



# TYBURN TALK

## CHRISTMAS 2023

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*Dear Friends of Tyburn,*

Here are some beautiful excerpts from *St. John Chrysostom's, "Homily on Christmas Morning"* that we would like to share with you.

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.

What shall I say! And how shall I describe this Birth to you? For this wonder fills me with astonishment. The Ancient of days has become an infant. He Who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne, now lies in a manger. And He Who cannot be touched, Who is simple, without complexity, and incorporeal, now lies subject to the hands of men. He Who has broken the bonds of sinners, is now bound by an infants bands. But He has decreed that ignominy shall become honor, infamy be clothed with glory, and total humiliation the measure of His Goodness.

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.

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.

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.

## *Silver Jubilee*



The celebration on Saturday 16th September of the Silver Jubilee of Rev. Mother Ines, our Prioress, has been a great joy for all the community, we were preparing days before the 16th for the Holy Mass and the reception afterwards. Right Reverend Hugh Allan, O'Praem was the Main Celebrant. It was very beautiful to hear singing with full voices by the Laity and the Mothers with John accompanying the Missa de Angelis and the hymns on the organ. It was moving when Mother read her vows and sung the suscipe in the middle of a splendid Sanctuary adorned with flowers. Mother Sacristan was very grateful for the excellent and very efficient altar servers. The flower arrangements arranged by one of our Mothers were amazing and there were red flowers for the Sacred Heart, with gold flowers for Christ the King.

The Jubilarian received many gifts of cards, religious items, and many, many flowers. We had approximately 200 people squeezed into our chapter room and crypt. We would have run-out of food, but Mother Cook and our helpers saved the day as they kept producing more food for everyone to eat. The Chapel and the chapter room, as well as the Sisters' Community Room were decorated beautifully. Rev. Mother Ines looked very happy as everyone made her day glorious.

Our own celebrations went on for two days as we watched Rev. Mother open her presents, and also delighted in seeing all the lovely flower arrangements which had been gifted, in the chapel and on Mother Foundress' tomb. One bunch of red roses seemed to have about a hundred roses, all packed together, we have never seen so many in one place!



### *Oblate Retreat*

On July the 8th the Oblates Retreat took place. Our Chaplain Rev. Fr. Barry was happy to direct the day, and it was very blessed. DG.



### *Raffle*

As usual we had the Grand Draw, our annual fundraiser on the last Saturday of October. Our friend Tom, with his usual good sense of humour, conducted the drawing of the prizes in front of a small group of onlookers. The winning tickets this year are:



Some of our visiting Prioresses

### **GRAND DRAW 2023**

<u>Winners</u>	<u>prize</u>	<u>raffle number</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> PRIZE :	£500	11233
2 <sup>nd</sup> PRIZE :	£ 300	03374
3 <sup>rd</sup> PRIZE :	£ 200	01311
4 <sup>th</sup> PRIZE:	£ 100	24054
5 <sup>th</sup> PRIZE:	£ 50	05899
6 <sup>th</sup> PRIZE:	Hamper	13399
7 <sup>th</sup> PRIZE:	Hamper	03833



## *'Farm' News*

Over the course of a number of months we have gradually built up our stock of poultry. The roosters are one by one going to the pot and the hens are being kept in the hope that they will eventually supply us with enough eggs to eat and to sell. We are grateful for the support of some



very thoughtful benefactors who have been supplying us with gifts of oystershells, chicken feed and one very kind man brings us carrots and cabbages every fortnight for the chickens and rabbits. We have started to grow fodder for the animals as it saves on feed costs, is more nutrient rich and gives the chickens entertainment.

Fodder is also good for the rabbits and the quails and they really love it. Over summer, vegetables were growing in our little garden in every available space and pot. The cucumbers, climbing beans and cherry tomatoes did especially well. Our two grape vines also produced abundantly. Now the chickens have been let loose to happily finish up any remaining green while scratching and turning over the soil for next year's crop!



**Beautiful Lizzie with her fodder**



**One hen caught flying to the roof top to try and grab a bit of winter sunshine before it disappears!**



**Bartie and Gartie  
(Mother and daughter)  
get along well together!**





Our quails give us a good  
20 – 30 eggs a day and  
enjoy their fodder!

## Bees



In May we happily set up 2 hives of bees. It was all donated by a very kind benefactor and bee enthusiast. Our bees gave us some beautiful honey, 42 jars full, but to our utter dismay and disappointment the bees suddenly disappeared with not a trace!! Our predicament came to the ears of a priest friend of ours who went and told some of his parishioners about the bees "scarpering from Tyburn Garden" and to our delight, a couple of his parishioners decided to donate 2 more colonies to us!. They have been ordered and are due to arrive by Royal Mail courier in spring/early summer next year! That will bee a buzz!



## Roofing works

For years we have been patching up the roof here and there on one part of our Monastery where water was leaking through. Finally, patch up jobs no longer worked, damp with 3D mold started to develop in a corridor and creep into a few cells. It became evident the whole roof needed reroofing so, . . . St Joseph sent us a very kind benefactor who organised and donated the entire very expensive job of re-roofing our very leaky roof! It has been redone in the best quality lead and will last many, many years to come. Also all the rooms were painted and new water tight glass skylights were put in. To top it all off the floor was sanded back and varnished and the rooms that had been so unhealthily damp and moldy are now the cleanest healthiest rooms in the Monastery, Deo Gratias!



## 90th Birthday

We celebrated the 90th Birthday of Rev. M. Xavier on the 16th of July with festive supper, she had the strength of a horse as she blew out the candles in a second, even before we had a chance to sing her a happy birthday!



## Altar Servers

James and Jason were admitted as Altar Servers to the Guild of St Stephen at 9am on Sunday 23 July 2023 coinciding with the memorial of St Bridget of Sweden, Patron Saint of Europe.



## Vocations

We have had a number of young ladies experiencing our way of life as live-ins over the past months. Please remember them in prayer and all young people discerning their vocation in life. We also had the pleasure of having our Novice from France, Sr Marguerite Marie, staying with us here for a couple of weeks and our Peruvian Junior from Colombia staying with us for a few months. They both quickly made themselves at home joining in the Ora et Labora of our Monastic life.





## *We have 3 major projects that we have started raising funds for and applying for grants:*

### *Fire Alarm system*

Firstly, there is the unavoidable, but now urgent (for insurance purposes) brand new fire alarm system required to be installed for all our Monastery, retreat house, etc. Our current one is no longer compliant and we must install another system for insurance purposes. The total cost of this has been estimated at around **£80 000.**

### *Sanctuary renovations*



Our recent Chapter of Prioresses have asked that our Sanctuary be renovated. This is also timely as we have noticed several cracks in the floor that the structural engineer will be looking into soon, to determine if we need to do something about them.

We have already engaged in the work of an architect who has drawn up some initial draft plans and has worked out an estimate for the works.

The new sanctuary will hopefully include a reredos made of both stone and wood with hanging candles and a larger Monstrance to fit a larger Sacred Host for a better view! One benefactor has already kindly donated

the Monstrance and it has even already been blessed.

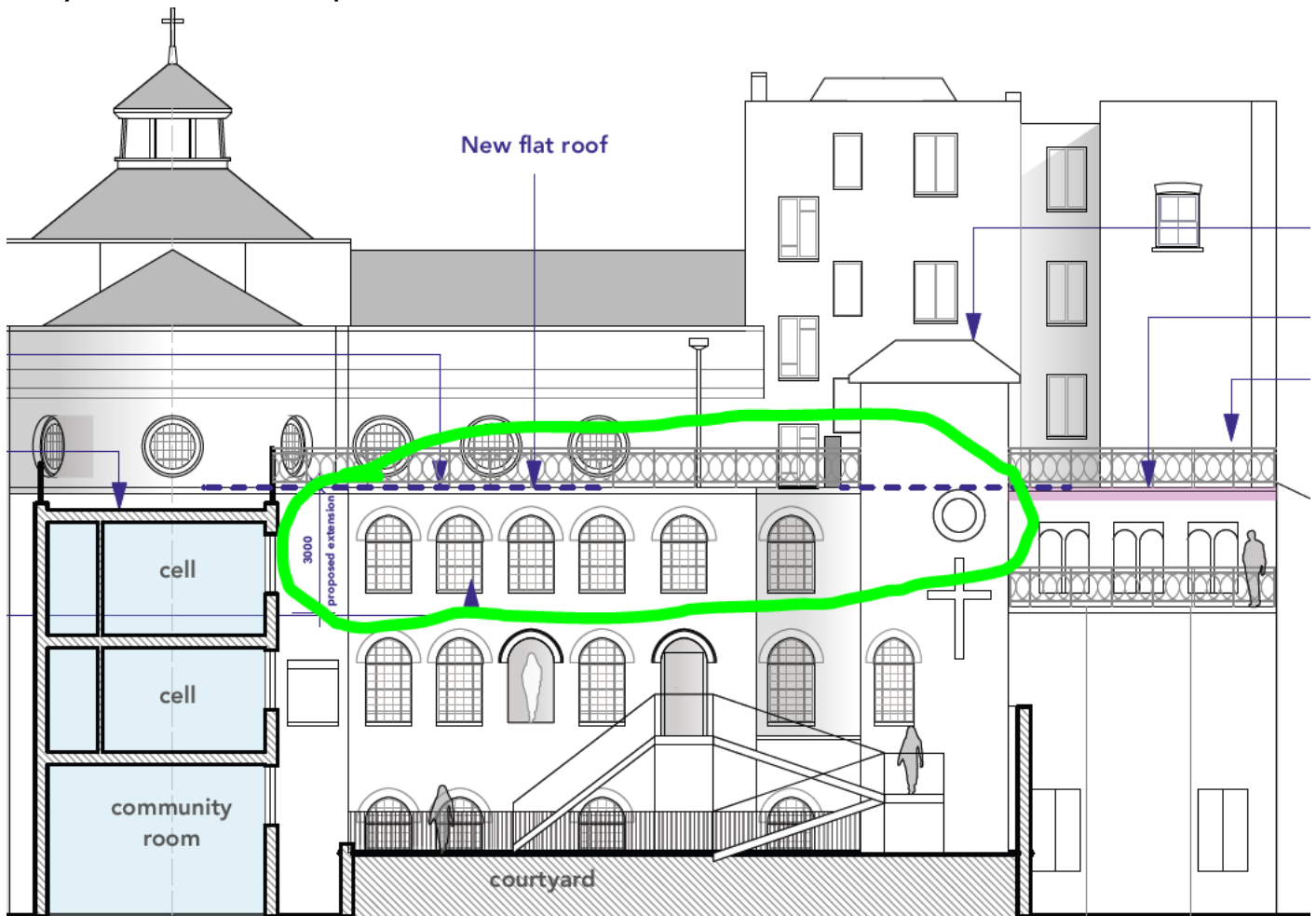
We have been given a rough estimate for the total cost of renovating the Sanctuary (including materials, craftsmanship and installation) at a total of **£400 000.** If it is God's Will, he will provide through the good intercession of St Joseph!

## *Library and Archive Extension*

Last but not least, we have recently secured planning permission to extend the building at the rear by basically putting extra rooms on top of the existing flat roof to allow for extending our library and our archives. These are both very important for us and the Monastic life. The library is "the arsenal of the monastery, Lectio divina is the art of meditation in the Benedictine way of life. Its aim is to feed our prayer life through a meditative reflection on the Word of God: a reflection or pondering in the heart rather than an intellectual exercise. Our present archives is completely out of space so desperately needs more room to be able to sort and store properly all the archive material, especially as the cause of our Mother Foundress is still underway. This work is more major and the estimated cost is **£900 000.**

We are very much hoping to raise enough funds to be able to work the 2 renovation projects together to lessen the inevitable disturbance caused by the building works.

Please keep these projects in prayer and we would be very grateful for any contributions and if you could pass on this information to anyone who may be able to help with donations.



**The part circled in green is the planned extension as it would be seen from our enclosure garden. The extension blends in so well on the architect's drawing that it looks like it was always meant to be there!**



*We recently had the privilege of having Rev. Father Krzysztof Flis (OFMConv), staying with us and he gave this homily which we would like to share with you as many of us had not heard about these approved apparitions of Our Lady before Father informed us.*

*"Today is the anniversary of the death of St. Edith Stein and soon it will be the anniversary of the death of St. Maximilian. However, today I don't want to talk about these all-encompassing figures, especially since, as a Franciscan, I want to proclaim his wonderful life. He wants to talk about Our Lady and Her apparitions in Gietrzwałd. These are revelations approved by the Holy See.*

*Our Lady appeared to two girls: 13-year-old Justyna Szafrynska and 12-year-old Barbara Samulowska.*

*The apparitions lasted more or less, from the end of June to mid-September 1877. Our Lady appeared as the Queen seated on a throne.*

*The Virgin appeared more than 160 times and gave an important message to the world. There were times that she did not speak, but only appeared. Of the words she spoke, let us recall some, in my opinion, the most important.*


*June the 30th -At the instruction of the parish priest, Shafrynskaya asked the Blessed Virgin: "What do you demand, Mother of God?" and received the answer: "I wish that you pray the rosary every day." This request was Our Lady's first in Gietrzwałd.*

*July the 1st – Shafrynska asked of her own initiative: "Who are you?" and heard in reply: "I am the Blessed Virgin Mary Immaculately Conceived." On that day Samulowska did not have a vision, and she suffered greatly and went home crying. But at night the Blessed Virgin appeared to her and Barbara asked her: "Who are you?" and the answer was: "Mary Immaculate Conception."*

*So the Mother of God presents herself as Mary Immaculately Conceived and as Mary Immaculate Conception. Unfortunately, we do not have time to consider the differences between these names and their meanings, but they say a lot about who the Mother of God is.*

*July the 3rd - the girls asked what the sick should do to be healed? Our Lady answered: "They should pray the rosary. This is what all the sick should do.*

*August the 1st - Samulowska, on the other hand, asked the question, "Will the orphaned parishes receive priests soon?" and heard in response: "If people pray fervently, then the Church will not be persecuted, and orphaned parishes will receive priests." - Prayer should be our answer to the lack of vocations and persecution of the Church.*



*August the 12th - the parish priest instructed the children to pray for the conversion of drunkards during their visions at which the Mother of God sighed deeply and said loudly: "They will be punished."*

*August the 13th - On this day, a man and his wife asked their children to intercede for them, praying for their health. In response, they heard: "They will be healthy if they pray and don't drink vodka."*

*August the 14th - One of the visionaries also asked if a certain Lutheran would convert, to which Mary replied: "He should come here and learn to pray the rosary."*

*August the 19th - The parish priest instructed the children to pray during the apparition for the conversion of the impure girls. The Immaculate Virgin told them: "They will be punished."*

*August the 20th - Shafrynska asked if, due to the school year having begun, they should come to the rosary in the morning before Mass? To this Our Lady said: "Listen to Mass first, and then say the rosary, because the Mass is more important than the rosary."*

*September the 3rd - Shafrynska asked what to do to convert a certain Lutheran woman and was told: Someone must offer the Mass."*

*September the 16th-- Mother Mary spoke her last words to the children: "Pray the rosary fervently."*

*It should be emphasized that, as in Lourdes and Fatima at the time of the apparitions, the visionaries prayed the rosary, and everywhere Our Lady encouraged the children to pray the rosary and this made the receipt of graces dependent on praying the rosary. She may have emphasized most urgently the need to pray the rosary at Gietrzwald.*

*What is very interesting is that Our Lady appeared 18 times at Lourdes, 6 times at Fatima, and more than 160 times at Gietrzwald, almost daily from June 27 to September 16, and also 3 times a day from July 24.*

*This disproportionate number of apparitions in Gietrzwald is puzzling, even disturbing, and difficult to explain. Why were there apparitions 3 times a day since July 24? July 24 - the vacation for school children began. Free from school, children could come to church at any time. Previously, the entire rosary, or 15 mysteries, had been recited each day in the evening, which was too cumbersome. So the idea was conceived to divide the rosary prayer into 3 parts and recite the first joyful part in the morning, the second sorrowful part at noon and the third part in the evening.*



And from that day on, Our Lady came 3 times a day - when the rosary was recited. This reminds us of the truth that the Immaculate One comes whenever we pray. If we pray once a day, she will come once a day, if three, she will come three, and if we pray all the time, she is continually coming to us.

The effects of the apparitions were very numerous. Very telling in this regard is the testimony of the parish priest: "The fruits of the apparitions are extraordinary. In the whole of Polish Warmia, the rosary is recited together in almost every home.

The most important fruits of the revelations were expressed by Fr. Weichsel in the words: "Among all the Polish people, joyful progress is being made, especially by the zeal for prayer and the Brotherhood of Embrace. "

The repeated exhortations to pray the rosary and to abstain had proved very effective in Warmia and beyond. "Everyone here renounces vodka and pledges to always pray the rosary," the Gietrzwald pastor wrote. "Millions pray the rosary, by which they are confirmed in the Catholic faith, and a huge number of drunkards have been snatched from temporal and eternal perdition. In this I see the best proof of the authenticity of the apparitions. "To this briefly should be added the purity of life that could be observed in the young people of Warmia, the numerous male and female religious vocations, the various conversions, and the frequent reception of the revival of religious life in the Diocese of Warmia and beyond.

What is very important is that Our Lady at Gietrzwald speaks of punishment for sins. Talking about punishment is very unpopular today, but it is talking about the consequences of sin. The greatest punishment that a person can receive is the punishment that a person inflicts on himself - it is a life of grave sin and death in such a state. Mother of God spoke about the punishment for the sins of drunkenness AND impurity. And what to say about the sins that are more common today, such as abortion, or the sin of sodomy. What will be the consequences of these sins? At Fatima, Mother of God said that a second new war will come if people do not convert. The Second World War was a consequence of sins.

We must always remember that God gives us a chance to convert and change our lives. Our Lady at Gietrzwald gives us three conditions that we must fulfil: daily rosary, purification of morals and sobriety.



## *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 treats and supplies for the animals!

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 2024!



Boliath, our rabbit, enjoying a gift from a benefactor who brings treats for the animals.

*The Tyburn Nuns*

*Please pass Tyburn Talk on to a friend!*

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