



# Christmas Newsletter 2018

St. Benedict's Priory, The Mount, Cobh, Co Cork

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Dear Friends,



“Our Saviour comes, the resurrection of the dead.  
A new light shines out upon the darkness of the night.  
Our Saviour comes to be born of a virgin as the prophets foretold.  
The bread of eternal light is in our midst, he who said ‘I am the bread of life come down from heaven.’ He who eats this bread will never go hungry. Grant us, Lord, through the glory of your birth to be free of our miseries; that we may ever glory in your praise, Amen.” *(From the Mozarabic Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity. Tyburn Nocturns Lectionary)*

As we draw close to the Feast of Christmas in this our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the truth of these timeless words stands out for us. When 300 people gathered on our lawn last 31<sup>st</sup> May to celebrate the Eucharist, against a background of apparent rejection of the Catholic Church in this country, they affirmed the deep human need for God which He is ever ready to satisfy.

We were overjoyed that so many people from all over the Cork area and further afield were able to come and be part of a wonderful celebration. We renew our thanks to Bishop William Crean, and the 9 Priests of the diocese who concelebrated the Mass from the balcony of our house.

We also thank Dominic Finn and the Cobh Cathedral Youth Choir for the beauty and atmosphere of new life which they brought to the celebration.





Our thanks also to the many local groups, businesses and volunteers who supported us,



and the 1 Brigade Army Band who provided entertainment afterwards.



Thank you all for your love and support.

### Centenary of the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War

As Admiralty House was such a central part of the WW1 story here in Cobh, it is fitting that 2 war memorials have been erected in our Bible Garden. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, the Jutland Memorial was unveiled. 20 naval men from Cobh lost their lives in the battle of Jutland on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1916. Following an ecumenical service in the Cathedral, a short procession led by Piper Adam Duggan and a symbolic pall bearer detachment from the Irish Naval Service Reserve, the flag standards of the Royal Naval Association of Ireland and descendants carrying the 20 caps moved to our grounds. There sculptor James McLoughlin's monument was unveiled by County Mayor, Cllr Declan Hurley and blessed by Father John McCarthy and the Reverend Paul Arbuthnot.



Wreaths were laid and a Bugler sounded the *Last Post*. This was followed by a two-minute silence which was concluded with a bell being rung eight times – as traditionally used to mark the change of watch on ships.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November, another plaque was unveiled commemorating all those who lost their lives in WW1. We were very edified to see a crowd gather in torrential rain for this ceremony!

## Cause for Canonisation of the Servant of God, Mother Marie Adele Garnier and the opening of the House at Grancey-le-Chateau



L to R: RMMAngela, RMMatthias, RMMSeraphim, MMMartin, RMMDorotea, RMMRachel

Meanwhile the Cause for Canonisation of our Mother Foundress has been progressing, with the Vatican commission visiting several of our houses, including our own, to interview those who wished to testify to their knowledge of her sanctity. On 15<sup>th</sup> August the opening of her birthplace in Grancey-le-Chateau was a wonderful success and very blessed. Our Sisters in France and others who went to join them worked very hard to get everything ready.

The Parish Priest of Grancey, Fr Vincent Sauer, celebrated the Mass in the town square under a marquee. After the homily the mayor formally handed over to our Mother General the keys of the

former tourist office, now Maison Garnier, and Mother M Xavier cut the ribbon. The little chapel is now a beautiful Blessed Sacrament Chapel adorned also with a large statue of Our Lady of the Assumption. Those of you who purchased commemorative wall or chair plaques will be glad to know that they have been installed. Please contact Mother Prioress if you would like more information about this.

Our **monthly Days of Recollection** every last Saturday continue to be a source of blessings and all are welcome. Accommodation is available as always in our Retreat House.



**In Dublin the Eucharistic Heart Prayer Group is flourishing.** Organisers Liam and Mary write: *“The 9th monthly devotion in honour of Marie-Adèle Garnier took place on the Tuesday of 6th November (1st Tuesday of month) in The Poor Clare Convent, Simmons Court, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Thankfully, attendance is steadily increasing and there were 12 people in attendance. The Devotion started with Rosary at 5.45pm, followed by Mass. Eucharistic adoration took place immediately after Mass, with an extract from the writings of Marie-Adèle Garnier read out for all to ponder and reflect on during the following quiet time. The aim of the devotion is to promote and highlight the Servant of God Marie-Adele Garnier's life and cause, while simultaneously putting into practice the very essence of her writings and teachings i.e. a complete and utter reliance and dependence on the Eucharist”.* For more information please contact Liam Murphy on: 0872526829

## Tyburn Monks!

Last newsletter we told you about the intentions of two Colombian Priests to form a male branch of our Congregation, and the seemingly miraculous discovery of an old document written by our Mother Foundress: "The Monk of the Sacred Heart." Things have progressed, and Fr Manuel and Fr Hector were admitted as postulants before celebrating Mass in Maison Garnier the day after its' opening. It is an unspeakable blessing to have brothers and we have great hopes for the future of this project of the Sacred Heart.



## Temporary Profession



On 29<sup>th</sup> September we had the joy of our second profession ceremony this year as our first Irish vocation since coming to Ireland, Sr. M John the Baptist, made her first vows. It was particularly lovely to see her 97 year old Mother witness the occasion along with her siblings, nieces and nephews.



On 17<sup>th</sup> November we were delighted to receive Kathy O'Leary as a Novice Oblate. Having visited us for a year she has felt increasingly drawn to be more united spiritually with our daily prayer and monastic observance and she is a welcome addition to our very special Oblate Group, a few of whom are pictured here.



After more than 20 years Mary Halligan, our faithful friend and gardener, who also fulfilled many other roles here at the Priory, has now moved on. We thank her for her dedication and all that she helped us achieve, and wish her well for the future!



**Preparations are well underway for our Christmas Fayre again this year, with Sisters busy at their crafts and our new gardener full of creativity! We hope many of you can come and see the beautiful Christmas gifts, decorations and culinary produce on offer and witness the Grand Draw. Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2-5pm. See you then!**

We have loved to receive your letters over the past year and renew our heartfelt thanks and prayers for you all this Christmas and always,

The Tyburn Nuns at St Benedict's Priory.