



Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

Benedictine Monastery, 5 Mackerston Place, Largs KA30 8BY, SCOTLAND, Tel. 01475 687 320

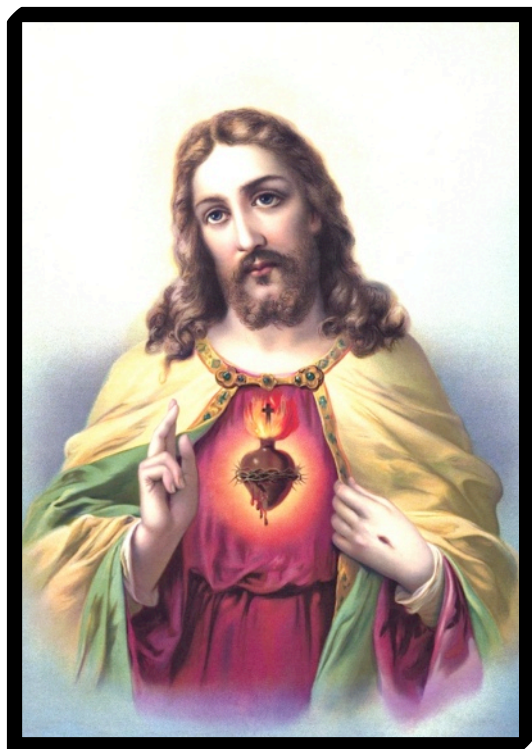
benedictinemonasterylargs@yahoo.com

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SACRED HEART NEWSLETTER 2023

Dear friends and benefactors,



As war-mongering continues to rumble throughout the world we put our confidence in the eternal and infinite love God has for His creation, above all for humankind, that is, each of us whom He has made in His image and likeness, and redeemed by His precious blood poured out from His Sacred Heart pierced by our iniquities, wounded by our love and prayers, for the forgiveness of sins. This blood does not demand revenge but is reconciliation, as Pope Benedict XVI wrote in 2004 in his essay Christians' Responsibility for Peace :

The letter to the Hebrews speaks of the blood of Christ, which cries out in a different manner from the blood of Abel (12:24). It does not demand revenge but is reconciliation. The letter to the Ephesians makes the same point: Christ "is our peace." Through his death, "he has broken down the dividing wall of hostility that kept us apart." Through his blood, i.e., through his love that did not waver even in the face of death, he united those far off and those close at hand (see Eph. 2:14-22). It is this God that we preach, and it is this image of man that must guide us. The peace of Christ is not confined within the borders of Christendom but holds good for those far off just as much for those close at hand. It is this peace that must determine the way we behave in small matters and in great.



The passover to eternal life of Pope Emeritus Benedict on New Year 's Eve marked the end of an era for the world and in particular for our Congregation as we are Benedictine Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, of Montmartre. We lost a first class, universal witness of the importance of seclusion from the world, prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. However, his numerable writings survive to guide and console us. May he rest in peace and continue to help us on our journey to our true homeland, and to gather innumerable

deeds of reconciliation and peace on the way to take with us.



Community News

Our dear Mother Mary Placid went to the Lord on Trinity Sunday, 4th June 2023. She had marked milestones in her long life of monastic observance. The feast day of her heavenly patron, St Placid, fell on Sunday this year, 15 January and Mother Placid's Platinum Jubilee year of Religious Profession came to an end on the 21st of January which we celebrated with tea and cake. Mother was very happy and called out in choir at the end of the Office 'Thank you

brethren!' Then on the 1st of February we joyfully celebrated her 97th birthday. Apparently Mother General told Mother Placid that she would make another visit at Easter. She persistently asked: 'When is Mother General coming?' or, 'Is Mother General here?' Easter came and went and there was no sign of Mother General. Mother Placid prayed aloud every day at Holy Mass during the bidding prayers for Mother General. Meanwhile, the weather got hotter and hotter, as did the liturgical feasts. Ascension and Pentecost passed. On the First Friday of the month, 2nd of June, Mother Placid received the Anointing of the Sick as usual at Holy Mass.

On the morning of Sunday the 4th of June, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, she said she was looking forward to renewing her vows at Holy Mass (which we do annually on this particular feast). After Vespers she went to the refectory for supper. During this supper, on a lovely summer's evening, and despite the ambulance crew's valiant attempt to resuscitate her, the good Lord took her to Himself. Our resilient, iron-willed Mother was with us no more. She had seemed to be going last summer when she broke her arm and was hospitalised, but by God's grace, she rallied and was now in much better shape mentally and physically than prior to breaking her arm. The Lord, in His infinite wisdom and kindness, deigned to take her in this month dedicated to the Sacred Heart, after 71 years of long, white martyrdom and renewing her vows in the unity of the

Trinity. We could not but be happy for her and marvel at Divine Providence. The funeral took place on the 10th of June, the eve of the glorious Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

And at last Very Reverend Mother General returned, to farewell her and speed her to God!!! Canon McManus, our Extraordinary Confessor, was the main celebrant at Holy Mass. 5 other priests con-celebrated: our present chaplain, Father Ferdinand Onwuka, and our former chaplains - Father John McFadden



OMI and Father Gerald Hamill MHM, and 2 other priests who have so often and generously supplied Holy Mass for us when necessary - Father Laurent Bahati and Father Benjamin Keri CSSp. Our Confessor, Father Duncan McVicar, like the fourth Wise Man, was held up attending to other people's needs but managed to arrive afterwards! The flowers in the chapel were exquisite, the funeral arrangements solemn and dignified. The coffin was beautifully decorated with a brass insignia of the Sacred Heart (Mother Placid's Mystery in Religion) and many crucifixes.



Mother Mary Placid was born in London on the 1st of February 1926, and christened Marjorie Swallow in the Anglican Church. She was evacuated during the second world war and on her return to London in her teens she lost her Christian faith. However, the death of her young cousin Fay brought her back to the Anglican Church. Her first employment at a department store was not successful but she later enjoyed her secretarial work at Bush House where her friendship with a Catholic, and the Jesuits of Stamford Hill, influenced her to become a Roman Catholic.



She loved the Latin Mass. Wishing to give back to God something in return for all He had given her, in June 1950, she entered the Congregation at our novitiate in Royston, Hertfordshire. In October 1951 she was sent to the Belgian foundation in Uccles where she made her Professions. In early December 1956 she obediently made the 4 day journey to the new Australian foundation in North Sydney, New South Wales. (The pioneering Mother and Prioress, Mother Claude, celebrated her Silver Jubilee on the 4th of June that year.) A young Welsh girl of 22 sat next to Mother Placid on the plane. They kept in touch and the young girl eventually came to believe in the divinity of Christ and entered the Catholic Church.

On the 15th of December, Mother Placid was nominated Dean of the Community and Acting Zelatrix of the Novitiate. 6 years later the monastery was moved to Manly, overlooking Sydney Harbour, and Mother Placid remained there for 11 years until she was assigned to the Mother House in London for the next 22 years. Finally she came to Largs in July 1995 from where, 28 years later, she left her earthly home to make her final journey to her eternal dwelling.

Mother Placid excelled in her monastic employments and charges as local secretary, archivist, supper cook, gardener, mistress of ceremonies, organist and chantress. She wrote several, timeless articles on contemplative life. She was fond of earning an indulgence by making the brethren laugh at recreation. Her intercessory prayer was famous for its effectiveness.

OBLATE NEWS

On the 28th January, we had an Oblate novice ceremony for 4 people – Mary Carroll, Althea Tolentino, Kathleen Cunningham and Therese Feeney. We pray they will become good Oblates. After the ceremony there was a joyful reception in the Tea room and an excellent Scottish dance by Kathleen's grand daughter.

Sadly, in May, our long time oblate, Iain Johnstone (Brother John Henry Newman) went to his eternal reward. He had a great devotion to the Liturgy and Eucharistic Adoration. May he rest in peace.

NIGHT ADORATION

There is all-night adoration every Friday at the monastery from 8.30 pm to 5.00am. The 1st Friday is the Men's group. If you would like to join this group please contact Mother Prioress. The 2nd and 3rd Fridays the women groups and the 4th Friday is the Polish Women's group, open to all women. The 4th Friday vigil concludes with a 5.00 am Polish Mass.

HOSPITALITY/TEAROOM

In December we had the joy of hosting the relics of the Carlo Acutis. The beautiful reliquary with his relic was exposed in the chapel for veneration. Jacque Stacey gave a conference to the public on Sunday morning and we heard of many favors obtained being granted through the intercession of this young Eucharistic saint throughout Britain. May he continue to obtain for our land renewed Eucharistic devotion, fervour and peace.



In May the Tea room helpers had their annual thanksgiving dinner from us for their joyful, fruitful, dedicated service. We are grateful to our helpers for all the support they have given us over the years. New helpers for the tea room are always welcome. The tearoom is now open at 1.00 pm Monday to Saturday. The Asian restaurant runs from Monday to Thursday. This year's strawberry Tea Fayre will be held on 15 July at 1.00 pm.



Last July, the monastery was awarded a grant of £3,000 by the Kelburn Windfarm Trust. A brand new front door and Fire Escape Door were installed in the Tearoom. We are grateful to Mr Allistair Green and the members of the Kelburn Farm initiative for their generosity and support, and all that they do for local communities.

CONGREGATION NEWS

The big event this year occurred on the 4th March, the 125th anniversary of the founding of our Congregation in Paris, 1898. It was the crowning celebration of a string of Silver Jubilees of profession that we celebrated during the past year. It also heralds the Centenary of Mother Foundress' birthday into eternal life which

will take place on the 17th June next year and to which you are warmly invited. Please mark the date in your calendar!

Our Diocesan Administrator Rev. Father William McFadden was the chief celebrant for the ceremony and about 8 priests concelebrated. Our chaplain, Father Ferdinand, was unable to be present as he was called to attend the installation ceremony of his new Bishop in Nigeria. We are eternally grateful to Father Epiphany from Uganda who supplied in his stead and rose admirably to the occasion. Many people attended the ceremony, in fact we could not see all due to the crowd and even the cameramen for the video below were limited in their scope.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCKEnHGILQ>

Father William brought good wishes from Bishop Maurice Taylor who has fond memories of the times he came here. In his homily he highlighted three significant things in the life of Mother Foundress that have been continued these past 125 years in wonderful people: Prayer helping the Church to move forward. Adoration



in silence, awe and listening before God. Then listening to our neighbour. Great Love for the Sacred Heart. He stressed that the future needs God's love and mercy. Allowing God to love us, our hearts burning with God's love, symbolised by the Sacred Heart, we encourage people to love. God has revealed himself in the goodness of the past 125 years but nevertheless the best is yet to come!



The refreshment for the guests afterwards went well. A big picture of our dear Mother Foundress was displayed with our Lady of Pontmain next to the cakes which were well decorated with our Mother Foundress' picture, Sacred Heart medal and rosary. The tea room was beautifully decorated by our helpers. They really worked hard daily to put everything in order. May God bless them.



On the 6th of May we followed with interest and much prayer the Coronation of King Charles III. Our new king, through King Henry VII, is related to all the monarchs that reigned during the period of the Tyburn martyrs. Henry VII was succeeded by his son Henry VIII. On the 4th May 1535 the first Tyburn martyrs, the Carthusian monks of Charterhouse London were put to death. Henry VIII's daughter Elizabeth I died without issue, whereupon James VI of Scotland became James I of England. He was succeeded by his son Charles I who married Henrietta Maria of France, who was Catholic. Soon after her arrival in London she went to pray beneath the Tyburn Tree and this became the cause of the King sending her ladies back to France. Following his execution for treason Charles I was succeeded by his son Charles II under whose reign, on the 1st of July 1681, the last Tyburn martyr, St Oliver Plunket, Archbishop of Armagh, was put to death. Charles II was succeeded by his brother James II who became King in 1685. His second wife was the young Catholic Duchess of York, Mary Beatrice of Modena, whose chaplain, St Claude la Colombière, was the spiritual guide to St Margaret Mary Alacoque. During his mission in England between October 1676 and January 1679, St Claude resided at St James' Palace, London and preached regularly in the Royal Chapel, devoting himself to the promotion of

devotion to the Sacred Heart. At the first Mass in the first convent of our Congregation in England Mother Foundress and her Sisters made a public vow to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in which Marie Adele sets out with calm, tranquil sensitivity the religious state of England and its historical perspective in relation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:

‘O Jesus,...you have always so loved this land! Scarcely had you revealed the treasures of your adorable Heart to Blessed Margaret Mary, than you hastened to communicate these treasures to this privileged country through the first apostle of your Sacred Heart.’

ROOFING/ BUILDING PROJECT

Last year, we were unable to begin the second phase of our roofing project due to insufficient funds. This hiatus has caused a further deterioration of the building and we now urgently have to re-roof the conservatory roof above the chapel entrance and renovate the front facade of the monastery and install new downpipes. The project will cost about £55,000 and thanks to your generosity, we have been able to raise £26,000. First Roofing and Building Services(FRBS) who did the 1st stage of our roofing project, have kindly agreed to do the work for that amount, and agreed for us to pay the balance next year. They will not be charging the monastery for the scaffolding that will be used for the work. They will begin work on 19 June.

We thank all our beloved benefactors for 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 all on His Solemnity.

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 check make it payable to **The Benedictine Monastery**.

Christ is our peace. The Eucharist is our peace. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, let us worship!

With loving prayers in the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

The Tyburn Nuns

