

CHRISTMAS, 2019

Dear Friends,

Despite all the hustle and bustle at Christmas, we hope that this festive time will give us opportunity for reflection, joy and contact with the goodness and mercy of our God. St. Francis of Assisi said that: "Christmas is the feast of feasts because on this day God became a small Child who depended on His Mother for His every need, just like all of us". Francis longed to experience up close the Birth of Jesus and so he invented the Christmas Crib, hoping in this way to express the special warmth, humanity, humility and goodness of our God. The manger expresses the poverty into which Jesus was born. In this simplicity there is no barrier of majesty to separate us from God. In contemplating the Crib we remember that later in His Life Jesus told us: "Unless you turn and become like children, you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven".



It was St. Francis who placed the Child in the manger between an ox and an ass. Scripture makes no mention of animals, but Francis is returning to Isaiah who wrote: "The ox knows its owner and the ass its master's crib, but Israel does not know, My people does not understand". So these represent those who know God and those who do not. But those of us who gaze upon the Crib in our home or in our church are those who seek to know Him.

COMMUNITY NEWS: Our friends David and Margaret have kindly provided us with a harp! Now we are processing into choir to the angelic sounds of hymns plucked joyfully for us by our Sr. Harpist. Many Mass goers come early or stay on to listen to this heavenly music.

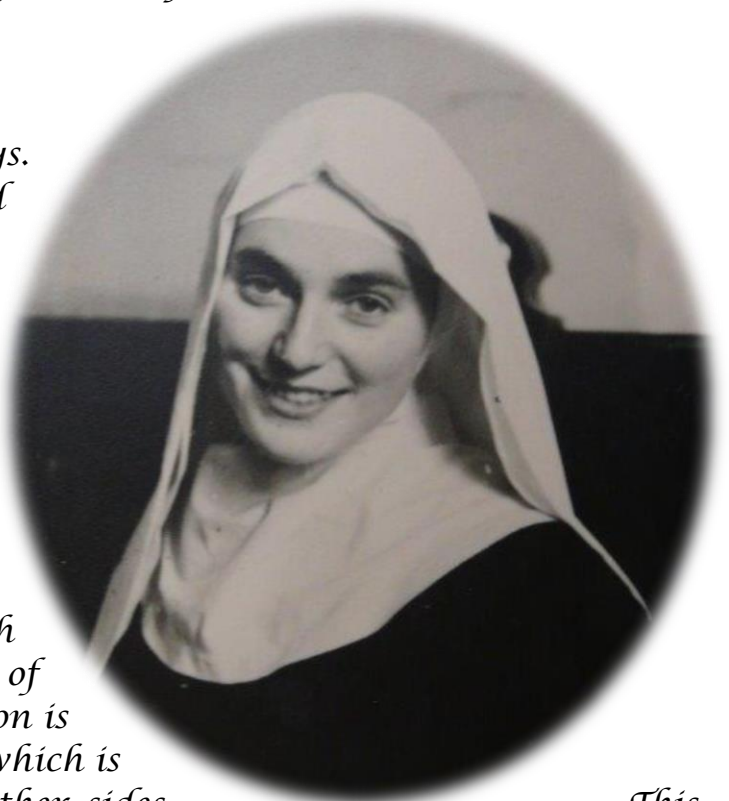
Our Sr. M. Walburga, who was assigned to Tyburn Convent, London, some months ago, has recently returned to us. Being Australian, she is not disappointed to be leaving London before the winter season, returning home in time to welcome in summer. We are happy to have her back with us.



Rev. Mother M. Cyril has quietly celebrated her 91st birthday. Mother received several gifts of colourful flowers to brighten the day. You may be interested to see the photo of Mother below, as a Novice.

On 15th August we had the Fatima Pilgrim statue in our chapel. Many people joined us for a Holy Hour with a Rosary, readings and hymns.

Our Chaplain, Rev. Fr. John Rizzo, supplies us with daily Mass and Benediction on Sundays. He brightens our feast days with treats, jokes and laughter. For Rev. Mother Cyril he brought a little teddy bear, so full of character that it has become our favourite pet!



Our Oblates help us in so many ways. Maria has done a lot of beautiful and much-needed sewing for us. Rick does a great job of painting, including the monastery bell. Peter comes regularly as our Mass Server. Our good friend, Eamon is turning the shrine garden into an oasis of serenity and peace. It is secluded from the passing traffic by a dark green colour-bond fence along which are planted white gardenia bushes. The Stations of the Cross line both sides of the path leading up to the Shrine of Our Lady, Help of Christians. Each Station is marked by a one tonne sandstone block which is polished on two sides, natural on the other sides.

This brings out the natural variations of colour in each block. Behind each block is a large wooden cross on which will be placed an icon depicting its theme and number. Between the blocks, spanning the path, there are steel arches over which are being trained wisteria vines in alternating colours of purple, white and pink. This area is open to the public.



THE "MINI FARM": We can no longer claim to have a mini farm because the livestock is greatly reduced. The two silkies went broody and were given to our little friend, Marykate, who soon after also received the two bantams which had begun to eat their eggs. Marykate loves these little creatures which she tends with motherly care. One of the alpacas had an accident. He ran into a sharp object and was badly injured. We managed to find a vet, but by the time she was able to come, the poor little animal was beyond her help and so it was gently put to sleep. This leaves us with two hens, two alpacas and one little rabbit named Bobby.

Bobby is not at all pleased with us because when the banana tree grew too close to the guesthouse, we had to cut it down. This was Bobby's little hermitage which he greatly misses.

THE MONKS OF THE SACRED HEART: Rev. Fr. Manuel and Rev. Fr. Hector, the Colombian priests who began their postulancy as Tyburn Monks at Maison Garnier last 15th August, came to the Mother House - Tyburn Convent in London - in September, to begin their preparation for the Novitiate. After making their retreat at our monastery in Largs, Scotland, they returned to the Mother House and entered on their Novitiate on 3rd October. They received their new names and monastic habits from Mother General.

R. Fr Manuel is now Fr. Benedict Mary of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus and R. Fr. Hector is now Fr. Bernard Mary of the Sacred Heart. The novice monks will stay in England until February, during which time they will experience life in a male Benedictine monastery. They said: "We will return to our country to continue our journey. In Colombia we do not have a monastery, only a plot of land for its construction. We place our hope in Divine Providence and in St. Joseph". After two years as novices, the Fathers will make Temporary Profession for three years and then Monastic Profession (Perpetual Vows).

CONGREGATION NEWS: The three South American houses are getting vocations. Mother M. Eucaris made her Monastic Profession in Ecuador. Sister M. Esperanza made her Temporary Profession in Peru. Sister M. Ethelburga made her Monastic Profession in Largs, the first of the Kaffin Koro Sisters to reach this milestone. The community in Peru have had to move out of their church which was found to be unsafe. Now they need to raise funds for reconstruction while they use part of the guesthouse for Mass, Adoration etc.



In Bombay, New Zealand, yet another extension has been completed to the Chapel. They have erected a canopy at the entrance which gives them a covered area with twenty chairs.

In France the Sisters have celebrated the first anniversary of the Opening of Maison Garnier. A large crowd attended Mass in the little chapel, and many of them joined in a Rosary Procession and stayed for refreshments in the grounds of the Maison. A pilgrim passing by offered his help, so they asked him to carry the banner of Our Lady in the Rosary Procession to the castle church of St John and return. He was delighted and touched to be included.

We are in contact with some good people who collect used and old stamps which are processed and sold to collectors. The profits go to support the Missions and they tell us that every stamp is precious and not one is wasted! If you have any unwanted stamps, we would be happy to pass them on. Thank you.

We are very grateful to our friends for your support for us and for our missions and foundations. If you kindly wish to help, our BANK DETAILS are

*Tyburn Priory – ANZ Bank
BSB 012 874
Account number 2327 41633*

Please could you state whether your donation is for the Missions or for Tyburn Priory. Could cheques please be made payable to "Tyburn Priory".

Your intentions are included in our daily prayers and our Christmas Mass will be offered for you and your loved ones. Wishing you a blessed, joyful and peaceful Christmas.

The Tyburn Nuns

