

# TYBURN TALK

TYBURN PRIORY, 325 GARFIELD RD, RIVERSTONE, NSW, 2765, AUSTRALIA. 02 9627 5171

Dear Friends,

Before He ascended to His Father, Our Lord told His Apostles: "Behold, I am with you all days, even to the end of the world!" This promise of Our Lord is consoling for us as we experience the uncertainties of the current environment with the tragic health and economic issues encompassing our world. Our Lord has been with His Church in every age, but He is even more present in times of distress. It is



helpful to remember that God does not allow evils to befall us unless He will draw some good from them. We offer a little prayer you may wish to pray in times of difficulty and distress:

*'Lord Jesus Christ, by Your love and Your sufferings, by Your pains and Your wounds, by the Blood You have shed, by the merits of Your death, have mercy upon the Church, upon my soul and upon all souls in trouble. Grant us Your grace and pardon. Bestow upon us all virtues, a happy death and endless bliss. Amen.'*

Please know that we hold you all in our hearts and in our prayers. Our chaplain, Rev. Fr. John Rizzo, is also holding you in prayer during and after every Holy Mass.

## Community News



To date, this year has been eventful for all of us in many ways. However, our events are rather different from those experienced through the lock-up since we live continually "locked in" – ie enclosed! Our events began with the arrival of our Mother General in mid-December. Having Very Reverend Mother with us for Christmas was a rare and joyful occasion. Mother's visit had a purpose – to prepare for the arrival of the Vatican Commission to enquire into the sanctity of our Mother Foundress, the Servant of God, Mother Marie Adele Garnier.

The Commission arrived in early February and stayed for almost one week. They interviewed the Sisters at length and also the many friends who came to give their accounts of favours received through our Mother's intercession.

Also during Mother's visit, we discussed how Riverstone has become so noisy with all the traffic along Garfield Road East– especially for our retreatants who want to come to our monastery for a time of prayer, peace and quiet. The noise has become so bad that we are no longer able to provide

a peaceful setting for our retreatants. How things have changed since we came here more than 30 years ago – one would never choose this location now for a monastery! It is fitting that monasteries are situated in quiet locations conducive to a life of seclusion and contemplation, and it soon became abundantly clear that it was God’s will for us to re-locate.

With the invaluable help of the Lumby family – we can never thank them enough – a property at Kurmond (about half an hour’s drive away) has been secured, and the sale of this property is in progress. Below is a photo for you. A house will be built for our Chaplain on the property before



we move there. There is a house and a large shed there already where the Sisters will have to “live rough” for several years while we try to raise sufficient funds to build a chapel and a monastery.

As this is being written, we do not know when we will move, but it will be sometime in the next year. However, the packing and organising has begun. It is not so simple to re-locate an entire monastic complex as we come to realise more and more with the passing days. The chapel will not be used as such, so we will be removing all the fittings. The windows are special to our

Congregation and so they will be removed and replaced by plain glass. Also coming with us will be the beautiful marble altar and reredos which were a gift to us from the Brigidine Sisters. The pipe organ needs to be dismantled and packed for storage. So, just clearing the chapel will be a major undertaking. Now on to the monastery. We have a library of over 15,000 books to be packed, and free-standing shelves to be dismantled and packed up. This just the first step. The dormitory has 22 cells (what we call our rooms), 9 occupied by the Sisters, others functional such as infirmary, store rooms, work space. Lots of packing here! Everything else needed for the functioning of a monastic community must also be removed, such as the linen room and sewing room which has a large store of fabrics needed for making habits as well as all that is needed for sewing them.

There is a well-equipped office, a kitchen and storeroom etc. etc. But we are not finished our task yet! The guest house has six furnished bedrooms, parlours and storerooms etc.



Next, Father's house needs to be emptied and the contents packed and transported. We are not finished yet. There are many statues outside and inside which will come with us. Included are the Stations of the Cross with fourteen 1 tonne sandstone blocks and fourteen steel arches. Our Lady Help of Christians in her shrine cannot be forgotten either. Lastly, when the time comes, the alpacas and bunny will need to be rounded up and then we 9 Sisters with our personal belongings will all have to fit into one house and one large shed. Now you can see why we said we will have to 'rough it' for some time to come!



And now we must tell you the sad news, if you have not already heard, that our beloved Rev. Mother M. Cyril passed to her reward on 15<sup>th</sup> March. As Rev. Fr. Rizzo expressed it, she began her agony on Friday (13<sup>th</sup>), rested on the Saturday with Our Lady and rose early on the Sunday morning with Our Lord. All of the community were at her bedside and we prayed with Father the many beautiful prayers for the dying. Mother passed away just as Father finished reading from the Gospel of St. John – Our Lord's final words to His disciples shortly before His Passion.

Mother was buried on 21<sup>st</sup> March, feast of the Passover of St. Benedict. Her funeral liturgy was beautiful and many friends attended – no social distancing that day. Two days later we were obliged to lock our chapel doors, a great sadness indeed.

All our other monasteries were also ordered to close their chapel doors to everyone. We are all praying extra prayers for our friends and supporters. At Tyburn Priory the candles are always burning for your needs and

intentions and we pray daily for our families and friends to be protected from the COVID-19 virus.

We thank our kind friends for sending us their used stamps. Many consignments of stamps have been sent for the Missions. Also received was a large stamp collection which is being re-arranged and expanded with more donated stamps. We hope to auction this when all is completed to raise much needed funds to build a church and a monastery.

*“May the Divine Heart  
keep you in Himself, in the  
most intimate and deepest  
abyss of His Love.”  
Servant of God,  
Mother Marie-Adele Garnier*



Usually at this point we make an appeal for donations for our Foundations. We and our Sisters overseas are so grateful for your generous support. However, in this letter, we are launching an appeal for donations towards the Tyburn Priory Building Fund.

We are inscribing the names of all donors in the **Book of Benefactors of Tyburn Priory, Kurmond**, which is being permanently kept under the altar. Father prays every day at Holy Mass for all those whose names are inscribed in this Book of Benefactors, and the Sisters also pray for them every day during Vespers and during their Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. **Holy Mass will be offered every First Friday** for the needs and intentions of all these generous supporters. Deceased loved ones may also be included if desired. We realise that times are difficult. However, if there are some who are able to support that appeal, we will be so very grateful.

We thank all those generous friends who have supported us and our Missions over many years. You are always remembered in our prayers. Holy Mass will be offered for all our Oblates, friends and benefactors on the Feast of the Sacred Heart.

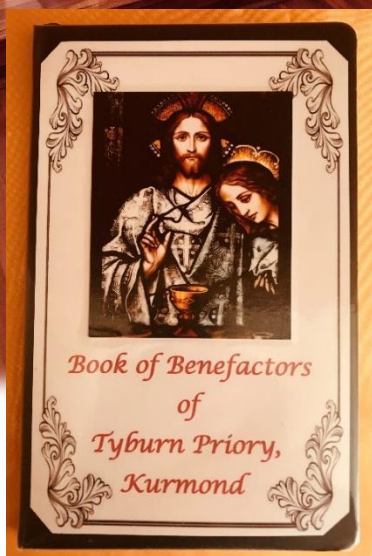
Wishing you grace and blessing in these difficult times and keeping you in our prayers.

With our love in the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

The Tyburn Nuns.



Our chaplain Rev. Fr Rizzo with the community,  
and our dear Reverend Mother Cyril RIP at the top right, ever with us in spirit.



*The Book of Benefactors under our altar*

If you would like to donate towards the cost of building Tyburn Priory's new Chapel and Monastery at Kurmond, donations can be made online, or by sending a cheque made payable to 'Tyburn Priory'. If depositing online, can we kindly ask you to put your name on the entry, so that we are able to inscribe your name in the Book of Benefactors.

Our BANK DETAILS are:  
ANZ Bank - Tyburn Priory  
BSB 012 874  
Account number 2327 41633

Yes, I would like to make a donation towards the cost of building Tyburn Priory's new Chapel and Monastery at Kurmond.

Please inscribe my name in the Book of Benefactors

NAME: (BLOCK LETTERS) .....

ADDRESS: .....



Please return this form to: Tyburn Priory, 325 Garfield Road East, Riverstone NSW 2765