

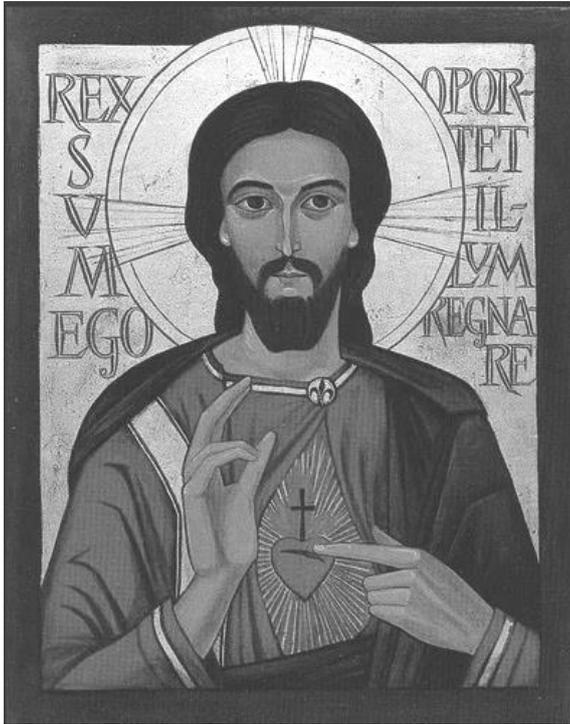


Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

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Newsletter

Feast of the Sacred Heart 2017

Dear Friends,

“Words,” they say, “come easy!” The reality we are faced with as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart is ACTION! For twenty centuries the prophets of old preached the Love of their mysterious and jealous God. Now, after living through the sorrowful days of the Passion, and the joy of Easter, it is Proclaimed: “God has loved us with an everlasting love; therefore lifted up from the earth,” beaten, thorn-

crowned, cross-nailed and then pierced with a lance – “in mercy he has drawn us to his heart.” (Lauds Antiphon Feast of the Sacred Heart)

Here we find our vocation – holding all those in need, those suffering in body or spirit, the sick, the bereaved, those without hope or love, and the priests who minister to them all – before the pierced and loving heart of the Son of God who knows their needs better than we can ever express them. We pray that the love of Our Lord Jesus will enfold you and bring help and healing in your special need. This Divine Love often comes through people – as we have experienced this year!

For our community the first surprise began with a visit from the well-known Cork singer Jimmy Crowley who has moved to Cobh. The RTE program Nationwide was doing a segment on him, and he wanted to visit St. Benedict's Priory and Bible Garden with them. We were very pleased with the 5 minute clip on St. Benedict's which was aired as part of the Nationwide program on 13th March. It featured Jimmy Crowley introducing Mary Kennedy to our Community, Chapel, Retreat House and Bible Garden and has helped to make us better known nationwide!! When they came to film, during a lull in the action, Jimmy asked if there was anything he could do for us, and offered a concert which was planned for April.

The sale of tickets for the Jimmy Crowley “Night of Music, Song and Stories” in aid of the maintenance of the Priory was launched on the 5th April at the Coffee Morning held in the Oasis Teashop which about 100 people attended. All the sisters had been busy and there was a good range of handmade crafts, baked goods and garden produce on sale. The event was supported by The Cobh Animation Team, Cobh Flower Club, local businesses who provided raffle prizes, Cobh Community College who sent four Transition Year Students to help out and of course our faithful helpers. On the 27th the charity concert took place. It was a large and very happy

gathering and the audience enjoyed Jimmy's singing and storytelling as was shown by the encore and standing ovation he received at the end. The surprise poetry recital by the venerable Mrs. Dympna Collins, Mother of ten and owner of Jimmy's favourite local pub, was also a delight. In fact the evening was the talk of the town for many days afterwards!



At the end of the interval a little presentation was made as a farewell gesture to Gillian who had been a valued worker in the Teashop. Another initiative launched at the coffee morning was a group of volunteer helpers to keep the teashop open for more hours during the week and at weekends. A number of local ladies have been very generous with their time and talents and as a result it has become much busier! Our heartfelt thanks go out to all who help us in so many ways. Go Raibh Mile Maith Agaibh!



2017 has a special Marian flavour with the Centenary of the Apparitions at Fatima. On 27th March we happily welcomed the European Pilgrim Virgin, blessed by Pope Francis, on her journey around the Dioceses of Ireland. Our Lady's statue arrived at about 11.00 p.m. and at midnight we had a special Mass with the Vigil organised by the Alliance of Two Hearts continuing until 7.00 the next morning. On 13th May, the centenary day, after Mass we had a Holy Hour with the Rosary, readings from Sr. Lucia's memoirs, and Pope St. John Paul's special Act

Consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. At both these events we were deeply touched by the consoling presence of our heavenly Mother.

"Radiant with Joy" was the title of a retreat day preached here on the 6th March by Dom Mark Kirby OSB of Silverstream Priory. Dom Mark explored Benedictine and Eucharistic perspectives on Lent and began by giving his own testimony of his spiritual friendship with Mother Marie Adele and her spiritual director Bl. Dom Columba Marmion. The thirty participants were joined by the sisters of our community who were able to attend all the conferences since Dom Mark brought with him three Novices who took part in the Adoration rota.

Our St. Benedict's Centenary Celebration held on 12th December 2016 was a lovely occasion with Holy Mass presided over by Bishop William Crean. After the Mass our guests viewed an exhibition of our archives and some of this has now been compiled into a booklet. **If you are interested in having a copy please write to Mother Prioress.** We were delighted to have with us our Mother General and Mother Assistant who had just come from the opening of the Cause for Canonisation of our Mother Foundress in France. They brought news to Cobh of the sudden unexpected opportunity that had arisen to purchase the house where Mother Marie Adele was born! Amazingly the funds came within 21 days of our making the reservation and we now have plans to make this special house a place of pilgrimage and retreat!



There have been other extraordinary events in connection with Mother Foundress. In April we received a beautiful account from Mother Assistant of a Miracle Baby! Here are some excerpts:

" LORD glorify your Servant, Mother Marie-Adele Garnier that your Servant may glorify YOU! It is about one year ago that a former parishioner of Don Gianmario Plga - author of THE PATH OF MOTHER MARIE-ADELE - followed his advice and came to visit me here at Tyburn Convent. Her problem was quite simply that she had been married for over four years & both she and her husband dearly wanted to start a family. Even though they both conscientiously followed sound medical advice, God still had not granted them their hearts' desire....

...So we agreed there and then, to visit the Tomb of our Foundress, Mother Marie - Adele Garnier in the Garth of our Convent adjacent to the Crypt of the Tyburn Martyrs. The three of us went together. We prayed the official prayer for Mother's canonisation, and after that Sara knelt down before Mother's tomb and prayed silently for a long time. She was in tears when she stood up and told us that she felt the close, motherly presence of our Mother Marie- Adele as she was praying and now she was filled with a new hope...

...Imagine my delight and joy when Sara telephoned me after a week or so, to let me know that her doctor gave her the results of a test he had just done. " He tells me the results are positive and I am pregnant. Thank you so much, Mother!"...

...Let us now move on to January 9th 2017. This was the day of immense joy for the entire Meloni family. On this very day Sara Meloni gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby girl who was given the name - Anna Grace ADELE!...

...On the first day that Sara visited Tyburn with A. G. Adele at just two months old, her eyes caught sight of the picture of Mother Marie-Adele Garnier hanging on the wall quite close behind me, over my shoulder. From that moment little Adele bounced up and down in my arms with her eyes fixed on this photo-picture of Mother Marie-Adele Garnier- as all the while she was happily smiling and waving her hand pointing to this picture. ... As Sarah said quite spontaneously, 'It is as if wee Adele already knows Mother Marie- Adele and that indeed it was Mother Marie Adele who was instrumental in bringing wee Adele to birth.'



Here in Cobh our Mother Foundress has been guiding us towards her and her spirituality. The local pro-life group asked if they could have their Annual Mass on 17th January, which they knew to be the Feast of Our Lady of Hope. This title is one of those given to Our Lady of Pontmain, the apparition which took place in France in 1871. Our Mother Foundress was intimately involved, since she was among those fleeing the Prussian Army at the time and camped in nearby Laval. She was one of the first to speak with the children who had seen Our Blessed Mother and received the consoling message: "Pray, my Children, my Son allows himself to be moved." It was she who created from their accounts the first images depicting the apparition. From that time on our

Foundress had a special devotion to Our Lady of Pontmain, and it was the first time here at St. Benedict's that we have had a special Mass on her Feastday. There is an opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the beautiful Shrine in Pontmain and many other places connected with Mother Marie Adele as you will see from the enclosed flyer.

On 27th May we held a Day of Recollection with the theme “Preparing for Pentecost with Servant of God Marie Adele Garnier”, during which we explored a number of her writings and spent time in Adoration. The 15 participants asked that these days be continued and so we have more planned on **the last Saturday of each month**. The themes will be: **24th June – Devotion to the Heart of Jesus, 29th July – Participating at Mass, 26th August – Loving God’s Holy Will**. Please contact us to book your place. Lunch is provided and accommodation is available in our Retreat House. Please also look out for **EWTN Live on 5th July** when an interview between Fr Mitch Pacwa and our Mother M Xavier about Mother Foundress will be aired. This should also be available on the internet after this date.

Another coming event is on 1st July, Feast of St. Oliver Plunkett. His relic which is presently housed in a small shrine here will be in the main chapel for public veneration. There will be a presentation on the Saint at 5pm and Mass celebrated by Bishop William Crean at 6.30pm, followed by refreshments. All are welcome to join us.



A different aspect of our history is the Old Admiralty House, and this year US Navy historical societies teamed up with the local Council and the Port of Cork to mark the centenary of the arrival of the US Navy in Cobh during the 1st World War on 4th May 1917. A commemorative plaque was unveiled during a ceremony on the lawn in front of the house. As this goes to print we have just had a most interesting evening presentation by local author and historian Ann McSweeney on Admiral King-Hall who lived here from 1906 to 1908. A big crowd attended and enjoyed the photos and stories.

Indeed, it is this old house which presents us with our big challenge this year: If we do not carry out major works soon it is going to become very unhealthy and unsustainable. We have started gathering advice and estimates and it seems that we need to raise in the region of €250,000! With God nothing is impossible, and with His help so much has been accomplished in the last 24 years since our arrival in Cobh. We believe that we have a special mission here and are sure that our 25th Anniversary celebrations next year will mark the beginning and not the end. We will be appealing to trusts and corporations as well as private benefactors and welcome any help you can offer in the way of fundraising and contacts.

Last but not least we invite you to join us on **Tuesday 15th August** for the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Profession of our Mother M. Matthias. Solemn Mass will be celebrated at 11.00am by former Abbot of Glenstal Dom Christopher Dillon. Mother is presently Sub Prioress and Novice Mistress of our Community. She always wanted to go to Africa, and now Africa has come to her through our Nigerian novices!



We hope and pray that your hearts have been lifted by news of so many signs of God’s presence among us. Thank you for your letters which we also present to the Lord, and we will enfold all these needs, intentions and desires in the intentions of our Mass of the Sacred Heart this 23rd June. God Bless You!

The Tyburn Nuns at St. Benedict’s Priory