



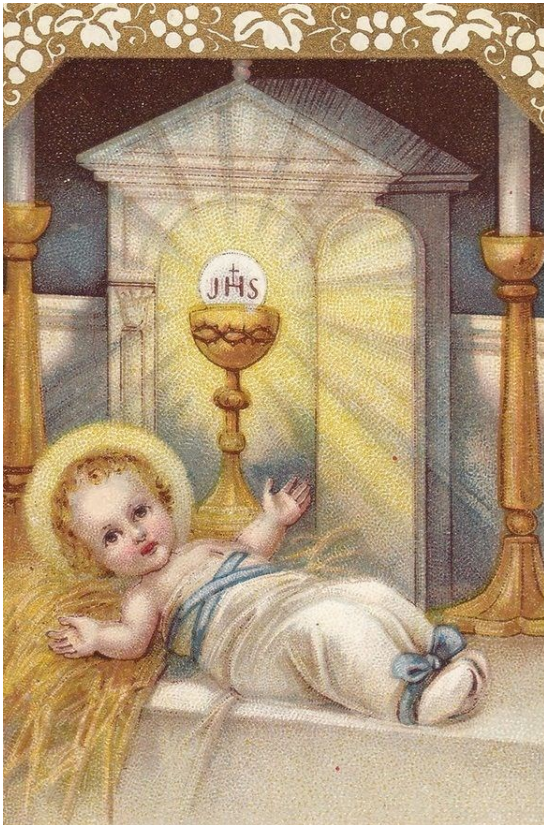
# TYBURN TALK

## CHRISTMAS 2022

TYBURN CONVENT, 8 HYDE PARK PLACE, LONDON W2 2LJ ENGLAND 020 7723 7262

[www.tyburnconvent.org.uk](http://www.tyburnconvent.org.uk)

[prioress.tyburn@btinternet.com](mailto:prioress.tyburn@btinternet.com)



*Dear Friends of Tyburn,*

BEHOLD a new and wondrous mystery. My ears resound to the Shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The Angels sing. The Archangels blend their voice in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt His glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He Who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below; and he that was lowly is by divine mercy raised.

Bethlehem this day resembles heaven; hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices; and in place of

the sun, enfolds within itself on every side, the Sun of justice. And ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For He willed; He had the power; He descended; He redeemed; all things yielded in obedience to God. This day He Who is, is Born; and He Who is, becomes what He was not. For when He was God, He became man; yet not departing from the Godhead that is His. Nor yet by any loss of divinity became He man, nor through increase became He God from man; but being the Word He became flesh, His nature, because of impassability, remaining unchanged.





Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been implanted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels.

Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things commingle. He became Flesh. He did not become God. He was God. Wherefore He became flesh, so that He Whom heaven did not contain, a manger would this day receive. He was placed in a manger, so that He, by whom all things are nourished, may receive an infant's food from His Virgin Mother. So, the Father of all ages, as an infant at the breast, nestles in the virginal arms, that the Magi may more easily see Him. Since this day the Magi too have come, and made a beginning of withstanding tyranny; and the heavens give glory, as the Lord is revealed by a star.

To Him, then, Who out of confusion has wrought a clear path, to Christ, to the Father, and to the Holy Ghost, we offer all praise, now and for ever. Amen.

*Excerpts from St. John Chrysostom, "Homily on Christmas Morning".*

## *The Shrine of the English Martyrs*



On October 25th 1970 Pope Paul VI, canonised 40 Martyrs of England and Wales. This was the climax of a process that started almost 500 years before. This number was simply the tip of the iceberg to what happened all those centuries before. The English Reformation was the most prolonged and intense persecution of Catholics since the early Christian martyrs. Sadly, if you were to ask Catholics today to name three of those martyrs, most would struggle.

Tyburn Convent is privileged to house the official shrine of the English martyrs, in the



crypt. We are the guardians of this shrine. The shrine contains many relics of those who died and memorabilia of those times. The range of martyrs depicts all levels of society from an Archbishop to a simple boatman who plied his trade on the river Thames: from a homeless priest to an Earl of the realm.



In the shrine there are two very significant stain glass windows which were designed by Margaret Anne Rope who was a leading member of the Art and Craft Movement and specialised in stain glass windows. She was an Anglican but became a Catholic. She went on to become a Carmelite nun and continued with her specialised work.

Her designs for the Tyburn Crypt depict the martyrs in two themes. One of the windows shows the martyrs in the context of the corporal works of mercy. In the other window the martyrs are displayed in the context of the Beatitudes. A few of the panes actually display lay people who dedicated their lives caring and helping those who were about to die for their faith. It simply emphasises just how important the lay people were at that time in keeping the flame of the faith alive.

As part of our apostolate we seek to positively promote the shrine and the message that it proclaims. The shrine is open to the public with a guided tour by appointment. A small video is being prepared presenting far more details of the shrine, the martyrs and the times during which these martyrs lived. This should be available in the near future.





## Restoration



A couple of the paintings in the Shrine are in need of restoration, so we have finally had them sent away to be restored. We were kindly left a small legacy for the Shrine so we are putting it towards this much needed restoration. May God bless all our donors – living and deceased. One painting had to carefully be stabilized onsite before being sent away in special transport for art.

The two paintings are very beautiful and special to Tyburn. We eagerly await their return sometime early next year.

One painting depicts the Mass of the Holy Spirit. St John Houghton, Prior Carthusian and Community assembled for the Mass of the Holy Spirit. Dom Maurice records that: When the holy consecration was just over, suddenly there came from heaven – all of us heard and wondered – a pleasant sound like the voice of a gentle breeze, charming our outward ears as with a sweet breath, and gently striking them with a softly whispered murmur, but by some irresistible power appealing still more sweetly and more



Some of the damage can be seen in the detail of this photo.

strongly to the inward ears. The celebrant, our Prior, steeped in the abundance of this divine sweetness, was so deeply affected that he had for some time to suspend the solemn Mass already begun. This grace of spiritual unction granted by God's mercy was not received by the monks only nor confined within the limits of the choir, but the sound went forth to the whole building. Passing from end to end of the church it reached the converse brothers, softly charming hearts and ears. All whom that sound reached gladdened.

## *Litany of the Forty Holy Martyrs of England and Wales*

Lord have mercy on us,  
Christ have mercy on us.  
Lord have mercy on us.  
Christ hear us.  
Christ graciously hear us.

God the Father, Have mercy on us.  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.  
God the Holy Spirit, Have mercy on us.  
Mary, Queen of Apostles, Pray for us.  
Mary, Queen of Martyrs, Pray for us.

St John Houghton, Pray for us.  
St Richard Reynolds, Pray for us.  
St Augustine Webster, Pray for us.  
St Robert Lawrence, Pray for us.  
St John Stone, Pray for us.  
St Cuthbert Mayne, Pray for us.  
St Edmund Campion, Pray for us.  
St Ralph Sherwin, Pray for us.  
St Alexander Briant, Pray for us.  
St John Payne, Pray for us.  
St Luke Kirby, Pray for us.  
St Richard Gwyn, Pray for us.  
St Margaret Clitherow, Pray for us.  
St Margaret Ward, Pray for us.  
St Edmund Gennings, Pray for us.  
St Swithun Wells, Pray for us.  
St Polydore Plasden, Pray for us.  
St Eustace White, Pray for us.  
St John Boste, Pray for us.  
St Robert Southwell, Pray for us.

St Henry Walpole, Pray for us.  
St Philip Howard, Pray for us.  
St John Jones, Pray for us.  
St John Rigby, Pray for us.  
St Anne Line, Pray for us.  
St Nicholas Owen, Pray for us.  
St Thomas Garnet, Pray for us.  
St John Roberts, Pray for us.  
St John Almond, Pray for us.  
St Edmund Arrowsmith, Pray for us.  
St Ambrose Barlow, Pray for us.  
St Alban Roe, Pray for us.  
St Henry Morse, Pray for us.  
St John Southworth, Pray for us.  
St John Plessington, Pray for us.  
St Philip Evans, Pray for us.  
St John Lloyd, Pray for us.  
St John Wall, Pray for us.  
St John Kemble, Pray for us.  
St David Lewis, Pray for us.

**Let us pray.**

O God, almighty and everlasting, you fashioned the forty holy martyrs of England and Wales, after the likeness of your Son, who is glorified through this death for the world's salvation; listen now to their prayers, and grant us thy strength that their love and faith imparts, so that we may come to the fullness of life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Visit of Robert Cardinal Sarah



In November the Tyburn community was blessed with a visit from Cardinal Robert Sarah, the former prefect for the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. He is a much respected author having written several books in the last few years. The cardinal was on a short visit to London but managed to celebrate Holy Mass in the Crypt of the Martyrs and have a quick look at the relics and to pray by our Mother Foundresses tomb. We also managed to ask him to

sign a few of his own books that we have. We certainly recommend his books for reading. He wrote 'God or Nothing', which is based very much on his own life experiences. Follow up books are 'The Power of Silence', 'The Day Is Now Far Spent', and his latest is 'The Catechism of the Spiritual Life'. When you read his books and hear him speak, you are left with the impression that here is a man close to God.

## Raffle

We no longer hold our annual Tyburn Fayre but are continuing with the annual raffle which is a helpful fundraiser. The winning tickets this year are:

First Prize	£ 500.00	18995
Second Prize	£ 300.00	04051
Third Prize	£ 200.00	16202
Fourth Prize	£ 100.00	02667
Fifth Prize	£ 50.00	12089
Sixth Prize	A Hamper	23637
Seventh Prize	A Hamper	23654



## 'Farm' News



**Posing for a photo!**

The raising of chickens and quails and the breeding of rabbits successfully continues. What rabbits are to breeding, quails are to egg laying. One of the setbacks about living in central London is that space is at a premium. Perversely, the more successful we are the less space we have! Sadly our rabbit family suffered some losses. The founding father, Abraham suddenly died and his successor, Goliath, (and he was a big boy!!) also suddenly passed away. Goliath was pictured in our Sacred Heart newsletter near

the statue of Our Lady. Both these rabbits were very young. So we decided to call their successor, Methusalah, after the longest living man in the bible, in the hope that such a name would encourage longevity! One of our rabbits, Keturah has just given birth to 7 little bunnies . . . 3 of whom are already wanted as pets. As soon as they are 8 weeks old they can go to their new homes.



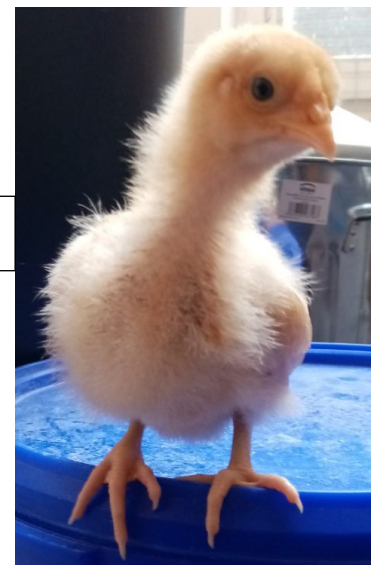
***Our beautiful cockerel -  
Br Tweedle Dee.***



***Lizzie made a nest and used it for a bed instead!***



***Produce from our garden!***



***Br Bruno now fast  
turning into a rooster.***



### *Rosary Procession*

On August 15<sup>th</sup> Solemnity of the Assumption, we had a Rosary procession with lay faithful around our garden. The statue of Our Lady was decorated and a banner of our Mother Foundress was put next to Our Lady. Our Mother Foundress, Mother Marie Adele Garnier was born on the 15th August, 1838.



### *Thank You!*

We are very grateful to all our friends and benefactors for all the support you have given to our Community and Congregation. Thank you for your prayers, sacrifices, volunteering time to help out in various ways, donations and even grass for the chickens and food for the rabbits!!



We wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas and New Year. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered as usual on Christmas Day for all our friends and benefactors living and deceased. May the peace of the Christ Child enter your hearts and your homes and remain with you throughout 2023!

*The Tyburn Nuns*

*Please pass Tyburn Talk on to a friend!*

Donations for Tyburn Convent can be made by cash,  
cheque (made payable to Tyburn Convent)  
or through our website:

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

(on the dropdown menu choose Tyburn Convent, London)