



## Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

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# *Sacred Heart Newsletter 2024*

Dear Friends,



June, always a very special month in the life of our Congregation due to its special dedication to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is this year one of profound thanksgiving and celebration, since it marks 100 years since the passing to **Eternal Life of our Beloved Foundress Mother Marie Adele Garnier**. On 17<sup>th</sup> June 1924 our Mother, her long life of suffering and unremitting service to God and Holy Church complete, flew to her true and eternal home to take her place among the many great Saints of the Benedictine Order and the great Apostles of the Sacred Heart. There she found at last the fulfilment of her deepest desires, being taken up into the eternal worship of the Blessed Trinity and the Adoration of the Lamb, no longer veiled under the Eucharistic species but in His full splendour and Divine Glory. From this place of bliss she has continued to guide and accompany her daughters and all those

devoted to her, through the trials and challenges of life in this world with which she was so familiar. Her many words of life and encouragement are left to us as a legacy without price.

Therefore we begin our letter to you our friends around the world, with a lengthy excerpt from the account of her last sufferings and passing by a close friend of hers: Dom Bede Camm OSB.

*“On May 27<sup>th</sup> 1924 Mother Agnes writes:....”She lies like the Martyrs, in the rack; it is the most terrible spectacle one could ever see. You can watch her*

poor heart galloping even from beneath its coverings. At night we were afraid sometimes that her cries might be heard outside the convent walls, and they would think we were murdering someone; for she cannot draw her breath, and her attempts to do so resolve into loud cries.

“Yesterday, during this frightful agony, she kept repeating: “that all nations of the world become Catholic!” and during the night, it was specially Denmark that she battled for, repeating the name in a tone of lamentation.”

On June 10, she writes: “I wish you could see the beauty of our Mother’s face! She is absorbed in God. She takes nothing to eat or drink. The doctor said: “I cannot imagine how she lives!” He comes every day, but I think it is only that he may watch a saint die, for he can do nothing. He says he hopes he will live long enough to see her life written.”

On June 17 she was still living on without food or sustenance. She was half conscious, could no longer speak or help herself in any way.

It was this day that was to see the end. She rendered her holy soul to God in perfect peace at eleven-fifteen that night.



Mother Foundress in the arms of her first founding companion, Mother Agnes.

Mother Agnes, who had watched by her bed to the very end, and must have endured an agony only second to her Mother’s, writes, on the 18<sup>th</sup>: “A great peace hangs over the house. She is there, smiling, as it were, regarding her children. “My children!” was one of the last words we could distinguish on the eve. Yesterday she remained alone with God, and could no longer communicate with us. But I asked her if she could still speak to Jesus, and she looked so happy, and bowed her head in assent. The end came very promptly and very peacefully at eleven fifteen. Several of us

were with her, and I began the Litany for the dying, and after three or four invocations, she bowed her head, and was gone.”

Mother Agnes writes to a sister the same day: “She has suddenly cured my foot, and I can now go downstairs without having to depend on only one foot. I am sure she will heap graces upon us. The happiness of her Soul in

*heaven already shines out on her body. Her face lightened up by a most lovely smile, expressive, not only of peace, but of joy intense and profound. We all feel so happy. She is so near us. The roses are beginning to drop down already."*

*Her last words that could be distinguished were uttered in reply to Mother Agnes: "Are you happy?" she asked; and the reply came at once: "Oh yes, I am so happy with God!... and with my children." Looking round at them all gathered round her bed.*

*Her habit of thinking of others thus remained with her till the end. And at her death, she spread around her a wonderful atmosphere of peace and joy. Those who loved her best had expected to be overwhelmed with grief at losing her; but on seeing her body they were filled with happiness, for she seemed so happy. She was no longer suffering, the martyred Mother, she was the Mother delivered from all pain, in perfect peace with God and with her children.*

*Everyone felt she was a saint. The Ecclesiastical Superiors directed that every possible care must be taken to note down every detail of importance concerning her holy life and death, so that all the documents should be ready in case of a process of beatification.*

*"Her children rose up and called her blessed".*

*from: A Sacrifice of Praise-Marie Adele Garnier and the Founding of Tyburn Convent. Ch 18.*

**We hope that many of you will be able to join us on  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024 for  
Mother Foundress' Centenary Mass at 11am  
celebrated by our Bishop William Crean.**

Work is currently underway to build a shrine in honour of Mother Marie Adele in the Bible Garden and this will be blessed by Bishop Crean at the end of Mass. There will be a reception afterwards. We place all our trust in the Sacred Heart and St Joseph to provide us with good weather!



## **Novenas to the Sacred Heart and to Mother Marie Adele Garnier**

### **Sacred Heart Novena: 29<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> June**

This year we will once again seek to honour the Sacred Heart of Jesus by holding a Novena at 6.30pm each evening. This Novena will consist of a Holy Hour with a homily and Benediction given each evening by a guest preacher. We also hope to have perpetual Adoration, day and night, throughout the Novena, so if anyone is interested in spending some time in the retreat house and taking part in this, do contact us!

### **Novena to Mother Marie Adele: 8<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June**

The time between the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart and the Centenary Day of Mother Foundress' death is exactly Nine days, so to prepare for 17<sup>th</sup> June, we invite you to join us in praying the prayer for her canonisation as a Novena. We know that many of you have pressing needs, whether spiritual, medical, financial or family concerns. If you would like to place these under Mother Marie Adele's special intercession at this time, you can send them to us and we will place them in a petition box which will be under the Altar during the Novena. We will be reciting the prayer after our Conventual Mass at about 9.45am each day.

#### **PRAYER FOR THE CANONISATION OF MOTHER MARIE-ADÈLE GARNIER**

**Lord Jesus, You clothed Your Servant,  
Mother Marie Adele GARNIER with the  
virtues of Your Sacred Heart,  
You kindled within her its fire.  
You imprinted on her the image of Your Goodness.  
You called her to close Union with Your Eucharistic Heart,  
You made her enter fully into the Mystery of Your  
Redemption,  
by consecrating her with the grace of the Interior Priesthood,  
through total self sacrifice for the fidelity and sanctification of  
priests and by abandoning herself entirely to your Divine Will,  
in all things for the glory of the Holy Trinity.**

**We beseech You to choose her among the saints of heaven so  
that she may lead many souls to praise and glorify Your Holy  
Name for ever. Amen.**

***Imp. Joseph de Metz Noblat, Bishop, Langres, France  
1 January 2018***

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## BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

In our last Newsletter we mentioned the urgent need for the replacement of our water tank. WE THANK YOU SO MUCH that with your help and support work has begun to replace this, preventing a potential water disaster!

We are again applying for community and heritage grants this year and very much appreciate any support and fundraising undertaken to ensure the preservation of our building.

### Urgent works include:

Much of the roof needs to be replaced and the gutters also need to be restored. Most of the lime render on the outside of the building is cracked beyond repair and must be sand-blasted off, replaced and painted. There is notable water ingress on the West wall of the chapel and retreat house, with one guest room now being unfit for use. The historic balconies need to be resurfaced as they are currently not water tight, causing rust to their structure and water ingress to the building. The drains, which we had previously stated would be attended to last year were re-assessed and placed at lower priority, but they still need to be attended to over the next year or two. The roof on the gate lodge is leaking badly and needs urgently to be replaced at an estimated cost of €19,000.

Although it seems an impossible task, we trust in the words of Our Lord to Mother Foundress: *“I will watch over you. I will make you come safely out of all these difficulties. Have trust in Me. You are working for Me. Courage!”* We invite you to be part of the miracle!

Apart from fundraising, we are also grateful for donations in kind, such as the loan of scaffolding, so if you know any businesses who might want to get involved we would like to hear from you.

### Bible Garden

As already mentioned, a special project this year is the installation of a shrine to Mother Foundress. The site chosen is at the entrance to the pathway leading to the Lourdes Grotto, which is very appropriate as Mother had a profound devotion to Our Lady and herself visited Lourdes. It is also coincidentally very close to the well dedicated to the Gospel story of the meeting of Jesus with the Samaritan Woman at the Well. The dialogue which ensued, in which

Our Lord tenderly led the woman to her conversion and revealed to her that true worshippers will worship in Spirit and in Truth, was very dear to Mother’s Heart, and it is fitting that her image will be looking across at the well and miniature garden surrounding it.



## Fundraising efforts

Following our very successful Christmas Fayre, our tearoom staff have continued to be busy with a significant increase in custom. Our tearoom also features a craft and piety shop so there are little gifts and souvenirs available all year round. The Benedict's Balm, Scholastica Salve and Lavendar cream made by the Sisters are very popular and we also have a job keeping up with the demand for homemade marmalade. We also collaborate with small local enterprises such as local honey, local crafts, and ecolily chemical free cleaning product refills. The latter is a very special addition to the teashop since it reflects our Benedictine spirit of poverty, care for creation, making things last and avoiding waste.

## Community Groups

Over the past year the Cobh Women's shed have been meeting in the Oliver Plunkett Centre and we are delighted that they will be using newly acquired crafting skills to contribute to the decoration of Mother Foundress' Shrine. Cobh Zero Waste organised a repair café one Saturday and again it was delightful to see local people come up to meet local tradesmen and have their broken items repaired rather than throwing them away. For many it was also a first introduction to the Priory and we hope that in some way they encountered the Love of God for them.

## Vocations

During our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year our Congregation has been blessed with postulants in England, Australia, New Zealand, France and Scotland, and we congratulate Sr. Marguerite Marie (R) and Sr. Julianna (L) who have begun their novitiates in France and Australia respectively.

Here in Ireland there are some women discerning our Vocation. Please continue to pray that the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus will draw to Himself and to our life, those whom the Father seeks to adore Him in Spirit and in truth.

With our gratitude and prayers: Holy Mass on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart will be offered for you all.

The Tyburn Nuns at St Benedict's Priory

**PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO A FRIEND!**

If you would like to donate to St Benedict's Priory please send a cheque made out to St Benedict's Priory to the above address or go to

[www.tyburnconvent.org.uk/stbenedictsprioryrenovations](http://www.tyburnconvent.org.uk/stbenedictsprioryrenovations) (stripe account) or

[www.benedictineadorerscobh.ie](http://www.benedictineadorerscobh.ie) (paypal) or make a bank transfer to: St Benedict's Priory, AIB Bank, Account Number 12884-131, Sort Code: 93-40-62 IBAN: IE61 AIBK 9340 6212 8841 31 BIC: AIBKIE2D

