



Newsletter

A PRAYING COMMUNITY IN LONDON SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

September - October 2019



*"That love of God is hard and marvelous. It cannot and will not be broken because of our sins."
"First there is the fall, and then there is the recovery of the fall. But both are the mercy of God."
Julian of Norwich*

Dear Friends,

I hope that you have had a good few weeks over the summer especially having some holiday with time to relax and enjoy the glorious summer weather at the end of August.

For many people September begins a new school and academic year. This year, for Carmelites, it also begins a new phase in our history as our friars gather in Rome for the General Chapter, to set the agenda for the Order- which includes us, lay Carmelites- and to elect a new Prior General and Council to take it forward over the next 6 years. Those of us who were able to be at Aylesford in July for the celebration for Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the 50th Anniversary of the Province will remember Fr Fernando's words as his 12 years as Prior General come to an end. He spoke very movingly of how the devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel is so important across our world and especially in South America, Africa and Asia, For the first time in history there are more Carmelites in Asia than in Europe and we can expect the Order to reflect this new dynamic in the years to come.

It was great joy to celebrate the Reception into the Third Order of Carmel of Alessandra Menendez and Teresa Torres from our Carmel in the City Spirituality Group at the Mass with Fr Fernando as well as Professions from other communities. Congratulations to them all!

It was a joy too, to be able to meet up with many other Lay Carmelites from across the South East and we are especially grateful to the Aylesford Community for providing hospitality. Ann Hayden, the leader of the Aylesford Third Order has written more about the weekend for the September edition of Assumpta, the newsletter of the Third Order of Carmelites (Secular) of the British Province. Watch this space!

All signed up members of the Third Order receive a copy of Assumpta but it is also available to

others who wish, for a small donation. If you would like to receive it, please let Isabel or me know.

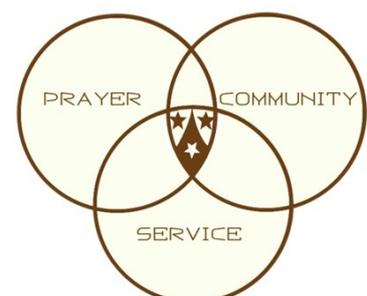
The exceptional summer weather, both the heavy rain and the heat here, but also events across our world, has been a reminder to many people of the need to care more for our environment. This is not new to Carmelites as we have been advocating action through our Carmelite NGO www.carmelitengo.org. for many years and now Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si' has given us new energy and encouragement. You might also like to visit www.SeasonOfCreation.org. which is another Church organisation with ideas and material to help us. Our September meeting will continue our reflection on Laudato Si' and Carmel which Alessandra will lead for us.

I have had a lot of interesting feedback from the last Carmel the City meeting in June when Luigi Gioia came to speak about Contemplative Prayer. You will remember that I was in the Holy Land on pilgrimage and I remembered you all especially that morning at Mass at the church of the Beatitudes. I still have a couple of copies of Luigi's book, Touched by God, the way to Contemplative Prayer, for sale for if you would like one.

It was disappointing that our August pilgrimage to Faversham with the OCD Seculars had to be cancelled but we are hoping that it can be rearranged for a later date.

All good wishes and blessings.

Sylvia



Details of Forthcoming Meetings/Events Carmel in the City.

Saturday, 7th September. Carmel in the city meeting -

10.30. Formation group meets for discussion on chapter 4 of Climbing the Mountain, Carmelite Spirituality and charism; liturgy preparation. All who are interested in formalising their commitment to Carmel through membership of the Third Order are welcome.

11.30 quiet prayer. **12 noon** Mass with Fr Chris Vipers. Bring and share lunch. Afternoon session: ***Carmel and Laudato Si': On care for our Common Home*** with Alessandra Menendez. Ending at 15.30 with Lectio Divina.

September 27-29th. St Therese weekend at Aylesford Priory with Canon John Udris

Saturday 5th October. Carmel in the City monthly meeting. St Therese of Lisieux and the Eucharist. With Sr Bernadette Hunston SCSJA. Programme times as usual, see above.

October 19th. A Day with Teresa at Aylesford Priory led by Sheila Grimwood.

October 26-28th. St Jude Feast Day Celebrations at National Shrine of St. Jude.

October 31st. 70th Anniversary of return of the Carmelite friars to Aylesford Priory. Mass at 12 noon.

The Ecumenical Autumn Course with other local churches will take place on Saturday mornings during October. Dates to be confirmed. All are very welcome.

Your prayers are asked for: For our sick and distance members especially Pat McManus, Mary Hopkins and her daughter, Catherine, Sue Medwin, Dot and Doug Wade and Fr.Wilfrid McGreal O.Carm. Also for Jean Filochowski, Julian's mother, who died recently. May she rest in peace.

For our friars as they gather in Rome for the General Chapter;

For all those whose lives are affected by climate change and those who are working to restore and bring healing to our planet;

For our children and young people who are returning to school or college and for all teachers and those who work in education.



WISDOM

"Thanks to magnanimity, we can always look at the horizon from the position where we are. That means being able to do the little things of every day with a big heart open to God and to others. That means being able to appreciate the small things inside large horizons, those of the kingdom of God.

This offers parameters to assume a correct position for discernment, in order to hear the things of God from God's 'point of view.' ... However the risk in seeking and finding God in all things, then, is the willingness to explain too much, to say with human certainty and arrogance: 'God is here.' We will find only a god that fits our measure. The correct attitude is that of St. Augustine: seek God to find him, and find God to keep searching for God forever."

POPE FRANCIS

"A man should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine picture every day of his life, in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful which God has implanted in the human soul."

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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