



# Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

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## *Christmas Newsletter 2021*



### **Dear Friends,**

As we write this letter to you we are celebrating the beginning of a new liturgical year, preparing for Christmas and also the completion of the Year of St Joseph inaugurated by Pope Francis on 8<sup>th</sup> December last year. Just recently our cellarer discovered in her work cell this unusual painting of the Saint, who protects and plays with the Divine Child. Jesus points to the Heart of Joseph, and it is this heart that has become dearer to those of us who have prayed and consecrated ourselves to him in the past year. The Child carries two symbols: The staff of Aaron and the cloak of Moses. In the book of Numbers in the Old Testament, Chapter 17, we read that Aaron offered a sacrifice of atonement to God for the rebelliousness of the People of Israel. As he did so his staff burst into flower. Luke 1:5 tells us that Mary was a daughter of Aaron, and so this blossoming has been understood to foreshadow her fruitfulness in giving birth

to the one perfect atonement for our sins: Jesus Christ. There is an ancient oral tradition that St Joseph had possession of this staff and cloak, and here in this painting Jesus is pointing out to us that St Joseph has been entrusted with the guardianship of God's plan for our salvation. Until today we can be sure of the important role St Joseph plays in the accomplishment of the Eternal Father's plan for us, particularly as Protector of the Church. The painting summarises beautifully the meaning of this past year – the light of Jesus has shone brightly on the mystery of St Joseph and given us strength to weather the increasing storms of our times with Faith, Hope and Charity.

In spite of the trials our community has not been short of things to celebrate. On 26<sup>th</sup> June we were delighted to receive as **Novice Oblates** Sr Marie Claire and Sr Rose Mary. Our Oblates seek to follow Christ in their different vocations, under the guidance of our Benedictine Rule and spirituality and the Charism of our Mother Foundress.



On 31<sup>st</sup> August this year we realised just in time that this was **the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dedication of our Monastic Church**. The re-structuring and building of the new laity chapel was completed in 1996, and the dedication Mass was celebrated by Bishop John Magee. We saw from our archive photos that on that day each of the dedication candles had been beautifully decorated with flowers, and our talented sacristan found the holders and produced similar adornments for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Mass. We had a small gathering of regular Mass goers in the tearoom afterwards, and later in the day we held a Holy Hour and Benediction in the Chapel which was well attended.

The biggest event of the year was the double **Monastic Profession** of our two Sisters, now Mother Mary John of Jesus and Mother M John Baptist of the Lamb of God, held on 18<sup>th</sup> September. We realised that our chapel would not be able to host a sizeable gathering, and wishing to invite as many as possible we decided to transfer the ceremony out of doors. With help of many generous friends a marquee was hired complete with a floored sanctuary. All that remained to be taken care of was the weather, which we had to leave in the hands of St Joseph, and indeed we exhorted everyone invited to pray to him for this intention. Despite the fact that there was almost continual rain in the week preceding, all the prayers were answered beyond our highest expectations: The sun shone out in a cloudless blue sky, and the marquee was desired for shade rather than shelter!! The Mass was celebrated by our Bishop William Crean. It took a full 2 hours, but everyone said that the time passed very quickly. 13 Priests concelebrated. We were especially grateful to the Servants of the Home of the Mother: Their Sisters accompanied and supported our singing and the brothers provided live streaming of the ceremony.



*Monastic Profession  
18<sup>th</sup> September 2021*



**We thank you our dear friends for the prayers, support and generosity which makes it possible for us to continue our life and mission here in Cobh.**

**We raise up to God all your needs and intentions in our daily Masses and prayers.**

We are pleased to be able to tell you that our **enclosure lift** is due to be installed early in the New Year. We are eternally grateful for this, especially our elderly Mother Matthias! We have also been able to purchase a second commercial sized polytunnel. This will enable us to make good use of our land and grow plenty of produce, sheltered from the sea winds. We also planted several new fruit trees, expanding our orchard. Our goat herd increased to seven as we adopted three new ones, but exchanged our male who was becoming rough with his big horns for a smaller hornless one!

Our volunteers and employees have continued to work hard on the Bible Garden, and the Garden of the Song has now been completed and looks stunning. Hezekiah's Garden and Isaiah's Vineyard were completed by the YMCA group in the summer, and figs were harvested and preserved for sale. Transition year students from Colaiste Mhuire have taken on the Grasses and Pulses bed, and worked like trojans during their weekly sessions to clear the ground ready for sowing.

Around the world we have seen the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Mother Gertrudis and our Mother General at the Mother House, the admission of a postulant to the new community of Tyburn Monks established in Colombia, and a novice, Sr M. Michelle, to our community in Largs.



On 24<sup>th</sup> October, our Beloved Sister Mother M Philip Howard of the Holy Trinity (Joyce Keedy) passed to the Lord at Tyburn Convent in the 82<sup>nd</sup> year of her age and the 47<sup>th</sup> of her Religious Profession. May she rest in peace. Her great devotion to our Foundress Mother Marie Adele Garnier was one of an intimate friendship, and it is lovely to think of the heavenly meeting that took place. Her loving and vivacious character, sense of humour and Geordie accent will be greatly missed by all who knew her, but we are already very much aware of her concern and good prayers in heaven for our needs. We are sure that she will pray for yours too!

Wishing you every grace this Christmas Season and may the peace of the Holy Family fill your homes,

The Tyburn Nuns at St. Benedict's Priory

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