



Tyburn Newsletter

Christmas 2015

Tyburn Monastery, 100 Chamberlain Road, RD Bombay 2675, South Auckland

Dear Friends of Tyburn,

*Shower, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.*

With this cry of longing and hope the Church opens her liturgical year and ushers in the beautiful season of Advent. But why does she utter this cry of longing? Has not the Saviour already come with his gift of salvation for each one of us? The world and all its creatures have indeed been redeemed when Christ took our flesh and came down to our earth to show us the way to live that will bring us to his Father. But each one needs to receive that gift of salvation into his heart and make it his own by walking the way of the Gospel. Every year the Church in her wisdom renews this call to open our hearts to the one who invites us with such love. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” Advent is a challenge to open that door and let the Saviour into our lives to show us what we need to change in order to live in harmony with God, with others and with his creatures. That is our destiny.

Pope Francis echoes this call in his recent encyclical *Laudato Si’*. This is an unusual letter in that it is addressed, not just to the members of the Church, but to “every person living on the planet” and he appeals to each one to act as a true steward of the earth which has been entrusted to us. What he has to say is challenging, for he points out that the consumerist lifestyle of the more affluent countries is largely responsible for the climate change that is adversely affecting the poorer countries. We held a Workshop here recently to study and discuss the letter and those who took part found it inspiring and felt really motivated to do their bit. “All of us,” he writes “can co-operate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.” The letter concludes with a strong appeal for everyone to examine their lifestyle, making small daily changes to come to a lifestyle marked by “moderation and the capacity to be happy with little”.

In this way we can gradually change society by encouraging simplicity of life. He recognises this may be a very real challenge on a personal level, as not only do many things need to change but “it is we human beings who need to change, for the problem is not only a question of extreme weather but extreme selfishness.” However he closes on a note of hope: “At the end we will find ourselves face to face with the beauty of God.....In the meantime we come together to take charge of this home that has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good that exists will be taken up into the heavenly feast. Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope, for the Lord of life who loves us so deeply is always present.”

This year has brought much joy to our community with a large increase in our oblate community. Ten novice oblates have been received and another three will be received in January. Oblates are lay people who are drawn to the spirituality of St. Benedict and desire to be linked in some kind of union with a Benedictine community. The spirit of the Rule may be summed up in St. Benedict’s own words: “To prefer nothing to the love of Christ”. Oblates make an Oblation or promise to live their lives in the world in this spirit and the monastery becomes their spiritual home where they are always welcome to come and share in the spiritual life of the community and be encouraged in this way of life.

Finally we want to thank you for your interest and support and especially for your generosity in helping to get our drive renovated. Now you will enjoy a smooth drive up to the monastery! May the Christ-Child bless you and your families with his own peace and joy this Christmas and throughout the coming year. Here at Tyburn you are always in our prayer.

Mother Prioress and all of us at Tyburn Monastery, Bombay

After Christmas, we would be very grateful to receive any religious Christmas cards that you no longer want – we can use them to make next year’s Christmas cards! We would also be grateful for any candle ends, which we can use to make candles.

Our **Tyburn Monastic Calendar** for 2016 is now available, at a price of \$9 including postage.

Please send me calendar (s). (Cheques payable to Tyburn Monastery)

Name:.....

Address:.....

Please send to: Tyburn Monastery, 100 Chamberlain Road, RD Bombay 2675, South Auckland