



# TYBURN TALK NEWSLETTER

## CHRISTMAS 2024



After waiting with four weeks of preparation, the image of the four millennia of the ancient world, we have arrived at Christmas time. ***“Let us rejoice, my brothers, this day is sacred,”*** cries St Augustine.

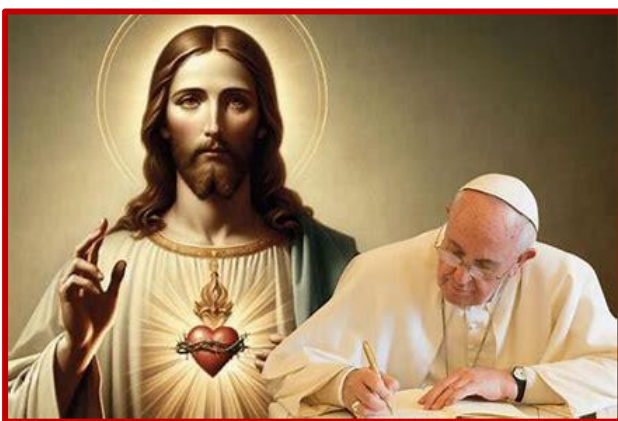
***“The birth of the invisible creator of the sun. The Son of God chose this day to be born, just as he chose a Mother, the creator of both day and Mother. O Man, awake: it was for you that God became man. Awake, O you who sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you. For you, I repeat, God became man. You would have died for eternity, had he not been born in time. You would never have been freed from the flesh of sin, if he had not taken on the likeness of sin. You would be a victim of endless misery, if he had not shown you mercy. You would not have found life, if he had not joined your death.***

***You would have succumbed, if he had not come to your rescue. You would have perished, had he not come! Let us joyfully celebrate the advent of our salvation and redemption! Let us celebrate this feast day when, coming from the great day of eternity, a great eternal day is introduced into our temporal and so brief day.”***



In Pope Francis' Encyclical letter **Dilexit Nos** ***“He Loved Us”***- on the human and divine love of the Heart of Jesus Christ, the Holy Father proposes an *“interior knowledge of the Lord to better love and follow him”* .... and at the same time he urges us to rediscover the importance of the heart; to know how to return love for love. *“The heart,”* he says, *“is the place of sincerity where we can neither deceive nor conceal. It usually refers to a person's true intentions, what they really think, believe and want, the ‘secrets’ they don't tell anyone and, ultimately, their naked truth. It's about what's authentic, real, truly “one's own”, which is neither appearance nor lie.*

*This truth about every person is often hidden under a lot of dead leaves, to the point where it's difficult to know*



*ourselves and even more difficult to know others: “The heart is cunning above all things, and perverse; who can penetrate it?” (Jer 17:9). So we understand why the book of Proverbs calls out to us: “Above all things, watch your heart, for from it springs life. Put away from you the perverse mouth” (4, 23-24). Appearance, dissimulation and deceit damage and pervert the heart. So many of our attempts are to show or express what we are not, but it's all in the heart. It's where we are ourselves, no matter what we show on the outside or what we hide. This is the basis of any solid project for life, because nothing worthwhile is built without the heart. Appearance and lies offer nothing but emptiness.*

Instead of seeking superficial satisfactions and playing a role in front of others, it's better to let the decisive questions arise: ***who am I really, what am I looking for? What meaning do I want to give to my life, my choices and my actions? Why and for what purpose am I in this world? How do I want to give value to my existence when it comes to an end? What meaning do I want to give to everything I experience? Who do I want to be in front of others? Who am I before God? These questions bring me back to my heart.***

*When a person reflects, searches, meditates on his being and identity, or analyzes higher questions; when he ponders the meaning of his life, and even when he searches for God, if he experiences the joy of having glimpsed*

something of the truth, this culminates in love. By loving, people feel they know why and for what purpose they live. Everything converges towards a state of connection and harmony. That's why, in the face of personal mystery, perhaps the most decisive question anyone can ask themselves is: do I have a heart?"

This Papal Encyclical - **Dilexit Nos**- coincides with the **350th anniversary** of the first apparition of the Sacred Heart to **Saint Marguerite-Marie Alacoque** in 1673 at Paray-le-Monial. Our Lord revealed to the French nun His Heart surrounded by flames and pierced by thorns, symbolizing His love for humanity despite the wounds inflicted by sin. The first great apparition is essentially a declaration of love. Jesus says- **"My divine Heart is so passionate in its love for mankind, and for you in particular, that, no longer able to contain within itself the flames of its ardent charity; it must spread them by means of you, and manifest itself to them to enrich them with its precious treasures that I am revealing to you"**.

-*"This devotion is so dear to us, since our Congregation too was born of the Heart of Christ and is called to bear witness to his love. We truly belong to the Sacred Heart. It is He who created our little society, He who governs it, sustains it, consoles it and delights in it. It is He who tests and purifies it, and it is He who strengthens it."* (Mother Adèle to Fr. Lemius).

## Monastery News



### ➤ **Celebration of the Centenary of the Passover of our Foundress- the Servant of God Mother Marie Adèle Garnier**

**On the 7 June** we had a *wonderful celebration*, a double celebration - **the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart** and also the **100th Anniversary of the death of our Mother Foundress**. We had a beautiful solemn Mass celebrated by our bishop, **Rev.Monsignor Joseph de Metz-Noblat**. About 50 people joined us for the occasion, and everyone was invited to join us for lunch in the garden. It was a perfect day for an al fresco meal, with many of our friends preparing cakes and terrine, and even bringing wine and cheese! We very much appreciated everyone's generosity! We ended this *beautiful day* with the service of None.

**On the 17 June**, Reverend Mother Seraphim and Sister Marguerite-Marie visited **Tyburn Convent** ( the Mother House) **in London**, to take part in the Centenary celebration on the very date of our Mother's death. The Solemn Mass was celebrated by the **Apostolic Nuncio of Great Britain, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía**. The spirit of Mother Foundress was felt by all, especially that of the deepest joy!





> Relic

*"If everyone simply did their Christian duties, we would not have so much hate and misery in the world."*

On the 5 July, our small community was honored to receive a **first-class relic of Blessed Charles I of Austria, THE EMPEROR OF PEACE**. Charles was born in Persenbeug in 1887. On October 21, 1911, he married Zita de Bourbon-Parma. With his wife and children, he led an exemplary family life - a veritable domestic church, shaped by his intimate love of the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to the Virgin Mary. In 1916, in the midst of the First World War, he became Emperor of

Austria and was crowned King of Hungary. He strove for a just and lasting peace, and promoted equity and justice. After the revolution of the Provisional National Assembly in 1919, he was banished into exile, living in poverty and enduring his illness with deep trust in God. He died on April 1, 1922 in Funchal, on the island of Madeira, invoking the name of Jesus. Blessed Charles is an important saint for our troubled world. *On October 3, 2004, Pope John Paul II beatified Emperor and King Charles*. Blessed Charles - **pray for us!**



> The Tour de France !



You've probably heard about the Tour de France passing through St Loup for the first time. well before July 7, a television crew came to meet the nuns and film parts of our beautiful

monastery as part of the promotion of the tour de France. the tour passed right in front of our monastery and is considered a unique experience....we didn't know much about the tour de France but we had heard about it. The locals were very enthusiastic about it and we thought it was an opportunity to bear witness and show the locals that we existed. In an attempt to break down the invisible wall, of some who were very attached to the previous communities who lived here and were free active sisters participating in local events etc., we asked our Very Rev. Mother General if we could "show our faces during the Tour de France" when the cyclists passed by and she said yes!



So on the 7 July , there was a lot of excitement - children running everywhere, all the roads closed, houses full of beautiful decorations etc...when we stepped out onto the sidewalk at 3pm, there was thunderous applause! At first, we didn't realize it was for us, but then we heard the loudspeaker say "**Our Benedictine sisters have arrived! Hooray!**" It was such a lovely surprise, and people were finally happy to see us....and a few people came up to us to talk because they'd seen one of our sisters on TV.



> Garden



In August, our friend **Paul Marshall** came from London to help us cut down the dead trees, so that they wouldn't damage the property. These trees will soon be replaced by fruit trees such as pears, peaches, quinces and others that we don't yet have in our garden, so we'd like to thank all our friends for their generous help.

## ➤The General Chapter



The months of September and October 2024 were historic and special with the **29th General Chapter**, as it was the largest General Chapter the Congregation had ever had with 34 members. Rev Mother Matthias, one of our senior Mothers, remembered when one General Chapters she attended consisted of 9 mothers! This time the choir walls echoed with **40 nuns** in the choir, and the laity, unable to resist their curiosity, crowded close to the bars to see the long procession of nuns!



**The 7 October** was a particularly memorable day because, in addition to the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, it was the anniversary of the terrorist attack in Israel and the start of the war there. It was also a day of retreat, fasting and prayer in union with the Holy Father and the Church. Then it was the day of the **election of our Very Reverend Mother General - Mother Marilla Aw**. We are grateful that she generously accepted this office once again in these difficult times.





At the end of the day, we ended our fast by joyfully celebrating his election at a festive dinner. Later in the day, one of the General Councillors had discovered by chance that it was also Russian President Putin's birthday. He has a good boss, let's hope he'll be guided by Notre Dame and the recitation of the rosary.

➤ **New Prioress**

Following our General Chapter there were changes that also took place in our community as Reverend Mother Seraphim had reached the end of her term of office as Prioress. For



the past 8 years she served our community very generously. **On the 16 November, feast of Saint Gertrude, we had the installation of our new Mother Prioress - Reverend Mother Marie Narcissa** - and a new Mother Subprioress was appointed - Reverend Mary Seraphim. The community celebrated with a festive meal. As a result of the changes there have been a few amusing incidents, as there was a bit of confusion with the different titles and it was difficult to always remember everyone's rank! Now we are gradually getting used to these new changes with joy! Let us pray that God will grant Reverend

M. Narcissa, our new Prioress, all the graces necessary and much wisdom for this new charge she has accepted.



➤ **A new novice!**

Recently, we were fortunate to welcome a new novice to Australia - **Sr Maryam of the Holy Face**. Our Very Reverend Mother General was present to admit her to the Novitiate and give her the habit of our Congregation. We now have several novices in our Congregation and we ask for your prayers for their perseverance in our beautiful monastic family!



➤ **Roof Repairs !**

**We'd like to thank all our friends and benefactors** who so generously helped us to raise the necessary funds to pay for the repair of our roof! May God repay you a **hundredfold!** And may **HE** fill you all with that peace which only **HE** can give this Christmas and always; and may the tender blessing of his Most Sacred Heart rest upon you. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for all of you, our dear friends and benefactors, on Christmas Eve, while we keep you and all your intentions in our prayers every day before Him in the Blessed Sacrament exposed.



**All the sisters of Saint-  
Loup-sur-Aujon  
wish you a very Merry and  
holy Christmas 2024  
and to your loved ones!**

**Horaires de Messes :**

**24 décembre - 20h00**

**25 décembre - 9h00**

**(-Tous les jours 9am)**

**Donations :**

**Bank transfer**

**RIB FRANCE 11006 00100 52129749830 22**

**IBAN ETRANGER FR76 1100 6001 0052 1297 4983 022 BIC AGRIFRPP810**

**cheques :**

Payable to **Fondation des Monastères**

specifying on the back for Tyburn Monastère St Loup Sur Aujon

and send to 3 rue du couvent, 52210 Saint Loup Sur Aujon, France. A tax receipt will be systematically issued.



<https://www.tyburnconvent.org.uk/tyburnmissionfrance>