



TYBURN TALK

CHRISTMAS 2025

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Dear Friends of Tyburn,



The following Christmas Reflection is from
our Chaplain:

Rev. Dom Thomas Stapleford, O.S.B.

I was very pleased, although a little surprised when some rugby mad teenaged lads I was preparing for Confirmation, all genuflected when I showed them the Christmas crib's statue of the baby Jesus! Apparently, they had been discussing what I had been teaching them about the faith (another surprise!!!) and had decided that a statue of the infant Christ was the very best image we could have of the Blessed Sacrament. (Hence, their genuflection).

Before giving you a glimpse into their teenage logic, I should tell you that we had spoken a lot about how the

eternal love of God which broke into the world 2,000 years ago, was exactly as present here & now when Mass was said, and how that divine presence was perpetually present in the Tabernacle. I had also talked about a crucifix being an image of God's love (as well as an excellent image of the eternal 3-way love of the Blessed Trinity – but expressed in human terms) and, therefore, an image of the Blessed Sacrament. We had talked about an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus being such a popular image of the love of God present in the Holy Eucharist that they might hear their granny call her statue of the Sacred Heart, a statue of the Blessed Sacrament. So,

why this teenage intuition that a statue of the Christ Child was the best representation of the Blessed Sacrament? And what might we learn from their open-hearted teenaged wisdom? Indeed, they “got” the glory of God seen in the Resurrection. They “got” the beauty of God’s love seen in the Sacred Heart. They “got” the wonder of Christ the all-powerful King of the Universe making Himself helpless on the Cross. They “got” that all those truths were eternally present on earth when they knelt in front of the Tabernacle. But, there was something that touched their soul about almighty God making Himself as vulnerable as a tiny baby, and continuing to be so, for them, in the Blessed Sacrament. They knew that this Divine Baby, when He grew into a Divine Man, had taught them that to be His followers, we must make ourselves as helpless as little children; and they saw the sense in that. (A remarkable insight for teenage boys who are desperate to become big, independent men.)

Christ’s powerful titles of Lord of Lords, and King of Kings, and Prince of Peace, with which He reigns in Heaven, and in the Tabernacle, made more sense to them when commanded by a helpless baby. “And don’t forget Father, that baby was, and is, also Almighty God.”

They were simply wide eyed with wonder that the God who, I had taught them, created the Universe and lowered Himself to be present on this earth hidden under the forms of what had been bread and wine – wide eyed with wonder that this God should really have become a helpless, vulnerable infant.

Of course, every human being has something to teach us, although we might be tempted to put teenage boys at the bottom of the list as our potential catechists! But those rugby obsessed lads taught me something. To place myself under the authority of a helpless baby is surely a lesson in humility for my deadly pride. (This lesson has a nice echo in the Rule of our Holy Father Saint Benedict, when he speaks of the important virtue of mutual obedience). These few words were inspired by those “Benny boys” (they are the boys and young men of St. Benedict’s School), so those pupils in St. Benedict’s “School of the Lord’s Service,” should be a reminder to all of us: some of us particular sons and daughters of St. Benedict, but all of us loved by Him: a reminder that every Christian needs to live wholeheartedly in that school of the Lord’s service we call His Holy Church, so that, if not the mince pies, certainly the joy of December 25th will stay with us all throughout the coming year and, please, God, all the way into eternity.

Chaplain's



Rev. Father Barry Braum with most of our Community at a farewell afternoon tea we had with him.

On Saturday 29th November, a farewell tea and coffee was held for Rev. Father Barry Braum downstairs after the morning Holy Mass at which many people attended and had the opportunity to say goodbye. The following day, the First Sunday of Advent, we bid farewell to Father. He has been with us for the last 5 years (half of his priestly life!) and has faithfully celebrated our daily Holy Mass for us. He will be greatly missed by all. His excellent homilies were enjoyed by many, not just here but as far away as the USA and other countries as the Holy Mass here is live streamed.



Rev. Father Barry was asked by the new Rector at the Pontifical Bede College, in Rome, Rev. Canon Marcus Holden, to come on board and join the formation team. He is serving as a Seminary formator and also as part of the teaching faculty. He will be teaching several courses at the college in both Sacraments and Scripture.

Our loss is another's gain and we pray for Rev. Father Barry's new and important ministry for the Church.

On 1st December we warmly welcomed Rev. Dom Thomas Stapleford, O.S.B., a monk of Ealing Abbey, as our new Chaplain. Many will be familiar with Father already as he has kindly and generously celebrated a number of our Conventual Holy Masses for us when Rev. Father Barry Braum was away... his usual mode of transport was a thrilling bike ride into central London from Ealing Abbey.



As it turns out, Rev Dom Thomas began riding a bike quite young!



Oblates



We received 4 Novice Oblates this year, including Heather, Nury, Mary and our own altar server, James Coulborne. Mary has the great privilege of being able to say she is related to St. Oliver Plunkett, so she took her name after Him: Sister Oliver Plunkett of the Blessed Sacrament. Sr. Oliver wrote "My family have a great devotion to this wonderful saint as my maternal grandmother was a Plunkett, born and bred near Killeen Castle in Co Meath, (where St Oliver Plunkett was educated by his uncle Sir Patrick Plunkett) who, through her familial links, had the right to be buried in the castle graveyard. My mother emigrated to England in the early 1950's and lived and worked in London at the Cumberland Hotel on Oxford Street (once Tyburn Lane), a stone's throw away from where her relative had been martyred. Years later my two sisters and I all worked on Oxford Street too and I wonder now how often we trod on the holy ground that he had travelled on the way to his execution. He was declared Blessed on the 23rd of May (my sister's birthday) 1920 and canonised on my birthday, the 12th of October 1975 becoming the first Irish saint for nearly 700 years.



Br Placid with his mother.

Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church

December the 8th brought us many graces as we held, in our Chapel, the Hour of Grace from the Rosa Mystica Devotion. Our Chaplain, Dom Thomas presided and there was a good turn out of laity.

On Saturday 13th July 2024, the feast day indicated by Maria Rosa Mystica, the Bishop of Brescia, Monsignor Pierantonio Tremolada solemnized the judgment promulgated on Friday 5th July by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith at the conclusion of the discernment on the Marian apparitions in Montichiari. This document, which consists of a letter from the prefect, Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernandez, endorsed by Pope Francis, founded in the new Norms of discernment adopted in May 2024, expressed a *Nihil obstat* judgment.



The Apparitions of Our Lady Rosa Mystica

In Montichiari, Italy, in the spring of 1947, the Blessed Mother appeared to a nurse, Pierina Gilli. The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF) officially approved the apparitions on 5th July 2024.

During the second apparition Pierina asked, "Please tell me, who are you?" In reply to this question She smiled and said: "I am the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of all of you. Our Lord sends me to bring a new Marian Devotion to all religious orders and institutes, male and female, and to the priests of this world. I promise to protect those religious orders and institutes who will venerate me in this special way, increase their vocations, and achieve a greater striving for saintliness among the servants of God. "I wish that the 13th of each month be celebrated as a Marian Day. Special prayers are to be said during the proceeding twelve days". With an expression of great joy, She continued; "On this day I shall pour out vocational holiness and abundant graces on those religious orders and spiritual institutes who have honoured me especially. "I wish that the 13th July be celebrated each year in honour of the 'Rosa Mystica'

(the Mystical Rose)". Pierina asked whether a miracle would follow. Our Lady replied: "The most evident miracle will be this: those who have given their souls to God – the religious who, for a long time now, have become indifferent thus betraying their vocation and as a result of their offences have brought about the punishments and persecutions which are raging against the Church at the present time – will stop offending Our Lord. They will again lead a life according to the original spirit of their saintly founders". With these words the conversation ended.

The Hour of Grace. Fifth Apparition on 22nd November, 1947

Our Lady asked for penance. She said, "Penance is nothing more than accepting all our crosses daily willingly. No matter how small, accept them with love." At this time She told Sister Pierina to come again December 8th at noon, "This will be my Hour of Grace." The Sister asked how she was to prepare for this Hour of Grace? To which the Blessed Mother said, "with prayers and penance. Pray the 51st psalm with outstretched arms three times. [Psalm 50 in the Latin counting of the psalms, also known as the *Miserere*]. During the Hour of Grace, many spiritual graces would be granted. The most hard-hearted sinners will be



touched by the grace of God." The Blessed Virgin promised that whatever a person asked her for during this Hour of Grace (even in impossible cases) would be granted to them. If it was in accordance with the Will of the Eternal Father.

Seventh Apparition on 8th December 1947

Our Lady appeared on a large white staircase, decorated with white, red and yellow roses. She said with a smile: "I am the Immaculate Conception". And "I am Mary, full of grace, Mother of My Divine Son Jesus Christ".

Descending even more, She said: "Through my coming to Montichiari, I wish to be known as the

ROSA MYSTICA It is my wish that every year, on 8th December, at noon, the HOUR OF GRACE FOR THE WORLD be celebrated. Many divine and bodily graces will be received through this devotion. Our Lord, my Divine Son Jesus, will send His overflowing mercy if good people will pray continuously for their sinful brothers.

One should very soon notify the Holy Father of the Church, Pope Pius XII, that it is my wish that the HOUR OF GRACE FOR THE WORLD be made known and spread throughout the world. If anyone is unable to visit his church, yet will pray at noon at home, he will also receive graces through me. Whoever prays on these tiles and weeps tears of penance, will find a secure heavenly ladder and receive protection and grace through my motherly heart". Then Our Lady showed Pierina her heart and said: "Look at this heart which loves mankind so very much, but most people only shower offences upon it. If the good and the bad unite in prayer they will obtain mercy and peace through this heart. The Lord is still protecting the good and is holding back a great punishment because of my intercession". Our Lady smiled again and went on: "Soon one will recognise the greatness of this Hour of Grace". When Pierina saw that Our Lady was going to depart, she said: "Dear Lady, I thank you! Bless my homeland Italy and the whole world, but especially the Holy Father, the priests, the religious, and the sinners". Our Lady replied: "I have already prepared a flood of graces for all the children who listen to my words and keep them in their hearts".

Annual Holy Mass in Honour of St Edmund Campion



On 1st December at Tyburn we hosted the annual 12 noon Holy Mass where priests who are past students, of the Venerable College in Rome concelebrated in honour of St Edmund Campion. New vestments had been made for the occasion, based on designs from a talented young lady who lived in with us to try our life. as well as for Holy Masses in honour of the various Tyburn Martyrs which are usually celebrated here.



Relics



We were deeply honoured to have in our Sanctuary for several days the relics of St Claude de la Colombière and St Margaret Mary Alacoque, two saints closely connected to the message of the Sacred Heart on the 350th Anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St Margaret Mary.



Tyburn Fayre



After a longish pause of a few years, we invited the lay faithful again to Tyburn Fayre - the annual event on the last Saturday of October so much loved and awaited by many. On the 25th of October, we again opened our doors to Londoners and visitors from further afield.

At ten o'clock on a sunny morning (thanks be to God for the good weather) Mother General - Very Rev. Mother Marilla invited Rev. Father Jude Burges to open the event by saying a prayer, asking God's blessing on the endeavour and finally cutting the red ribbon symbolically adorning the entrance.

Our dear Mother Nicholas Owen, O.S.B. helping to make many biscuits which turned out to be popular and keep selling in our shop afterwards as well.

To start with, what seemed like a small gathering soon grew into a numerous crowd of the

visitors filling the rooms where items were displayed and refreshments and meals were available to purchase.

Grand Draw 2025

1 st Prize	£500	07097
2 nd Prize	£250	08207
3 rd Prize	£100	08728
4 th Prize	£50	18240
5 th Prize	Hamper	19563
6 th Prize	Hamper	10083

Many who knew and frequented the Fayre before, were pleasantly surprised to find that it had radically changed its looks and contents for the better. The old bric a brac and second-hand items were not to be found, for this year it was replaced with

stylishly presented items made here at Tyburn: St. Benedict's and St. Hildegard's balms, rosaries, cards, chaplets and jewellery, soaps, cards and plants, knitted items, as well as various home-made biscuits, bread, jams and marmalade, beautifully wrapped gifts, Christmas cakes, chocolates and other delicious delights.

There was also honey and 100% beeswax candles – both from Lithuania and still available in our little shop.



A few photos of some of the stalls the night before the stocks were cleared!



Guests were invited to refresh themselves with a warm drink, to taste traditional scones made by us Nuns or to sample a piece of cake from a great choice of various cakes displayed on the tables. Those who arrived closer to lunch time had an opportunity to have a snack, a bowl of soup or a full meal choosing a dish from various cuisines: Nigerian, Peruvian, Columbian, Philippino and Chinese and of course British, just to mention a few. Friendly chatter and laughter in a joyous family like atmosphere continued until it was interrupted by a call for the Grand Draw of the Raffle. Tickets were drawn and the lucky numbers of the winners were announced. The Fayre gradually came to an end with lessons learned for future improvements and a steadfast hope encouraged by satisfied visitors for a similar successful funding event at Tyburn next year and many years to come.



Having said all that, it is important to note and to express sincere gratitude for all the volunteers and helpers who assisted us in making the Fayre a success by performing many tasks - from shopping, assembling and decorating the stalls, arranging the dining tables and pricing the items, to volunteering on the day selling crafts and serving food. Without so many hands to do so much work this would have been impossible.



Thank you to all who contributed: to our helpers and equally to all of you who came to visit and purchase items and raffle tickets. Many thanks to everyone for a good will, prayers, support and generosity. May Our Lord bless you all abundantly.

What didn't sell at the fayre continued to be sold for several weeks in our shop. People continued to buy Christmas cakes afterwards but many have been disappointed to find they have all sold out even though we made so many!

Sanctuary update

We now have a comprehensive package of information for the Sanctuary project which includes a design which has been through thorough review, a detailed design for the individual elements and the overall design has been put together to comply with structural engineering constraints in order to avoid strengthening of the chapel floor.

Our Project Manager has sent out pre-tender enquiries, for confirmation of interest and budget advice for the specialist elements only, to a select list of five companies that are considered capable of carrying out the works.

Once this budget advice is received, our project manager will then complete the overall project cost plan, this will inform fund raising and any value engineering that might be required. It is the aim to have this overall cost plan completed before the end of December. . . we hope and pray!

Please remember Tyburn Convent in your Will.

Thank You!

We are very grateful to all our friends and benefactors for all the support you have given to our Community and Congregation during 2025. Thank you for your prayers, sacrifices, volunteering time to help out in various ways, and for your donations. 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 2026!

The Tyburn Nuns

Please pass Tyburn Talk on to a friend!

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