



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

Benedictine Monastery, 5 Mackerston Place, LARGS, KA30 8BY SCOTLAND Tel. 01475 687

# Christmas Newsletter, 2014.



“The Word was made flesh, He lived among us, and we saw His glory, the glory that is His as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.”(Jn. 1:14)

Dear Friends,

The great solemnity of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the Church's liturgical year is a reminder that Christmas is drawing near and therefore the season of Advent, which begins the new liturgical year, is a great preparation to celebrate the wonder of the Incarnation, God's greatest gift to us, His very own Son made incarnate for our salvation. Who can understand the mystery of God's love for us? This time of the year is the time to look back over the past year and thank God for the innumerable graces and blessings that His great love has poured out upon us, our near and dear ones our friends our country, our world, in a word, all humanity.

Here in our monastery we have experienced many graces and blessings in this past year.,

some of which I wish to recount here. First and foremost, our chaplain, Rev. Fr. Gerard Hamill MHM celebrated his ruby jubilee of priestly ordination on the great



solemnity of Corpus Christi (such an appropriate day) his community from Glasgow were here to concelebrate Holy Mass (which, for the occasion was held in the garden) with him. Rev. Fr. Gerard Hastie MHM preached a very inspiring homily, and Fr. Hamill's family and friends were here to celebrate with him on this joyous occasion. After Mass there was a reception in the tearoom put on by those who help there, everyone worked very hard to make it the joyous occasion that it was. In the afternoon Rev. Fr. Hamill gave us benediction, a fitting way to end such an occasion. We wish him many more years in the Lord's service.

Our annual strawberry tea which was held in the tearoom on 26th July was well attended and a great success in every way and we are very grateful to everyone who helped to make it so. The same holds true for our Christmas fayre which was held on 22nd Nov. a lot of people attended and everyone enjoyed themselves.



On 25th Sept. we had the privilege to have the Rev. John Keenan, Bishop of Paisley, (whom some of you know) in our midst to celebrate Holy Mass for us, although he had to leave soon after Holy Mass, he took the time and graciously greeted everyone before leaving, which was appreciated very much by everyone.

Our annual Unity Supper was held in the tearoom on 9th October and was attended by a



good number of people, some of whom had not been here before. Everyone appreciated the delicious meal (which was prepared by the tearoom helpers).



On the same day as our Christmas Fayre, 22nd. November, the new bishop for this diocese was announced. He is Rev. Fr. William Nolan who is Vicar General of the Motherwell diocese and who served in the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes for 20 yrs. His Episcopal ordination will take place next year on 14th. February. We pray that he will have a fruitful ministry and we assure him of our daily prayers. We also take this opportunity to thank Bishop John Cunningham for his pastoral care of the diocese and wish him a happy and peace filled retirement with the assurance of our continued prayers for him and his near and dear ones and indeed all his intentions.

The following Saturday, 29th November was the 1st. anniversary of the Clutha Vaults tragedy, where 9 people died and another person died later as a result of the tragedy. Here in our monastery we remembered it with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass being offered for the repose of the souls of those who died. May they rest in peace!

The following day, 30th. November was the first Sunday in the holy season of Advent, which marks the beginning of the new liturgical year which was particularly special for us this year as Pope Francis has said that this year will be dedicated to the promotion of consecrated life on the occasion of the 50th. anniversary of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium*, which speaks of religious in its sixth chapter, and of the Decree *Perfectae Caritatis* on the renewal of religious life. During this year especially, much more than at any other time, we invite groups and individuals to come to our monastery by day or by night to pray for vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life, retreats also available. For more information and bookings contact Mother Prioress.

Our monastery has been busy this year with people coming for retreats and Eucharistic adoration by day and by night. The tearoom and museum have also received a lot of visitors, both groups and individuals. The monastery shop is also very popular with a variety of devotional and spiritual reading books and pious objects available by ringing the doorbell just inside the front door outside Holy Mass and Divine Office times. All are welcome to join us for Holy Mass and Divine Office daily.

During the coming year the monthly study day on Mother Foundress' life and spirituality will continue on the last Saturday of each month, beginning on 31st. January 2015. This year of the consecrated life it will focus particularly on her contribution to the consecrated life and the necessity of her spirituality in the Church in our time. For more information and bookings please contact Mother Prioress.



One of the big events that the Church has celebrated this year has been the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops, which was held from 5th -



19th Oct. ending with the beatification of Pope Paul VI during the closing Mass. We followed closely the excellent newspaper coverage of it especially the input of our own Scottish representative, Archbishop Phillip Tartaglia who was asked to address a reflection at the start of the session on the third morning.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all our friends and benefactors who have been so generous to us throughout the past year, we wish you and yours every grace and blessing for a truly holy and happy Christmas and NewYear, and we assure you of our continued prayers before the Lord in the Sacrament of His Love.

Mother Prioress and the community.

