

Tyburn Newsletter

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CHRISTMAS 2020

*May the Blessings and Holiness of
Christmas Remain with you Throughout
the Coming Year.*



Dear Friends of Tyburn Monastery,

At this holy season of Advent, let us contemplate the coming of Our Lord to us as a little Child in order offer us the hope of salvation by freeing us from the dominion of sin and reconciling us to God. His coming to us is the result of Divine Love. We cannot be exalted as children of God unless the Lord first stoops down to us. Do you wish to see God emptied of Himself? See Him lying in the manger. He who is clad in the glory and beauty

of unapproachable light is now clad in swaddling clothes. He who thunders in the heavens and at whose voice the angelic powers lower their wings, now cries as a helpless babe. This is our God who emptied Himself in order to fill us with the treasures of His heavenly graces and to restore us to the friendship of God. Instead of wealth, He has come poor; instead of honour, He has come in ignominy; instead of blessedness, He has come to suffer. Let us ponder on the words of St Augustine; "With what words shall we praise the love of God? What thanks shall we give? He so loved us that for our sakes He through whom time was made, was made in time." Faced with the present global crisis when evil seems to gain ascendancy over good, may we turn to this Babe in Bethlehem who assures us that He is able to draw good from evil as He is victorious over all the powers of darkness. He alone is able to console and strengthen us amid the turmoil of this life by reminding us that the end of our existence is the salvation of our souls. At this Christmas, Jesus desires to be born anew in our hearts and to share Mary's motherly joy with us; a joy imbued with such peace and contentment which the world with all its allurements cannot give.

Community News

Since we began the custom of having 40-Hour devotion about 15 years ago, this is probably the only year we did not advertise the event in our Newsletter. The Covid-19 restrictions made us think it might not be possible to have it this year. However, on the 8th of June when NZ moved to Level 1, approximately twelve or thirteen guests came to stay at our retreat centre and generously offered to help with the 40 Hours adoration. Rev. Fr. John Roberts also stayed at our retreat centre and concelebrated Holy Mass with our Chaplain each day and on Corpus Christi Sunday he led the Eucharistic Procession after Mass. The weather on Corpus Christi Sunday turned out to be one of the best we ever had and to our surprise, more than a hundred people turned up for the Mass and the Procession.

On the 11th of July, more than twenty of our Oblates turned up for the Oblate Meeting to commemorate the Passover of our dear Rev. Mother Angela (RIP). Those who were present at this unique event were able to view a DVD documentary with clips of the different scenes of Mother Angela's life which our oblate Agnes Lim had cleverly compiled.



On the 17th of July, eleven young Samoan students came for the Monastic Weekend in our retreat centre. Rev. Mother M. Lucy and Mother M. Martin gave them talks about our life and also showed them our Tyburn DVD which they greatly enjoyed. All in all, it was a very blessed and grace-filled occasion for everyone. We will continue to organize the Monastic Weekend on every Second Friday of each month. If you are interested, please



Monastic Weekend

contact Rev. Mother Prioress, Rev. Mother M. Lucy. Accommodation is free of charge for participants.

On the 8th of August, Rev. Mother Philippa-Mary, Mother M. Martin and Mother M. Angelina attended the Monastic Profession of Mother M. Cecilia at our Monastery in Ngakuru. The beautiful ceremony of M.M. Cecilia's

Profession was presided over by Most Reverend Bishop Stephen who concelebrated with six other clergy in the fully packed Chapel. The Bishop in his splendid homily, praised M. M. Cecilia for her courage and generosity in facing the challenge of leaving Nigeria to come over a great distance to Tyburn in New Zealand as well as in braving the challenges of a different culture, a different language and the cold winter of Ngakuru.



Mother M. Cecilia's Profession Day

On the 12th of September, everyone in our Community was present for the ceremony of the unveiling and blessing of Mother M. Angela's(RIP) headstone at Ngakuru. The Solemn Mass commenced at 11am and it was presided over by Rev. Fr. John Roberts, with deacon Joe Rogers assisting him. Approximately 40 people turned up for the occasion, most of whom were friends and oblates of both our communities. At the conclusion of Mass, we all went in procession to the cemetery with Rev. Fr. John leading the five decades of the Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary on our way there. The ceremony soon began and the highlight of it was when the lovely granite headstone with its exquisite inscriptions and photo of M. M. Angela was unveiled. This beautiful ceremony, tinged with a palpable sense of loss will be forever etched in our memories.

On the 20th of September, Rev. Mother M. Lucy who was formerly our Sub-Prioress was officially installed as our new Mother Prioress while Rev. Mother Philippa-Mary replaced her as Sub-Prioress.

On the 26th of September, our Oblates Elisapeta and her husband Winn renewed the marriage vows of their 50th Anniversary during our Conventual Mass. The beautiful ceremony was presided over by our Chaplain, Rev. Fr. Arobati and the couple's family were present for this joyous event.

From the 9th till the 16th of October, we had our Annual Retreat. This year, Rev Fr. John Roberts gave us a preached retreat for 5 days beginning on the 12th of October and at the end of our Retreat, our Oblates had their turn on the 17th with Father giving them

conferences in the retreat centre. Father's homilies were beautifully inspiring, helping us to put everything in the right perspective and to fix our minds and hearts on God alone. We all had a truly blessed and grace-filled retreat. In spite of the short notice concerning the Oblate Retreat, approximately 8 Oblates came for their retreat day including our novice oblate, Tiffany Colina (Sr. Mary Raphaela) who made her Profession as an Oblate later in the afternoon.

From the 19th till the 23rd of October, 6 priests from the Auckland and the Hamilton Diocese came for their annual retreat during which they concelebrated Mass with our Chaplain each day. Then on the evening of the 23rd after our priest retreatants had left, ten ladies who were ex-students from St. Mary College in Samoa also came for a weekend retreat. During their stay, they did adoration for two nights and sang beautifully at Holy Mass on Sunday.

Two of our dear Oblates passed to the Lord recently; Maria Mascaranhas on the 3rd of October and Hilary Adams in early November. We continue to pray for the repose of their souls and that God may console their bereaved ones.



Sr. Mary Raphaela with Oblates

Other Houses

Our Congregation has been blessed with five new Mothers between the months of July and August. Mother M. Stella made her Monastic Profession in France, Mother M. Cecilia in Ngakuru, Mother M. Walburga in Riverstone, Mother Thomasina and Mother Mary Jude at the Mother House. In October, Sr. Mary Magdalena made her Temporary Profession in Peru. Also we have two Jubilarians recently: Rev. Mother M. Xavier (Rev. Mother Assistant) had her Diamond Jubilee on the 30th at the Mother House, and RM.Hilda had her Silver Jubilee in France on the 25th of July. The former said her Jubilee celebration was the most extraordinary monastic celebration she had known in her

entire sixty years of Monastic Profession!

Holy Mass For Christmas

Solemn Office of Nocturns for Christmas will be at 7.45pm followed by Christmas Eve Mass at 9:00pm. Christmas Day Mass will be at 9:30am as usual. All are most welcome!

Finally we also wish to thank all our friends and benefactors who have so kindly supported us this year as in every other year. As bank cheques are going obsolete in January next year, please note that donations can be forwarded to our ANZ Bank Account (Pukekohe) 010403018432600.

We wish you and all your dear ones a very blessed and joy-filled Christmas and New Year!
The Tyburn Nuns



Blessing and unveiling of headstone.