



Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

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SACRED HEART NEWSLETTER 2025



From His wounded Heart flows not only forgiveness, but the very heartbeat of a new humanity.”

— *Dilexit nos*, §27

Dear friends and benefactors,

As the Church welcomes a new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, and celebrates the Jubilee of Hope 2025, we find ourselves at the threshold of a grace-filled moment. This is not only a new chapter for the papacy, but for the entire Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit is inviting each of us to rediscover the Sacred Heart of Jesus—the source of our hope, the sign of God’s mercy, and the path to healing. Hope, in the Christian sense, is not mere optimism. It is rooted in a Person: Jesus Christ, whose Heart was pierced for our salvation and now beats with love for all humanity. This Sacred Heart is not distant or abstract—it is present to us in the Holy Eucharist, in the Mass, in the tabernacle, and in Eucharistic Adoration. Devotion to the Sacred Heart is deeply Eucharistic, for the Eucharist is the fruit and gift of His Heart. When we receive Holy Communion, we receive the entire Christ—including His Heart, aflame with love for us. For this reason, the Sacred Heart is most fittingly adored in the Real Presence of the Eucharist. There, Christ offers us more than comfort; He offers conversion. He calls us to return to Him with our whole hearts, to lay down our burdens, and to be renewed by His mercy.

This Jubilee is a time to step into that invitation. It is a time for the Church—and each of us—to seek healing, to embrace repentance, and to be drawn into deeper sanctification. The Sacred Heart is not only a refuge but a fire: burning away sin, restoring dignity, and

rekindling hope in hearts grown weary. In a world marked by division, fear, and isolation, we are called to become people of intercession, reconciliation, and love.

Let this Jubilee be a season of Eucharistic renewal. Let us come often before the Lord in Adoration—not only to speak, but to listen. Let us offer Him our joys and our wounds, the cries of the poor and the pain of the world. And as we gaze upon the One who gazes upon us, may our hearts be made like His: open, merciful, and courageous. The Sacred Heart is for all people, in every place. His mercy knows no borders, and His hope is never exhausted. May this Jubilee of Hope be a time when we learn again to hope—not in ourselves, but in the Heart of Christ. May He teach us to love as we are loved, and send us forth as witnesses of a new humanity—born from mercy, sustained by grace, and anchored in eternal hope.

COMMUNITY NEWS

On 10th January, the Monastery hosted a Winter Retreat for women, focused on helping participants discern God's unique mission and vocation for their lives. Approximately twenty women, many of them young, joined us for this time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal. The retreat was led by Rev. Fr. Alexander MacDonald, Congregation Chaplain, whose spiritual guidance and teaching were received with sincere gratitude. In addition to his contributions, Rev. Mother Prioress delivered talks on the Divine Office, the Holy Eucharist, and the Charism of our Mother Foundress. According to participant feedback, the retreat was a deeply meaningful and enriching experience, offering valuable insight into personal vocation and spiritual growth.

In mid-January, we received the sad news of the passing of our former Chaplain, Reverend Father John McFadden, OMI, who died peacefully on 15 January 2025, at the age of 58. He served our community with devotion and pastoral care from 2020 to 2022. Fr. John was a dedicated priest, deeply committed to the Liturgy and to his religious family, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He was widely loved for his



charismatic, approachable manner, and his ability to connect with both religious and laity in a spirit of genuine care. For over a decade, he ministered as a Prison Chaplain in Edinburgh, offering hope and spiritual support to the incarcerated with compassion and unwavering faith. He also witnessed powerfully to the values of religious poverty and simplicity, living the Gospel with humility and joy. Fr. John had recently celebrated 25 years of priestly service. He died at Holy Rosary Care Home in Greenock, where he was cared for by the Little Sisters of the Poor. A Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated at the monastery. Rev. Mother Prioress and Rev. Mother Sub-Prioress attended his funeral Mass, which was held at his home parish, St Ninian's in Gourock. We give thanks to God for Fr. John's life, his priesthood, and his time among us. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

On the 19th of March, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Father Ferdinand led the community in a special act of consecration and re-consecration to Saint Joseph. The ceremony concluded with the consecration of the large and beautifully crafted statue of Saint Joseph in the Laity Chapel.



Easter Triduum and Octave

We had a glorious celebration of the Easter Triduum, marked by great reverence and beauty. The chapel was adorned with magnificent flower arrangements, creating an atmosphere of sacred joy. A particularly striking feature was the tall Paschal Candle — much larger than in previous years — which stood majestically among the flowers as the *Exsultet* rang out.



On Easter Monday, 21st April, we received the sorrowful news of Pope Francis' passing. Despite the grief, our





Easter joy endured. A Requiem Mass was offered for the repose of his soul, which was well attended by the faithful in the Laity Chapel. We now keep Pope Leo in our prayers as he begins his service to the universal Church, seeking the intercession of his holy predecessor.

After a jubilant Easter Octave, we celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday. Though saddened that the planned canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis could not proceed due to the *sede vacante*, we remain hopeful that it will be rescheduled soon. Blessed Carlo, a Eucharistic-centred teenager, continues to inspire many.

A large Divine Mercy image was placed before the Paschal Candle, and Father Ferdinand led a moving Holy Hour and the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Confession was made available, and many availed themselves of the Sacrament. After the noon Mass, a joyful buffet meal was shared by many of the faithful.



Throughout May, we have been blessed with beautiful, sunny weather. Recreation has often taken place outdoors in the garden, though at times we sought shade due to the heat. Our garden is beginning to blossom beautifully, filled with an abundance of green, root, and vine vegetables. Thanks to the dedicated work of our faithful helpers, Marta and Marysia, the vegetable plots are flourishing. Meanwhile,

John continues to care diligently for the main gardens and the surrounding grounds. The orchard has also been especially fruitful this year, and it looks as though we are heading towards a plentiful harvest. We give thanks to God for the beauty and bounty of His creation, and we pray His blessing upon all our helpers—both present and past—whose loving hands make this growth



possible. Across from the Monastery, the Putting Green has become a lively hub of activity. Our Retreat Centre has also remained full, especially during Holy Week and the Easter season, as many have come to experience the rich liturgy our community offers.

LAY ADORERS / VIGILANTS

The **First Friday all-night Vigil** in reparation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary continues to take place at the monastery each month. It is open to both men and women. The vigil begins at 7:30 p.m. with Holy Mass in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and concludes at 6:00 a.m. with Holy Mass in honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Confessions are available after Night Prayer (Compline). All are warmly invited to participate.

The First Friday devotion to the Sacred Heart is a response to the request of Our Lord Jesus Christ through St. Margaret Mary Alacoque for acts of reparation to His Sacred Heart — for the indifference, ingratitude, and sins of mankind, especially those committed against Him in the Blessed Sacrament. Our Lord specifically asked the faithful to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months, offering it in reparation for the sins committed against His Sacred Heart.

In addition: On the 2nd Friday and 4th Friday of every month, there is all-night Eucharistic Adoration for women. The 4th Friday Adoration is held under the auspices of the Polish Women's Group. All women are warmly invited to take part in these nights of prayer, silence, and adoration.

Oblates News

On 27 May, we joyfully celebrated the Ceremony of Admission of Novice Oblates for three of our Aspirants: Mary George, Maria Czopor, and Alan Robertson. During the ceremony, each Novice received a new Oblate name and was invested with the Benedictine Scapular, marking their formal commitment to the Benedictine Oblate path. A warm and joyful reception followed in

the tearoom, where the community gathered to congratulate and support the new Novices.

We are also pleased to announce that, beginning next month, there will be a regular Oblate Day of Recollection on the first Saturday of each month, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, held at the monastery. This day is open to all Oblates of the monastery and will be led by the Mother Prioress. It will offer a dedicated time for prayer, silence, reflection, and spiritual renewal in the spirit of St. Benedict. Please keep Mary, Maria, and Alan in your prayers as they continue their journey in the Benedictine Oblate vocation, alongside the wider Oblate community.



Retreats/Hospitality

In March, we welcomed a large group of men for a retreat on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, led by a priest of the Institute of the Incarnate Word (IVE). The two-day retreat offered a rich opportunity for reflection and spiritual renewal. In the first week of May, we hosted the women's group for the same Ignatian retreat, once again led by a priest from the IVE. Like the men's retreat earlier, it was fully booked, with both the guesthouse and the cottage at capacity. The participants found it deeply enriching. In addition to these, we hosted three other groups for weekend retreats this year: a Polish group, a Parish group, and a mixed group from the St. Ignatius Centre in Glasgow.



The 1st of March was a joyful occasion as we celebrated the 80th birthday of Eileen Kelly, one of our most valued and long-term helpers. Holy Mass was offered in her honour, followed by a beautiful reception in the tearoom, where Eileen received several thoughtful gifts. It was a lovely setting, filled with joy and heartfelt gratitude. We thank Eileen deeply for her many years of faithful

service and support of our monastery.

We are also pleased to share that the tearoom is now open on Fridays and Saturdays. We warmly welcomed new helpers and extend our sincere gratitude to Pat Barr, Elizabeth, and all our volunteers for their hard work and dedicated service to the monastery. Looking ahead, our Strawberry Tea will take place on 27 July, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. All are warmly invited to attend!

Congregation News



Young Mother Nicholas standing in the middle

Tyburn Convent celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Mother M. Nicholas on 10th May, with the actual Jubilee day falling on the 9th. Our Reverend Mother Prioress had the joy of being an invited guest at the Jubilee Mass, and we were blessed to receive first-hand news of the celebration upon her return to Largs after a few days away.

Mother M. Nicholas, an Englishwoman, served for many years as Prioress of our monastery in Sechura, Peru. Having spent

nearly fifty years in Peru, it was only fitting that she sang her *Suscipe* in Spanish during the Jubilee Mass—a touching expression of her deep love for the people she served. We thank the Lord for her inspiring witness of love and faithful service to Him and to His people.

Our Mother General, who had been required to spend many months attending to the needs of our monasteries in Australia and New Zealand, was also able to return for the Jubilee celebration. It is a joy to have her back with us on this side of the world.





Work in Progress: Main South Roof

Building Maintenance Update

In our last Christmas newsletter, we were pleased to report that there were no leaking roofs at the monastery. However, in January, Storm Eowyn struck and caused significant damage to several parts of the property, including the conservatory roof, sections of the main building roof, and the new flat roofs.

Flying debris hit the conservatory roof during the storm, cracking a tile. Strong winds then lifted the tile and shattered nearly all of the surrounding ones. The flat roofs also suffered dents and other damage from debris. Thanks to the generous support of Patrick, a dear friend of the monastery, we were able to repair most of the storm damage. However, two of our oldest roofs—each over a century old—were damaged beyond repair. As a result, we have begun installing brand-new slate roofs on these sections: the North Wing of the guesthouse and the Main South Roof.



We are deeply grateful to James McAllister of First Roofing and Building Services (FRBS), who has once again agreed to allow us to pay for the new roofing in installments. Our heartfelt thanks go to him, to Patrick, and to all our benefactors for their ongoing generosity and care for the monastery.

We thank all our beloved benefactors, friends and helpers for all the support you give us in enabling the enthronement and adoration of the Sacred Heart to continue here. Holy Mass will be offered for you on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. If you would like to donate towards our roofing and restoration project please visit our website

at: <https://www.tyburnconvent.org.uk/largsmonasterydonations>

If you would like to pay by cheque please make it payable to Benedictine Monastery.

With loving prayers from the Tyburns Nuns, Largs