel in the City meetings resume with usual programme i.e. 11.30 quiet prayer followed by Mass, bring and share lunch. Afternoon talk and discussion on **Laudato Si': Carmel and our Care for our Common Home**, led by Alessandra Menendez. Followed by Lectio Divina. Ending at 3.30 pm.

**Saturday, 5th October.** St Therese of Lisieux and the Eucharist with St Bernadette Hunston SCSJA.

**Your prayers are asked for:** The sick and all who care for them, especially Pat McManus and Fr Wilfrid McGreal; for our distance members especially Dot Wade and Charmaine Jarasuriya who are unwell.

For all on holiday that they will be refreshed and return safely to their homes; for all children and students that they will have a time to rest and wonder at God's amazing creation.

The forthcoming General Chapter, all those who will take part and contribute, those whose term of office comes to end as they return to their home communities and all those who will be elected to office for the coming 6 years.

All who work in caring for our environment, educating and encouraging people to appreciate and respect our beautiful world; that people on holiday will have some time to relax and experience the beauty of Creation.



*The Psalms frequently exhort us to praise God the Creator, "who spread out the earth on the waters, for his steadfast love endures for ever" (Psalm 136.6). They also invite other creatures to join us in this praise: "Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created". (PS148:3-5). We do not only exist by God's mighty power; we also live with him and beside him. This is why we adore him.*

From Laudato Si' On care for our common home. Chapter 2. The Gospel of Creation

WISDOM

*However, I will tell you a secret that I guarantee will get you to the goal of your journey. I will tell you something that will get you through all of these trials.*

*If you can have these words always in your heart and frequently on your lips, you will complete your journey successfully. These are the words: I am nothing, I have nothing, I desire nothing except the love of Christ.*

*If you can embrace these words in your mind and heart they will get you through every obstacle. You did not create yourself. You do not hold yourself in existence.*

*You have nothing that was not given to you. If you are nothing, then you can have nothing. This should lead you to desire nothing temporal but only God who has manifested himself to us in Christ.*

*If you can bring this prayer to your heart and mind whenever you face obstacles in your journey you will be able to overcome them.*

*Remember: have this always in your heart infrequently on the lips, "I am nothing, I have nothing, I desire nothing except the love of Christ."*

**Fr. William Meninger O.C.S.O**

#### Contacts

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