



Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

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SACRED HEART NEWSLETTER, 2026

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**“I have come to cast fire upon the earth and would that it were already kindled.”
(Luke 12:49)**

Dear freinds, these striking words of Our Lord reveal the burning desire of His Sacred Heart. Jesus came into the world to set souls ablaze with the fire of divine love. This is not an earthly fire that destroys, but a heavenly fire that purifies, sanctifies and transforms. It is the fire of divine charity that flowed from the Heart of Christ upon the cross, in loving obedience to the Father and continues to burn in the life of the Church through the

Eucharist by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is an unfathomable furnace of love. Every beat of His Heart is turned towards the salvation of souls. He thirsts to draw all people into the warmth of His mercy and the holiness of His divine life. “Our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:29). When the love of God truly enters the soul it burns away selfishness, lukewarmness and vice, leaving the heart more open to grace and more capable of loving Him in return.

This divine fire was poured out visibly at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles as tongues of fire. Filled with the Spirit, fearful hearts became courageous and weak souls became faithful witnesses to Christ. The same Holy Spirit continues to inflame souls today, especially through the sacraments. Saint Cyril of Jerusalem wrote that the Spirit comes gently, bringing “the fragrance of salvation and life giving grace”. Wherever the Holy Spirit is welcomed, hearts begin to burn with love for God.

In a particular way this fire burns in the Holy Eucharist. At every Holy Mass the sacrifice of Calvary is made present upon the altar. Jesus gives Himself entirely to us in love. The Eucharist is not simply a reminder of Christ. It is Christ Himself truly present, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. From the tabernacle His Sacred Heart continues to radiate grace upon the world. How greatly we need to rediscover the beauty of Holy Mass, the silence of adoration and the transforming power of simply remaining in His presence.

When the disciples met the risen Lord on the road to Emmaus they later said, “Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road?” (Luke 24:32). This is the grace of Eucharistic intimacy. In adoration the soul rests close to the Heart of Jesus and slowly learns His ways. Saint John Vianney once asked a man what he did during the long hours he spent praying before the Blessed Sacrament. The man replied simply, “He looks at me and I look at Him.” In this quiet exchange of love, souls are healed, strengthened and sanctified.

This fire burned deeply within the heart of Mother Marie Adèle Garnier. From her childhood Our Lord drew her ever more closely to Himself through the Eucharist. Daily Communion gradually transformed her interior life and filled her with a profound love for Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. The Eucharist became the centre of her vocation, her sacrifice and her mission. She understood that souls are renewed not by worldly activity alone, but by remaining close to the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus.

In our previous newsletter we began reflecting upon the early Eucharistic journey of Mother Marie Adèle Garnier. In this second part we continue to follow the quiet yet powerful work of grace in her soul as the Lord prepared her for her future mission. Her life remains a beautiful reminder that when a soul allows itself to be touched by the fire of the Sacred Heart, it too can become a light for others.

May this Sacred Heart season renew within each one of us a deeper love for Holy Mass, a greater devotion to Eucharistic adoration and a renewed desire to allow the fire of Christ’s love to burn brightly in our hearts.

THE FIRE OF THE EUCHARISTIC HEART

Part II: Mother Marie Adèle Garnier and the Call of Montmartre



Until this point in her life, Marie Adèle’s love for the Eucharist had followed the path familiar to many devout souls. From childhood she had grown steadily in love for Holy Communion, Eucharistic adoration and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Daily Mass became the centre of her life and her soul was gradually transformed by the hidden presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

But from the years 1872 onwards, something changed profoundly. Her relationship with Our Lord entered a new and deeper stage. God was no longer simply leading her in personal holiness. He was preparing her for a mission within the life of the Church itself.

At every stage of this journey, God placed wise and holy priests beside her to guide and discern the extraordinary graces she was receiving. Marie Adèle never sought remarkable experiences for herself. On the contrary, she was frightened and deeply embarrassed by them, considering herself weak and unworthy. Yet through obedience to her spiritual directors, she learned to trust the designs of God.

One evening in the spring of 1872, while staying with the de Crozé family, she overheard an article being read aloud concerning the proposed Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Montmartre, which was to be built in reparation for the sins of France. As she moved towards the garden door, she suddenly became transfixed interiorly. She suddenly had an interior vision of a great church filled with light, worshippers bowed in prayer and the Blessed Sacrament adored in silence and splendour. Then she heard the words of Our Lord: "It is there that I want you as a victim." The experience shook her profoundly and remained deeply engraved upon her soul.

The Vision of Montmartre

As the months passed, Marie Adèle became increasingly convinced that Our Lord desired perpetual Eucharistic adoration at Montmartre. She understood interiorly that the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus was to become the centre of worship there. After much prayer, suffering and discernment, she understood that she was being asked by Our Lord to communicate this mission to the Archbishop of Paris. This mission filled her with fear. How could an unknown young governess approach the Archbishop of Paris with such a message? Yet after much hesitation and suffering, she finally confided everything to Father Chambellan, her Jesuit spiritual director. Expecting him to dismiss the matter as imagination, she was astonished when, after prayer and discernment, he instructed her to obey what he believed was truly the will of God.

In December 1874, she travelled to Paris and met Cardinal Guibert. Trembling and nervous, she explained the interior mission she believed she had received: that perpetual adoration before the Blessed Sacrament should be established at Montmartre in honour of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus. At first, the Cardinal judged such a project impossible. Yet God's plans often begin where human possibilities end. Within a few short years, perpetual adoration was indeed established at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Montmartre and continues to this day, drawing pilgrims throughout the world

before the Eucharistic Heart of Christ. Many years later, Cardinal Lustiger beautifully expressed the mystery which Marie Adèle had understood interiorly long before: “To contemplate the Heart of Christ is to direct the gaze of faith upon the very Body of Jesus truly present in the Eucharist.”

A Soul Offered to the Eucharistic Heart

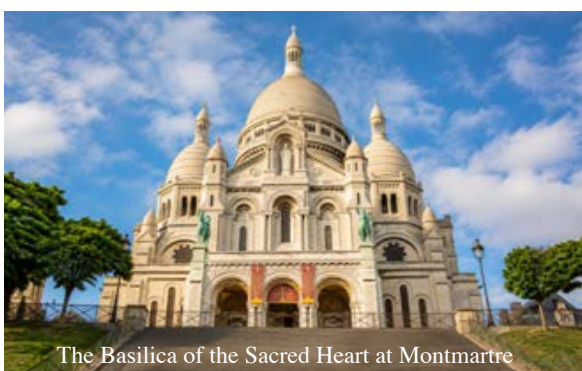
These years marked a profound transformation in Marie Adèle’s spirituality. Her prayers became increasingly centred upon sacrifice, reparation and complete abandonment to the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus. In 1873, she wrote her beautiful “Act of Abandon to the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus,” offering herself entirely to Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament. Two years later, while the foundation stone of Montmartre was being laid in Paris, she made an even deeper act of self-offering as a victim of love and reparation.

The Eucharist was no longer simply the consolation of her soul. It had become the very centre of her mission, her sacrifice and her vocation. Gradually she understood that God was preparing her for something entirely new within the Church. Her whole life became centred upon the living presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. She desired only that He should be loved, adored and consoled. In one of her prayers she wrote: “Heart of Jesus, living in the sacrament of love, inflaming souls and making Yourself an increasingly attractive lover.” These words reveal the burning love which filled her soul and consumed her life.

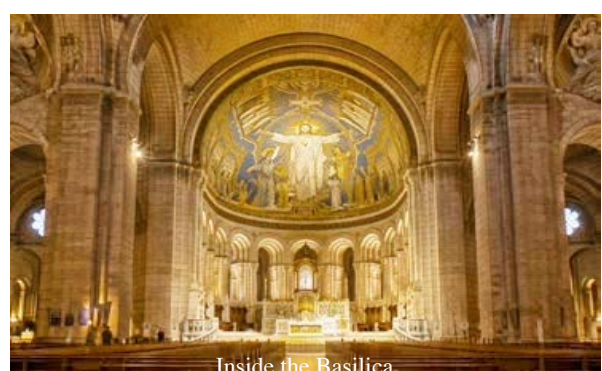
The Fire Still Burns

The story of Mother Marie Adèle reminds us that the Eucharist is not something distant or lifeless. Jesus truly remains with us in the Blessed Sacrament and continues to draw souls into the fire of His Sacred Heart. The more we remain close to Him through Holy Mass, Holy Communion and Eucharistic adoration, the more His divine love transforms us. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we too are called to say: “Did not our hearts burn within us?” (Luke 24:32)

In our next newsletter, we will continue to follow the unfolding of Mother Marie Adèle’s extraordinary Eucharistic vocation and her ever deeper abandonment to the will of God.



The Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Montmartre



Inside the Basilica

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mother M Matthias RIP

13 May 1940 – 8 January 2026

We commend to your prayers the soul of Mother M. Matthias (Christine Bailey), who passed peacefully to God on 8 January 2026 at the Royal Inverclyde Hospital after a brief illness.



Mother M. Matthias lived the hidden life of a Tyburn nun for fifty eight years with deep fidelity to Eucharistic adoration, prayer and the spirit of reparation. She served the Congregation generously in many positions of responsibility, including as Assistant General of the Congregation, Prioress of Tyburn Convent in London, Prioress of St Benedict's Priory in Cobh, Ireland, and Prioress here at the Benedictine Monastery in Largs, of which she was the first Prioress. It was Mother who led the community from Dumfries to Largs and helped establish the foundations of the monastery here.

She was greatly loved by visitors and friends of the congregation for her warmth, kindness and friendly welcome. Beneath her quiet and practical manner was a deep spiritual life centred upon the Blessed Sacrament. Speaking once of adoration she said simply: "I don't say much, but I am wholly given." Mother was richly gifted in many ways. She possessed a beautiful singing voice and was talented in sewing, calligraphy, bookbinding and many other practical arts, always carrying out her work with great care and generosity.

Throughout her religious life she carried a special love for Africa and longed to become a missionary there. Although this desire was never fulfilled outwardly, she offered many prayers and sacrifices throughout her life for the people of Africa and for the missions of the Church. Mother formed many younger sisters through her wisdom, fidelity and perseverance and became a true pillar of the Congregation. Even in illness and suffering she remained prayerful, humorous and full of gratitude.

Mother's funeral took place on 29 January at the monastery. Her two brothers and her nephew were able to attend. Our Confessor, Reverend Canon McManus, was the chief celebrant and several priests of the Diocese concelebrated the Holy Mass. Mother was then interred at Haylie Brae Cemetery, Largs. May her dear soul rest in God's light and peace.

Celebration of the Day of Consecrated Life

On 2 February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the Day of Consecrated Life, our dear Bishop Frank Dougan invited all the religious of the Diocese to gather at the Cathedral in Ayr for the celebration of Holy Mass. It was a great honour for Reverend Mother Prioress and Mother Sub Prioress to attend the beautiful Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank. This was their first visit to the Cathedral and they were very happy to pray there and to visit Our Lady's Chapel afterwards, where they were able to venerate the relics of Saint Margaret of Scotland. Bishop Frank had visited our monastery shortly after his episcopal consecration to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of our Congregation. We remain deeply grateful to Bishop Frank for the kindness, encouragement and support he continues to show to the religious communities of the Diocese.

Easter at the Monastery

The celebration of the Easter Triduum at the monastery was once again solemn, prayerful, and deeply enriching. The liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil were celebrated with great reverence and beauty, drawing many of the faithful to join us during these sacred days. Our guests and lay faithful attended the ceremonies and participated wholeheartedly in the chanting and singing together with the sisters, helping to create a truly prayerful atmosphere throughout the Triduum.



This year, we were especially pleased to welcome more than thirty young people who spent the Easter Triduum at the monastery. The students took part in the Good Friday liturgy and attended a conference given by Mother Prioress on Eucharistic Adoration. The three-day retreat provided the young people with an opportunity for spiritual growth within their youth-led community while also allowing them to experience the richness of the monastic Divine Office and the liturgical life of the monastery. Their presence brought great joy to the community, as it was encouraging to see so many young people seeking to deepen their faith during the

holiest days of the Church's year. The Easter Vigil liturgy was especially solemn and prayerful. Although the weather was wet and windy and it was difficult at first to light the Paschal Candle, once it was lit it shone brilliantly in the darkness, reminding us beautifully of Christ the Light of the World.



On the Octave Day of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, we held a beautiful Holy Hour of Divine Mercy consisting of prayer, meditation and Eucharistic Adoration, concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. A number of the faithful joined the sisters for this prayerful time before the Blessed Sacrament, entrusting themselves and the needs of the world to the mercy of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Afterwards refreshments were served in the Tearoom, where everyone enjoyed meeting together in a joyful Easter atmosphere.

In preparation for Pentecost, the community and laity joined together with our Chaplain for the traditional nine-day Novena to the Holy Spirit, which was held each day after Holy Mass. These days of prayer helped prepare our hearts for the great feast of Pentecost and for a renewed outpouring of the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost Sunday itself was celebrated with a beautiful and prayerful Holy Mass, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the evening.

OBLATES NEWS

We were delighted to welcome several new members into our Eucharistic Benedictine family during two joyful ceremonies held at the monastery this spring. On 11 April, three Novice Oblates made their Oblation: Maria Czopor, Mrs Mary George and Alan Robertson. Then, on 9 May, three further candidates were admitted as Novice Oblates: Mrs Elizabeth Gillen, David McEnroy and Elizabeth Hughes.

Both ceremonies were well attended by family members, friends and well wishers who joined the community in prayer and thanksgiving for these important steps in the spiritual lives of the Oblates. After each ceremony refreshments were served in the Tearoom, where all enjoyed the opportunity to meet together in a warm and joyful atmosphere.

We are very happy to welcome these new Oblates and Novices into our Eucharistic Benedictine family and we assure them of our continued prayers as they grow in the spirit of Saint Benedict and in love for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.



Oblates Day of Reflection

The monthly Oblates Day of Reflection continues to grow and bear much spiritual fruit. Held on the first Friday of each month and led by Reverend Mother Prioress, the days help participants deepen their love for the Most Holy Eucharist through Benedictine spirituality and the Eucharistic charism of our Foundress, Mother Marie Adèle Garnier.

It is Open to Oblates and to all who wish to deepen their spiritual life, the programme begins with a conference at 10am, followed by the Divine Office and Holy Mass at 12 noon. After lunch, there is time for recollection, rest, and Eucharistic adoration before a second conference at 3.00pm. The day concludes with Vespers at 4.30pm.

First Friday All-Night Eucharistic Vigil

The monthly First Friday All Night Eucharistic Vigil continues to be held at the monastery as an act of love and reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The vigil begins with Holy Mass at 7.30pm, followed by Compline, Confessions, silent prayer and Eucharistic adoration throughout the night, concluding with Holy Mass at 6.00am.

The vigil is offered in response to the appeals of the Sacred Heart to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque and to the message of Our Lady of Fatima, calling souls to prayer, reparation and conversion. We are grateful to all who faithfully come to spend time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament during the night watches. Both men and women are warmly welcome to attend all or part of the vigil.

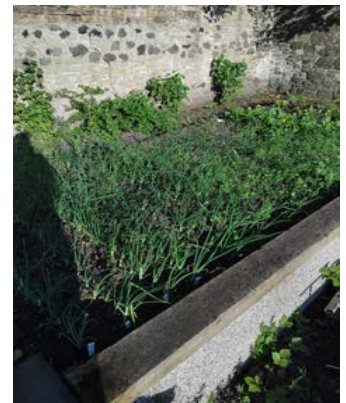
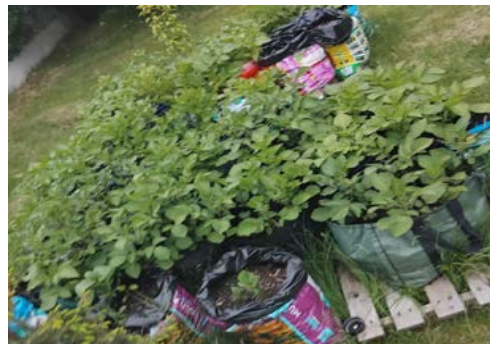
HOSPITALITY/HELPERS

On 15 March our good friend, helper and faithful lay adorer, Edward Moran, celebrated his 80th birthday. As the date fell during Lent, the community marked the occasion on 10 April with a small celebration in the Tearoom after 12 noon Mass. We are very grateful to Edward for his constant kindness, generosity and all the help he gives to the monastery.

The Tearoom is now open again for the spring and summer season every Friday and Saturday. We are especially grateful to Pat Barr and to all our generous helpers who give their time and support so faithfully. Anyone interested in volunteering in the Tearoom is warmly invited to contact Reverend Mother Prioress. Our annual Strawberry Tea will take place on Saturday, 25th July. All are warmly invited.

God continues to shower His love and blessings upon the monastery through the

kindness and generosity of our friends and helpers. John continues to care lovingly for the monastery grounds and lawns, which are always beautifully maintained through his hard work and dedication. Marta and Marysia have planted many organic vegetables and seeds this year, and we are delighted to see them flourishing so well. Our kind new neighbours, Anne and Richard, generously donated a brand new greenhouse for the orchard, where the plants are already thriving. We are truly grateful to all who support the monastery in so many ways. May God abundantly bless all our helpers, friends and benefactors.



Congregation News

On 29 November, Reverend Mother Miriam Joseph, formerly Prioress of the Largs Community, celebrated the Silver Jubilee of her religious profession at her new monastery in Cobh, Ireland. Our Very Reverend Mother General travelled to Cobh for this joyful occasion. The principal celebrant was the Most Reverend William Crean, Bishop of Cloyne, together with several concelebrating priests. During the ceremony Reverend Mother renewed her vows and sang the *Suscipe* beautifully. It was a deeply prayerful and joyful celebration for the whole community.



On 17 January, at Tyburn Priory, Kurmond, Australia, Sister M Juliana made her First Profession. The ceremony was especially beautiful and well attended by family and friends, with eight priests present. Very Reverend Father Peter Williams, Vicar General of the Diocese, presided at the Mass. Afterwards he remarked that it was the first time he had presided at a religious profession and that he had been deeply moved by the beauty of the ceremony.



Sr. M. Juliana



Sr. Maria Fe

Then, on 3 April, at our monastery in Sechura, Peru, a postulant, Sister Flor, entered the novitiate and received the new name Sister Maria Fe of Christ Crucified. We keep her especially in our prayers as she begins this important new stage of her religious life.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE UPDATE

In our last newsletter we mentioned that our next major project would be the renewal of the flat roof over the enclosure kitchen, a necessary work estimated to cost approximately £50,000. Unfortunately, due to lack of funds, we have not yet been able to begin this project. In addition to this, some of the monastery drain pipes now need replacing as they are causing leaks within the building. We also have several windows and security doors which are in need of renewal.

We continue to entrust these needs to Divine Providence and remain deeply grateful for the kindness, prayers and practical support of all our friends and benefactors who help us to maintain the monastery and preserve this house of prayer and adoration. Those who wish to contribute towards our roofing and restoration project may do so via our website:

<https://www.tyburnconvent.org.uk/largsmonasterydonations>. If you would like to donate by cheque, please make it payable to Benedictine Monastery.

We thank all our benefactors, friends and helpers for your continued kindness, prayers and support, which enable the enthronement and adoration of the Sacred Heart to continue here at the monastery. We remember each of you with gratitude in our prayers. Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, 12 June.

With prayers for a blessed and joyful Solemnity of the Sacred Heart and a happy Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Mother Prioress and Community

