



TYBURN MISSION NEWSLETTER




Christmas 2025

Tyburn Convent, 8 Hyde Park Place, London W2 2LJ • Tel: 020 7723 7262 • Web: www.tyburnconvent.org.uk

Dear Friends



As we come to end of the Jubilee  Year of Hope, the readings at Holy Mass lead us to reflect on the end of time and the second coming of Christ, for which we should always be prepared. Many things come to our minds, such as the general judgement, Heaven, Hell and Purgatory. Certain books talk about the Warning in the end times, and a sign of the Cross in the sky. It is remarkable that this is not just speculation, but something that once happened in history. In 451 AD, St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop of that city, was fighting what seemed to be a losing battle against the

Arian heresy. St Cyril records the following: *"On the nones (or 7th) of May, about the Terce hour (or nine in the morning), a vast luminous body, in the form of a Cross, appeared in the sky just over the holy Golgotha, reaching as far as the holy Mount of Olives, seen not only by one or two persons, but clearly and evidently by the whole city. This was not, as may be thought, a momentary transient phenomenon: for it continued several hours visible to our eyes, and brighter than the sun, the light of which would have eclipsed it, had not this been stronger."*



"The whole city, struck with a reverential fear tempered with joy, ran immediately to the church, young and old, Christians and heathens, citizens and strangers, all with one voice giving praise to our Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, the worker of miracles; finding by experience the truth of the Christian doctrine, to which Heaven bears witness."

Many interpreted the sign as saying that Almighty God favoured St. Cyril in the struggle against the Arian heresy. Not only did many Arians abandon their heresy, but, as the historian Socrates the Scholar reports, *"It was the means of the conversion of many pagans and Jews to Christianity."* Other historians too quoted St Cyril in recording this event, evidently regarding the saint as a reliable source, so the miraculous phenomenon appears to be a fact.

This event helps us to remember that there is no problem too great for the hope brought by our Savior's birth, and we are, as baptized and confirmed Catholics, instruments of that hope born into this world at Bethlehem. Let us live our hope bravely, for the message of Christmas, as Pope St John Paul II said, is : **GOD IS WITH US!**

NEWS FROM OUR MISSION FOUNDATIONS

Monasterio del Paraclito Divino, Guatape, Colombia



Our community in this monastery has been blessed in many ways and

also kept busy. As we used to say in the Novitiate – life is never dull in a monastery! Earlier this year they were able to install a large Cross as one of the Sisters writes: *"...on the 3rd (of May) we had a pilgrimage to the holy Cross that was placed on the proposed route for the Stations of the Cross...This path had long been a desire of Mother Xavier who thought of making a place for people to follow the Stations of the Cross. Now R.M.Prioress has begun this work and ordered a large Cross to be made, and it was put in a high place and can be seen from afar. That is why on May 3rd we went up, reciting the Thousand Jesus', which is customary*

on this day, in honour of the Holy Cross."

The Devotion of the Thousand Jesus is a religious practice in Latin America, particularly Colombia, that involves invoking the name of Jesus 1000 times to drive away evil from



homes and the lives of those who pray it. It is based on a passage from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians: *"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord."* May 3rd is associated with the discovery of the true cross on that day in 326 AD by St. Helen.

For centuries, the feast was celebrated annually on 3 May. Additions to the Roman calendar moved the Feast to 7 May, a date significant in the Armenian calendar as the Apparition of the Holy Cross over Jerusalem in 451 A.D., recounted in the introduction to this newsletter.

In 1960, the feast was incorporated into the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, celebrated on the 14th of September.

So there is a vast and interesting history behind this Latin American devotion, forgotten by most in the West!

In June the community held their fund-raising bazaar: *"in this month we always have to work hard since on the 28th we had the monastic bazaar. With God's help everything went well and it was a beautiful day with a lot of sunshine so people were able to come. Everyone collaborated with us in the activities and helped with the preparations. Many people came and were very generous with us..."*

Occasionally in this wet climate they have a drought, but it doesn't last long. In July the plants were drying out in the strong sun and they started watering them. In August they had the visitation of Mother General. The night of her arrival, a hurricane passed through with torrential rain, thunder, lightning and even hail. They have experienced floods



before but not like this one which caused floods in most other habitations around them, and landslides everywhere. From morning to sunset they all laboured, including the newly arrived Mother General, to remove the water and silt. Now they have to hire workers to once again clear the driveway, part of which has become

impassable due to the water and landslides.

They would also like to raise funds

for a small bridge over the creek at the bottom of the driveway, which is difficult for cars to navigate. A few days later, as a consolation, they had the visit of the pilgrim image of the Queen of Peace.

Mother Catherine, from England, has now joined this community who were delighted to welcome her.

Monasterio Puerta del Cielo **Vicabamba, Ecuador**

Our monastery in Ecuador is called **'The Gate of Heaven'**. Perhaps because it is very high in the mountains, the scenery so stunning, the climate comfortable and the



produce prolific. It seems to be the most productive of all our houses. Here one Mother writes of their produce: *"This monastery is blessed by the work of the bees, they produce honey, we gather the honey and the harvest is abundant of 90 pounds and was quickly sold out. Also in this month many mandarines were harvested to sell and to consume, there are many papayas and a lot of coffee has been harvested and sold... People like our oranges too, because they are juicy!"*

The goats now number 22 and soon will be offered for sale, and they have many guinea

pigs. Guinea pigs are typical food in Loja and have been a staple in Ecuador's Andean region for over 5,000 years.



On August the 15th, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Sisters noted that people began to celebrate the feast of our Lady of Cisne, the patroness of Ecuador. Carried and followed by half a



million devotees, the statue of our Lady begins a 3-day trek to Loja - *It is a journey of hope, gratitude, and profound personal transformation.* She

is received with civic, military & religious ceremonies. This is a time of prayer and celebration with processions, Masses, fiestas and fireworks. On November 1st, the Virgin and her followers begin their return pilgrimage to El Cisne.

El Cisne is one of Ecuador's major pilgrimage and tourist sites. Not long after founding the city of Loja, Ecuador in 1548, the Spanish colonized a mountain area 45 miles away, naming it El Cisne, The Swan. In 1594, a drought and plague of rats destroyed crops in the region. Threatened with famine in addition to pressure from the Spanish, the local Indians had decided to emigrate in search of a better land, when an apparition of the Virgin changed their minds. A young

native woman herding sheep to pasture met "with a most lovely Lady crowned with fragrant roses" who stayed with her, conversing about God while the flock grazed. *"Confide in me, because I am going to help and protect you so you will never be hungry again. Here I want to assist you. Build a shrine in this place, where I will always be with you,"* the Lady said. The people built the church, and rains fell. October 12, 1594, is sometimes given as the apparition date, sometimes as the end of the drought. Perhaps this is why the terrain, including that of our monastery continues to be so fertile and productive! The natives of El Cisne commissioned a statue from Diego de Robles of Quito. Carved of oak, the statue of the Virgen del Cisne, "La Churonita," (an affectionate term referring to her long, curly hair) stands 26" tall, holding the Child in her left hand



and a sceptre in her right. Our Lady of Cisne, pray for us!

Tyburn Monastere du Coeur Eucharistique de Jesus, St Loup, France



Our monastery in France had a great joy in the month of July, the Temporary Profession of Sr Marguerite-Marie. She is the first vocation of this foundation and indeed the first French vocation for very many years, although our Order was of course founded in France. Despite the general lack of religious interest in the village, the people were enthusiastic about this profession. *"Thanks to a friend and the supportive Mayor, six people turned up one fine day and worked from 9am to 6pm to transform the*

front garden into a paradise. May God bless them. It was a gift from the neighbours especially for Sr Marguerite-Marie, since she is our gardener."

The novitiate of Tyburn Convent were happy to be present for this First Profession. Their visit included a formation pilgrimage for them and for Sr Marguerite-Marie, to Paray-le-Monial in honour of the 350th Anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart to St Margaret-Mary.

The community at France, as with all big occasions, became a hive of activity... *"Finally, the big day arrived. The ceremony was beautiful and moving and Sr Marguerite-Marie was calm and dignified throughout. Very Rev Mother General and Mother Prioress managed the changeover of the white to the black veil with remarkable skill as no one saw a thing, even though the*



diocesan photographer was zooming in closely. This was a relief to the newly Professed! Afterwards we had a lovely lunch prepared for all the people in the garden, under the trees. The Lord blessed this day with sunshine and an agreeable temperature...in a word – a perfect day!...We thank God for His great blessings upon us with this first Profession of Sr Marguerite-Marie. “

MONASTERIO DEL SAGRADO CORAZON, SECHURA, PERU



As it is not financially possible at the moment to move this community, a few Sisters continue their lives of work and prayer in the monastery of Sechura, much to the satisfaction of their local friends!

It is also important for the cause of our Mother Foundress that the postulator, who has visited all our other monasteries, should visit those in Latin America, particularly Sechura where there is a strong devotion to her. When Mother

General visited she met with the family of one of our Peruvian Mothers. This family experienced a miracle through the intercession of Mother Foundress. Sarita's mother was a teacher and used often to take the students to the monastery to pray. Her daughter – Sarita - was 6 years old when she experienced pain in her leg. When taken to the doctor it was found that she had a tumour and needed urgent surgery. Maria asked the Sisters to pray for Sarita. The surgery was successful and Sarita was apparently recovering when the pain returned along with the tumour. She needed a second operation but couldn't have it as she was too frail and thin at that time. So her Mother, with great sorrow, because she could not help her daughter, again came to ask the Nuns to pray. She brought Sarita to the monastery and Mother Prioress and others became great friends of the child, teaching her to pray the rosary. Sarita learnt by heart the prayer of Mother Foundress and every day at 6.30am would be



Sarita of the miracle (top right) with her 2 daughters below, Adele and Sarita

in the Chapel praying to the Lord for her healing. The Nuns too were praying and Sarita was often in the Chapel for the prayer times, learning to sing by heart the Liturgy of the Hours. She was frequently kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament praying on the rosary that the Nuns had given her.

It was after a Novena said to Mother Foundress that the guest mistress of the Monastery spoke to Sarita to ask her how she was and when they looked at the place where the tumour had been, it had completely disappeared! The Nuns were overjoyed and called her mother to come. Sarita was healed and had no more pain. There are other accounts of miracles, for the people there have much faith.

Sr Flor, the postulant has persevered and finds the desert setting very beautiful, as indeed it is in many ways. She writes: *"What a joy to live in the desert of Sechura, and every day is wonderful..."*



The mayor is providing more water for the monastery now so the plants and tropical orchard are doing better.

Since they are to stay some time longer in Sechura, they are organizing a Fayre in December to raise funds to repair the chapel and guesthouse as far as is possible, and donations would be gratefully received. ***There is a lot to repair,*** says Mother Guadalupe!



THANKYOU for your generous support of these mission monasteries! May the good Lord reward you a hundredfold and bless your families and loved ones also. You and your intentions are remembered in the daily prayers of these monasteries, and a monthly Mass is celebrated for the souls of all our departed benefactors. May you have a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. With our affectionate greetings,
The Tyburn Nuns



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prayer

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