



Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

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To our very dear Friends and Benefactors



Once again the beautiful Advent antiphons of the Divine Office enlarge our hearts with joy and hope:-

Say to the fearful of heart, 'Be strong, fear not: Behold, the Lord our God will come. (LH3 Monday Lauds)

The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* which means 'coming'. The Christ Child, Jesus, did not come as the Israelites had expected; He came

in great silence. God seems to accomplish his most important works in silence and He chose the two most silent people to be the parents of His Son. The Incarnation was a silent and hidden mystery that was unknown to anyone; Mary remained quiet, for it was too sacred to speak about it. Joseph received the revelation only in the the deep silence of the night while he slept. Robert Cardinal Sarah, in his book *The Power of Silence*, describes silence as a pathway to God and says that: "Silence is not an absence. On the contrary, it is the manifestation of a presence, the most intense of all presences." Advent is therefore a silent, meditative and prayerful preparation to encounter Jesus Christ at Christmas and at His second coming. In these times of excessive noise, panic and fear we need to leave the noise of the news and media and retreat into silence so as to have a life-changing encounter with God, an encounter aimed at listening to Him so as to do His Will, just like Mary and Joseph. God sees our sufferings and yearning for peace and His silence will be broken at the birth of the Immanuel, God with us. Only Jesus Christ can give us that peace which the world cannot take away. Immanuel is with us in the Blessed Sacrament and it is in silent adoration that we receive this peace and joy which every man desires. O Come, let us adore Him!

Community News

We give thanks to the Lord for His bountiful help this year and these past 6 months that have been blessed with new growth, the sign of life, beginning with 19 new members of the Tyburn Association of Adoration. They were received at a solemn ceremony on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart (11th of June) after an evening Latin Mass. Each new member received a special medal, then Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration continued until mid-night. In July a Polish group started an all night vigil every fourth Friday of the month which culminates in a Polish Mass at 5 am. A group of young adults from Stirling came to the Monastery for a one-day retreat and all-night adoration. We pray that they will come regularly and that more young people will come to adore Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Our 95-year-old Mother Placid prays unceasingly for vocations to our congregation. God blessed her efforts this year with two new vocations: On the 24 of September, memoria of Our Lady of Walsingham and Our Lady of Ransom, Sr Clair-Mary became a postulant. St Joseph, St André of Montreal and Mother Foundress, we believe, had something to do with bringing her here. On the 23rd of October, Mother Placid fractured her foot and was admitted to Inverclyde Hospital where she remained until after the clothing ceremony of Sister Elizabeth on the 1st of November, Solemnity of All Saints.



Sr Clair Mary



Sr M. Michelle

During the ceremony Sister was given the new name of Michelle, after St Michael the Archangel, great protector of the Church, and she entered into the Novitiate. It is a great joy to have a white veil in our midst again. When Mother Placid was shown the photos of the newly clothed novice, she was delighted and insisted that the photos be shown to the ward nurses and doctors doing their rounds. She will be celebrating her Platinum Jubilee of Monastic Profession on 21 January 2021 and hopes that you will all be coming to help her celebrate.



We had a surprise visit from the sculptor of the statue of St Benedict that welcomes visitors to the Heritage Museum: James Whelan. The nuns of Dumfries commissioned him to make a statue to replace the weather-damaged one outside their chapel and therefore he made the new one out of fibreglass. It was not long in Dumfries before it was brought to Largs nearly thirty years ago and this is the first time the artist has seen it here. He was pleased with the welcoming gesture of the saint's left hand. It is a handsome, alive statue and seems to express these words from the Prologue of the Saint's Rule: "As we progress in our monastic life and in faith, our hearts shall be enlarged, and we shall run with unspeakable sweetness of love in the way of God's commandments."

At the beginning of November we were able to accommodate a few of the African delegates for the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow, as the city is within easy commuting distance. They greatly enjoyed their two weeks in Largs and we benefited from their colourful, cultural presence.



Tea Room/Hospitality

Our Tea-room helpers have been tirelessly and enterprisingly raising funds for the monastery. They initiated 'A pound a slate' project to raise money for the new roof and they are zealous in making our needs known to the



public. They are truly a part of our family as are all our faithful friends and benefactors. They undertook a sponsored walk on the island of Little Cumbrae. accompanied by John Hutchinson's dog, Bracken, which had been enlisted also for the sponsored walk. In July, our Indonesian friend, Fanda inaugurated an Asian Café in the monastery Tea-room. The Tea-room helpers, with their renowned specialities and warm hospitality, welcome visitors on Fridays and Saturdays after Holy Mass at mid-day. Fanda now





welcomes them from Monday to Thursday from 12 noon till 5.00 pm with delicious, healthy Asian food as well as special Asian teas and beverages, cold drinks and ice-cream. The café is attracting many young people and most of the people who come keep returning. Some of the café customers are now also weekend customers and vice versa. The best thing is that we have more



visitors to our chapel, including lapsed Catholics, and our chaplain, Fr John, is kept busy hearing confessions. The Annual Christmas Fayre was held on 4th December to great effect as it was a very happy and busy day. Most of the home-made goods disappeared quickly but there are still some Christmas cakes and puddings for sale. Unusually Rev. Mother Prioress and the novitiate were absent from the Fair as Very Reverend Mother General's Silver Jubilee celebrations of Monastic Profession took place on the same day.



Roofing Project

Early this year we made an appeal for £186,180 funds to re-roof the main building of the monastery. We are pleased to inform you that the first stage of our re-roofing project was completed in November. It cost a total of £60,000. It has only been in this year, dedicated to St Joseph, that



extensive and effective work has taken place over the Retreat Centre thanks to his powerful prayers, the courage and skill of *First Roofing and Building Services FRBS* and to all who have contributed so generously in particular: the kind priest who donated a large sum of his inheritance towards our project, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate who raised money for us, our tearoom helpers who

worked tirelessly to raise funds for us, our benefactors, and the many small donations that covered a large part of the cost. We applied to several charities for grants but only one charity came to our aid; we are grateful to All Churches Trust for their £3,600 grant. We are also grateful to FRBS director, James McAllister, for kindly insulating and cladding the back wall of the guest house for free. We thank God for the roof over our heads and for the cleansing of souls that alms-giving brings. Also the guests in the Retreat Centre now no longer have to manoeuvre around buckets when contributing to the Ora et Labora of Benedictine Spirituality by washing up after their meals! The crowning achievement of the roofing work was a handsome cross in lead crafted in the roof that is visible from the pavement. The next 2 phases will cost about £120,000 but work cannot commence until we have raised a bulk sum of the money.



Oblate News



Jean Cairns (1946-2021) RIP

We were sorry to hear of the passing away of two of our Oblates: in the summer Jean Cairns (Sr Marie Therese), who faithfully organised the Legion of Mary all-night vigil every month since the beginning of our foundation here. Her funeral took place on the 10th of June, eve of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart and a sure sign of God's appreciation for her devoted adoration of the Heart of Jesus in the Eucharist, the inestimable

Sacrament of God's Love. She was an Oblate of the Monastery for 25 years. Anita Tolentino (Sr Mary Gertrude), came faithfully to Adoration and Sunday Mass with her family for many years and departed this life on the 11th of September. Her funeral Mass took place in our chapel on the 23rd of September. She was an oblate for 12 years. May they rest in peace and assist us in seeking those who will adore God in spirit and in truth, for His greater glory and the salvation of many souls.



Anita Tolentino (1933-2021) RIP

On 23 October, we had the admission ceremony of 2 Novice Oblates: Miss Claire McKelvie, who received the name: Sr. Marie Anne of the Sacred Heart, and Mrs Ann Gosh who received the name: Sr Mary Alphonsus of the Immaculate Heart. It was a solemn and joyful occasion which ended with refreshments in the tearoom.



Claire and Ann

This year's Oblates Retreat was held on 30th October and was preached by our chaplain Rev. Fr. John McFadden OMI. It was a day of prayer and recollection which ended with Vespers and Benediction.



Congregation News

On 18 September, our Cobh community, Ireland, had a double Monastic Profession ceremony of Sr Mary John of the Sacred Heart, and Sr Mary John Baptist of the Lamb of God. The Mass was presided by the diocesan bishop and concelebrated by 13 priests.

On 23rd October, Mother Mary Getrudis celebrated her Silver Jubilee at Tyburn Convent. It was a joyful celebration for the sisters and the Latin American community that come to Tyburn for Holy Mass and prayer.



Mother M. Gertrudis

The following day our beloved Sister, Mother M. Philip Howard of the Holy Trinity (Joyce Keedy) went to the Lord in the 82nd year of her age and the 47th of her Religious Profession. Her death was so unexpected as she had been to 2 Masses that day and didn't seem to be in any danger of death. Some of you may remember her being here with her Geordie accent and her bottle glass spectacles. She had kept the Account Books for



Mother Philip Howard RIP

several years until she could no longer continue due to failing eyesight. She was always punctual and good at keeping time and was a Reglementarian (one who gives the signal for the office and other monastic activities) for many years. She was a caring Sister with a great loyalty and love for the congregation. May she rest in peace and help us to be good

humoured in all the trials of life, as she was. The day after Mother Prioress and the noviate sisters arrived in London for Mother General's Jubilee, they went to Kensal Green Cemetery to visit her grave and those of our sisters buried there.

On 4th December, Abbot Hugh Allan O. Praem., presided at the Silver Jubilee Mass of Very Reverend Mother General, Marilla Aw, concelebrating with 7 other priests including our own chaplain Fr John McFadden OMI. The ceremony was well attended by friends and well wishers of Tyburn. Mother General is renowned for her love and care of the laity and so it was not surprising that there was a colourful display of costumed dancing and singing by the latino Marie Adele Prayer Group at the reception. May the Lord abundantly bless her throughout this Jubilee year and may the blessings flow forth to become a great river with fruitful trees of life on its banks.



VRM General and Abbot Hugh



The following day a new private shrine of St Joseph was opened. A procession of over 100 people took place from the chapel to the garth where the statue was crowned and the shrine blessed. It is situated next to our Mother Foundress' tomb. The procession then returned to the chapel to complete the ceremony with Benediction. The statue of St Joseph was originally with the Mill Hill Missionaries, who established the National Shrine of St Joseph over 120 years ago. Their founder Cardinal Vaughan, as third Archbishop of Westminster, was a friend of our Mother Foundress and instrumental in establishing the Mother House at Tyburn. In 2006 the National Shrine and statue of

St Joseph were transferred to St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough, (a Benedictine monastery). However the Mill Hill missionaries would kneel and pray before a second statue in their enclosure asking St Joseph for his intercession to provide vocations and resources for their missions. This statue was for a period of time at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and is now titled St Joseph of Walsingham. It was gifted to our Congregation to become a shrine, present with our Mother Foundress and all her Congregation to intercede for the spread of the Reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus throughout all nations from the international city of London.

Our Sisters and chaplain returned to Largs in time for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on 8th December, the titular feast of our monastery of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. The sanctuary and laity chapel were filled with glorious and abundant flowers. The feast marked the close of the year of St Joseph. We had a Holy Hour of Vespers and Benediction during which Fr. John McFadden gave a brief reflection on St Joseph and we recited his litany and consecration prayer.

If you would like to donate towards our new roof please visit our website at: <https://www.tyburnconvent.org.uk/largsmonasterydonations>

We also have an appeal page at GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/7ed80313>

If you would like to send us a cheque please make it payable to The Benedictine Monastery.

We wish each and every one of our friends and all those who read this letter a most Blessed and Happy Christmas, enfolded in the Peace which the world cannot give. Know that you are in our prayers and always loved by God.

The Tyburn Nuns, Largs