



The VINE

News from the Secular Discalced Carmelite Community in England and Wales



June 2024



Quidenham garden

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Deadline for contributions to the next Vine: Friday 4 October 2024
Contact: Tim Burton OCDS carmel@kinabra.net 07719 320284

FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

25th May 2024

Feast of St Mary Magdalen of Pazzi OCD

Come, Holy Spirit

Dear Fellow Carmelites

In this vibrant season, when nature is bursting forth, the Holy Spirit pours out His seven gifts, wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. From these we bear abundant fruit in our daily lives, enriched by our vocation to Carmel. May our hearts and minds be open wide to receive these gifts with confidence and joy.

The Holy Spirit, like the wind that “blows where it wills”, is certainly moving within the Secular Order, both nationally and world-wide. We are becoming more courageous, more determined, more persevering in discerning vocations to the Carmelite Order. We are opening the doors of Carmel to those who live far away from any OCDS community but are yearning to discover our charism and go deeper into the heart of God (as our new OCDS leaflet puts it).

We are not half way through the year but already have had twenty-nine new enquirers through the website (plus two from Ireland and one from India). Not all will find their home in Carmel, but I am amazed at the efforts they make to meet other Carmelites, and the efforts made by communities to make them welcome.

Our Regional days and OCDS retreats play a pivotal role in bringing us together, inceptors and experienced Carmelites, and deepening our Carmelite spirituality, greatly helped by Fr Matt’s talks. These events give us the opportunity to share our experiences and give each other support when challenges emerge. No-one is on their own in Carmel, no-one need carry a burden on their own. As Fr Matt has often said, communities are autonomous but not independent of the Order. We share the same charism and support each other in following the Rule of St Albert with the friars and sisters, and our Constitutions.

Let us never lose heart. Our vocation is a gift, not a burden. Let every person in our communities use their gifts to serve their community and the Order. If we are called, the Holy Spirit will give us the wisdom and fortitude, the strength and courage to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of God’s presence in our deepest centre.

Annette

EAST ANGLIA REGIONAL DAY

Quidenham March 2024

The Secular Order Communities of East Anglia have been meeting twice a year at Quidenham Carmel for some time now and each gathering has a special family feel to it. The sisters always make us welcome and Fr Matt joins us for our regional day proper in the autumn often with Annette as well. There are only three Secular Order Communities in East Anglia – Quidenham, Letchworth and Norwich – but over the years, we’ve come to know each other and look forward to sharing some time together.

We met again during Lent this year when Fr Mike Smith OCDS was with us to celebrate Mass and receive the First Promise of Loretta Taylor and entrance into Formation for Sona McCullough, Maria Taubenhaus and Filip Zeilinski. For each of them and for the rest of us too it was a very joyful celebration.



Maria, Sona and Filip



Loretta



The Travelling Pilgrim

Rosie Bradshaw, the Moderator of the Third Order O.Carms spent the day with us and gave us a guided reflection on the icon shown opposite which she has named ‘The Travelling Pilgrim’.

Rosie started by explaining the process of preparing the canvas, making it ready to receive the images of the Holy Spirit hovering over the Virgin Mary and Christ child and those pillars of Carmel, Elijah and St Joseph which I hope you will be able to make out from the photograph of the icon. Our Lady is surrounded by the saints of Carmel, two of whom can just be made out wearing the original striped cloak of the early years of the Order. Aylesford Priory is there too with its legendary black swans and over to the left an early priory from the north of England which has special significance for the O.Carms.

Her description of the making of the icon was a meditation in itself and was greatly appreciated by those present.

COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL AND ST TERESA OF JESUS, KENSINGTON

In the afternoon, Sr Stephanie, the Prioress, gave us a talk on Psalm 118 (119) which begins 'Oh how I love your Law!'. The psalmist repeatedly proclaims Israel's profound gratitude for the Word which Sr Stephanie compares with the largest room in the Interior castle where St Teresa spent so much time, 'having made the journey from fear to love, death to life'.

This divine love then, that expands the heart with an unspeakable sweetness, has a momentum of its own. This love either stretches forward to or flows onward from a crucial milestone in our lives: the commitment of vows and sacred promises. For us as nuns it is ceremony which Psalm 118 (119) has been key for centuries: 'Receive me O Lord, as you have promised, and I shall live: do not disappoint me in my hope' (Ps 118/119: 116). This blessed hope for which we all dream and cast our future on, is no ephemeral thing, for God does not faint or grow weary and 'those that wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary!' (Is 40:31). Perhaps we should adopt Psalm 118 too for those making Promises.

She went on to talk about the importance of humility and obedience:

Obedience to the Father

Obedience to others out of love for the Father

Obedience in difficulties even injustice

Joy in the poorest and worst

Heartfelt inner conviction on one's absolute poverty before God.

The full transcript of Sr Stephanie's talk is now available in the Formation Resources part of the 'For Seculars' area of the site (password: Albert), under St Teresa of Avila

Joan MacInnes

As many readers will be aware, the last year has been a difficult time for us as a Community with the sudden death of our former President Marisa Wilson. Marisa had stepped back from the role in 2022 and remained a highly valued member, her sudden illness and death saddened us. Yet at the same time, for the many Secular Carmelites who attended her funeral in Orpington, there were moments of profound remembrance and joy as we pondered her life. We hold her family very much in our prayers, may Marisa rest in peace and rise in glory.

It has been a busy few months for the Community as we completed our reading of *The Story of a Soul* and began to prepare to read *The Living Flame of Love*. Two years ago we made the decision to extend our time of silent prayer to one hour, incorporating Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Evening Prayer. This has been such a blessing and is now a highly valued part of our day together.

We also had the joy of two of our members taking their First Promise in April. We wish Elisabetta Canetta and Christiane Ghose every blessing in the years ahead. I would like to thank them for the way they have embraced formation and service within our community and region, both committing themselves to various responsibilities and always performing them with generosity of spirit and complete fidelity to our way of life.

Elisabetta, who has a deep knowledge of Carmel, particularly St John of the Cross, has created a programme for those approaching us for the first time and who want to learn more about Secular Carmel. She is also the Regional Librarian and assisted with the development of our popular resource in the Priory. Meanwhile Christiane has stepped into the role of Infirmarian with complete dedication and care. This role provides such a valuable link between those who may be unwell or isolated and who appreciate a call or letter and who want to maintain their connection with the Carmelite family. In addition, we have developed a

monthly act of remembrance for the deceased founders, benefactors and members of our community. This moment of prayer has grounded us in the history of our community and Carmel in London and helps us to look to the future whilst also relying on their intercession.



L-R: Elisabetta Canetta and Christiane Ghose

In early June we will make our now annual visit to our Nuns at Notting Hill and in July are planning to have a picnic in the Priory garden, we hope to welcome some of the Friars and guests. We look forward to sharing news and photos of these events with you all in the next edition.

*Christian Kendall-Daw
President*

CORNWALL GROUP

We all very much enjoyed the South West OCDS Retreat at St Rita's Centre, Honiton, and Father Matt's inspirational talks. A special highlight for us was the Reception into Formation of Andrea Caceres de Lam. She was accompanied by her husband and little boy. (see photo).

Another cause for celebration was the marriage of MaryClare Whitehead and Peter Shaw, both members of our group (photo below). Their wedding took place at Sclerder Abbey, near Looe, which was formerly a Carmelite Monastery. I don't think it's often that two Secular Carmelites marry each other, though I may be wrong! We wish them every happiness for their future life together.

At the moment, we are enjoying watching the 'Our Father' series of videos with Fr Liam and Fr Alex. We are also continuing with our reading of the writings of St Thérèse.

We are looking forward to our annual Retreat in September, which will be at St Rita's, together with Bristol Secular Carmelite group. Thanks to Patrick and Stella for letting us join them and for making the arrangements.

Joan Brown



MaryClare Whitehead and Peter Shaw

NEW GROUPS

Birmingham

June will see the inaugural meeting of a new Secular group. 'Going Deeper with the Carmelite Saints', is the title of its meeting from 10.30-1400 on Saturday 22nd June, 2024 at St Paul's Convent, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7LL. For further details anyone interested should contact Martin Auger: 07779132372 or email: m.auger@btopenworld.com

Please bring a packed lunch on the day and consider a small donation to St Paul's Convent. Tea, coffee and car parking provided.

Manchester

A new group has been meeting in Manchester since April. For details contact: ocdsmanchester@gmail.com

Coventry

A new group is meeting on the first Saturday of each month in the church of Christ the King. Mass at 9.30am is followed by a holy hour including the rosary and a period of silent prayer. The group then gathers at 11.00am for a two-hour meeting in the library followed by a bring-your-own sandwich lunch for those who can stay.

WEBSITE ADDITIONS

Do check our website for the following:

- Newly uploaded talks by **Fr Iain Matthew and Fr Matt Blake** - see the News section on the Home page for links.
- Our new **OCDS Blog**, regular postings of stimulating reflections from Cyprian Blamires OCDS. See the link in the main menu. Cyprian would greatly welcome contributions to the blog. If you come across a spiritual quote you find especially helpful, if you want to recommend a book to others, if you have been listening to a wonderful podcast, if you want to publicise a meeting, please do send him material – either for an entry or for insertion into one: cpblamires@aol.com

'LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH EVANGELICAL HOPE, WITH UNSHOD FEET.'

There have been some very poignant moments for the Carmelite family in the last few months: from our Nuns meeting together near Rome and making a visit to Pope Francis, through to interesting developments with St Edith Stein and the move to declare her a Doctor of the Church, and news of the potential canonisation of Blessed Marie-Eugène of the Child Jesus.



International Meeting of OCD Nuns in Nemi, Italy, April 2024. Photo credit: Vatican Media

Representatives of our Nuns from throughout the world recently spent time together in Nemi, near Rome, from the 14 to 20 of April 2024, to reflect on changes to their constitutions. During their meeting they were given an audience with the Holy Father. Pope Francis welcomed them warmly to the Vatican, for many this encounter was a very special moment. Some of the speech is worth quoting because the words of our Holy Father are relevant to us as Secular Carmelites. He encouraged the Nuns to remain inwardly open to the workings of the Holy Spirit, which is a constant message of this Pontificate, so that

'you are challenged to discover new language, new ways and new means to give greater impetus to the contemplative life that the Lord has called you to embrace, so that the charism of Carmel may be preserved ... and that it may become understood and attract many hearts, for the glory of God and

the good of the Church. When a Carmel works well, it attracts, it attracts, doesn't it? It is like light with flies, it attracts, it attracts.'

Pope Francis described the contemplative message of our Holy Mother, Teresa of Jesus, as being one which

'permeates and transforms our whole life, without ever withdrawing us from our daily responsibilities or suggesting a flight into spiritual matters alone.'

Again, for us as Secular Carmelites, there is that reminder that we find God amongst our daily family life and professional commitments. In those often-demanding occupations, we also have a responsibility, and here the Holy Father quotes Teresa of Jesus directly, to

'draw souls to him so that they may be saved and may praise him forever.'



Meeting of International OCD Nuns with Pope Francis, Rome. Photo credit: Vatican Media

But as is often the case with Pope Francis, he also gives us a gentle nudge, as would any good spiritual director. He comments that, 'in this way, the contemplative life will not risk degenerating into a spiritual inertia that withdraws from the tasks of daily life – a priest who did not know this type of mysticism called them 'the drowsy nuns', who live in sleep – and it will continue to provide the interior light needed for discernment.' This is a helpful reminder for us to not become drowsy. Rather, we are called to dynamically embrace our promises of obedience, chastity, poverty, and the Beatitudes, to live them to the full, uniting ourselves fully to the intentions of the Holy Father and our Carmelite family.



Father General and members of our Curia presenting Pope Francis with documentation to support the request outlined below. Photo credit: Vatican Media

During that visit to Pope Francis, our Father General presented all the documentation required to petition Rome to declare St Edith Stein a Doctor of the Church. This is something to keep in our prayers because, as I am sure many of us would feel, our world so urgently needs to experience her presence and voice. Edith – Teresa Benedicta of the Cross – would become the fifth female Doctor of the Church and the fourth Discalced Carmelite Doctor.

The title would acknowledge her significant contribution to her philosophical and theological contribution to the teaching of the Church. As an Order we have made a special petition that she will be recognised as a 'Doctor Veritatis' or 'Doctor of the Truth' in light of her considerable contribution to philosophy and her own personal desire for the Truth.

Meanwhile in France, the Diocese of Avignon, is currently examining a miracle attributed to Blessed Marie-Eugène of the Child Jesus which may well lead to him being declared a Saint. This is a momentous moment for the Order and the institute he founded, Notre Dame de Vie. He will become the third friar to be canonised after St John of the Cross and St Raphael Kalinowski.

There has been increasing interest in the life of this Blessed, with regular meetings being held in the Priory in Kensington, known as the 'Friends of the Blessed Marie-Eugène'.



Blessed Marie-Eugène of the Child Jesus. Photo credit: Notre Dame de Vie

Two books have also been recently published which bring fresh attention to his writings. Cyprian Blamires OCDS has offered a wonderful translation of previously untranslated texts, entitled *John of the Cross: a Living Flame*. Sr Elizabeth Ruth Obbard OCD has recently published *Praying and Acting: the Contemplative Apostle*. She helpfully distils key elements of Marie-Eugène's teaching into digestible chapters.

By way of conclusion, it feels entirely appropriate to end with the words of our Holy Father when he spoke to our Nuns, words which could have been uttered by both St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross and Bl Marie-Eugène of the Child Jesus:

'Look ahead. That is my wish for you. Look to the future with evangelical hope, with unshod feet, that is, with the freedom born of abandonment to God. Look to the future with roots in the past. May your complete immersion in the Lord's presence always fill you with the joy of sisterhood and mutual love. May Our Lady accompany you on this path.'

Christian Kendall-Daw
President, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Teresa of Jesus, Kensington

PRAYING PSALM 63

Gaby Aly writes:

Whilst I was praying Psalm 63 recently, I was blessed with the Holy Spirit 'giving' me what feels like an enormously precious gift to be shared with others. I hope it gives those who read/pray this, what God desires for us all – an experience of His immense love for each of us, as His most wondrous creation.

O (*your own name*), you are my child and it is for you that I long
For you my being is thirsting
All of me pines for you
Like a dry weary land without water
So I gaze on you from the sanctuary and see your weaknesses but your many strengths also.
For your love of me is better than all else in your life
I shall forever boast of you, you are my wonderful creation
So I will love you for all of eternity
Your name, (*own name*), is my name also
Your soul shall be filled with my banquet
My being shall praise you with joy.
On your bed I watch over you
On you my child I muse through the night
For you are my creation, my being on earth
I will hold your soul close to me

JOURNEY INTO CARMEL

On 16 of December 2024 Ioan Ap Dewi made his First Promise at St John Evangelist Catholic Church, Birkenhead (pictured below). Our parish Priest Father Mario received his Promise in the absence of the Carmelite Friar. In this article Ioan is sharing his journey with us.

Flower of Carmel Secular Community, Wirral

Ioan Ap Dewi

I made my First Promise on 16 December 2023 in the Flower of Carmel Secular Community, Birkenhead. It was a wonderful day and a great privilege for me.

A Journey

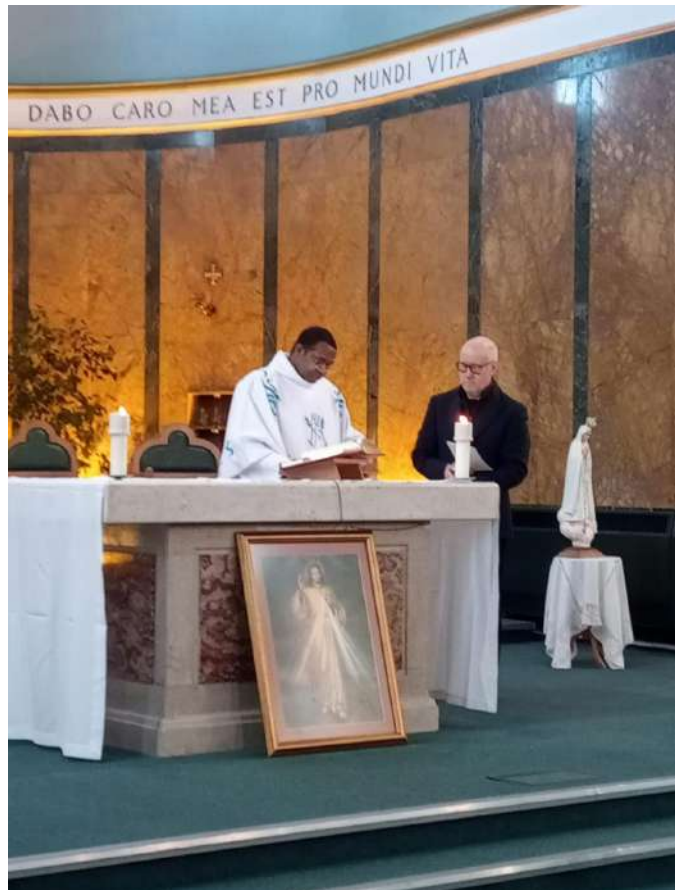
My life's journey feels like an ongoing adventure. It has been marked, not so much by twists and turns, but by a steady, mostly gentle progression. Several of the changes along the way have been associated with life events, some routine, and others sudden and traumatic. Another characteristic is that I had no idea where I was headed. I only had the sense that at each point I had to choose one path or another. But, throughout my life, Jesus Christ has been a constant presence; the journey has been with Jesus and has always taken me towards him. A particular blessing is that my wife, Sian, has travelled a parallel and shared path; we were not always exactly in step but were always moving in the same direction, and at this point have arrived at similar destinations.

About myself

I was born in August 1959. I am married and have two children and four grandchildren. My wife works as a Spirituality Team member at St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre. After 6 years as a student, studying agriculture, I worked for the Ministry of Agriculture for four years. From 1987, until my retirement in 2018, I worked at the university in Bangor, as a lecturer/researcher and in administration. In retirement, I have various projects and tasks to keep me occupied, alongside my Formation work and private reading and study.

Religious background

I was raised as a Protestant in non-conformist Welsh chapels; my father and mother were ordained in this tradition. I attended services regularly, and Sunday School in a chapel called Carmel! I made a stronger personal commitment in my mid-teens. From student days my focus was largely Evangelical and Baptist, but, for largely pragmatic reasons, so that we could worship together as a family, I became an Anglican in the



1990s. I stepped down from a demanding post in 2009, and during my response to that stressful situation, I recognised the need for my faith to be more than attending church on a Sunday. From this time, I used forms of daily prayer and tried to devote more space to spiritual reading. Whenever possible, I attended weekday services and became strongly attracted to the Anglo Catholic 'side' of Anglican theology and worship. From the end of 2015, and linked to my interest in Carmel, as I shall explain later, I became increasingly attracted to silence and silent prayer. I also attended silent, taught, and guided retreats. Prompted by a question, early in 2019, about my role in the

Anglican church, I had a period of intense and often painful discernment which led to a decision to become Catholic. After preparation and catechesis, I was received into the Catholic Church at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Llandudno, at the beginning of November 2019.

Carmel

When I became responsible for a farm in 2015, after the sudden and unexpected death of my stepfather, I recognised the danger of being swamped by the situation, to the detriment of my spiritual life. I was determined to maintain my focus on God and to keep him at the centre of my life. I pursued options for spiritual accompaniment and was happy that Sr Gabriela, from the Community of our Lady of Walsingham, was able to direct me. I did not know it at the time, but this Order is rooted in the Carmelite tradition. I also searched for places to go on retreat and was attracted by the programme at Boars Hill. I knew nothing about Carmelites at that time! I attended retreats there in 2016 and 2018. The retreats introduced me to aspects of Carmelite spirituality, but equally important, I felt at home at Boars Hill, with the teaching and with those who were there, friars and participants. I started reading about Carmelite spirituality and the Carmelite saints. However, I recognised that I could not fully participate in Carmel as an Anglican. But, the interest remained, albeit as an outsider.

As I went through catechesis, I felt that I needed a firm foundation for my ongoing journey – and decided to explore the possibility of finding that in Carmelite spirituality and in fellowship with Carmelites. I approached the Secular Order in 2019 and was offered a chance to join the 'Anglesey' group in North Wales. I decided not to pursue it at that time. I approached the Order again in 2021 and joined the Community of the Flower of Carmel in November of that year. I was received into Formation in September 2022. I attended my first Regional Retreat in 2023 and it was great to meet other members of the Order. I have wondered why I am drawn to Carmelite spirituality. The attraction is somewhat intangible, but there is a strong sense of finding a home

amongst likeminded people, about the Carmelite saints and the patronage of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; all pointing to Christ 'the true mountain'. There is also something about growing into myself, and finding a true expression of who I am.

It's all God's work

The danger with a biographical account like this one is that it focuses on me, with too many 'I's and 'My's in the text. But hopefully, it will be obvious that this is all God's work because: (a) it is highly unlikely that I would have reached this point by myself; (b) 'negative' events in my life have prompted 'positive' changes in my spiritual life; and (c) I have ended up somewhere I did not know existed less than ten years ago. It is also reassuring that the key decisions were always tested and approved by others.

I have not referred to the contribution of all those who have taught, supported and guided me. I am grateful to so many but have not named them here. I am particularly grateful to members of my Community for welcoming, accepting and encouraging me. In addition to the formal sessions of Formation and sharing, I have benefited from the interaction with Community members and have learnt a lot about the life of a Secular Carmelite from their reactions to the events in their lives.

I started by reflecting on my journey, and, of course, it is a work in progress. I know that it will ultimately lead to a place, to paraphrase a Welsh hymn, where I will feast forever on the pure substance of heaven. I do not know where the journey will take me in this life, but it is a blessing that it can continue in Carmel.

Constitutions now available

Copies of our Constitutions can now be obtained from our President, Annette Goulden for £4.00 plus postage.

To order and arrange payment please email Annette at:

annette@goulden.co.uk

OBITUARY

Tony Aplin

Caroline Dawnay writes:

I thought a few lines about our dear departed Tony in April would be good for the Vine. I am enclosing Sue's comment which I asked her for, as she is, after Tony, our longest serving member in the Wincanton community. I hope you don't mind combining our memories!

I remember Tony being part of my community life in Wincanton ever since I joined in 1989. He came to Formation in 1980, made his first promise in 1982 and his definite promise in 1985. He died in April and his funeral was on the 9th May. His remains were interred beside his beloved wife in the Wincanton cemetery. His grandchildren carried his coffin, including his granddaughter, first time I've witnessed a girl doing this! and one of his grandsons, Adam said the Hail Mary in Spanish, in memory of his grandmother.

He has been an inspiration to me over the years. His fidelity, humour, love and making light of later disabilities lifted our spirits. His deep faith and joy in the Lord was always evident and it was wonderful being with him and his wife Maria who died some years ago in Avila. I used to meet them both by those great walls saying their Evening Prayer together. His 88th birthday on the feast of St Matthias was celebrated in heaven with his beloved wife.

We miss him so much.

Sue Berkley-Matthews writes:

Tony has been part of my Carmelite life for ever!! I started going to the meetings 79/80 and he must have joined much the same time. . A man of great faith, love and kindness, who adored his wife and family. He and Marie came to Avila with all of us, she very Spanish and always laughing and joking with him. And of course always being at the meetings regularly. One of our very few, treasured, male Seculars, who contributed so much to our discussions over the years.

A NEW LEAFLET FOR THE SECULAR ORDER

Thank you to Cyprian Blamires and Deborah van Koonenburg (with a small contribution from myself) for writing and designing – and organising printing for – our new trifold leaflet about the Secular Order. This is an invaluable way of making the Discalced Carmelite charism better known in the wider Church and facilitating Secular vocations.

Where do I go now?
The chief source of information about the Secular Carmelites in the UK is our website at secularcarmel.org.uk
It can be accessed via the QR code here:

Carmelites have told us that what Carmel means to them is:
'Persistence in prayer no matter what'
'Loving God and seeing him in each other'
'A continual call to prayer'
'The boundless assurance given by our Carmelite saints'
'Unshakable belief in the power of prayer'
'To live constantly in the presence of God, fully exposed to his penetrating and transforming love'
'Carmel is for me to be a soul of love'
'All God asks of you is to be yourself before him'

St Teresa of Avila's prayer for guidance:
I am Thine, I was born for Thee,
What is Thy will with me?
Let me be rich or beggared,
Exulting or repining,
And comforted or lonely,
O Life – O Sunlight shining
In stainless purity!
Since I am Thine, Thine only,
What is Thy will with me?

LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP
Introducing the Secular Carmelites and their role in the Church
A way of going deeper into the heart of God

Lay people in Religious Orders
The Religious Orders are a priceless treasure in the Catholic Church. Lay persons can be part of this treasure themselves while remaining in the lay state – by joining movements whose members aspire to live in the spirit of the Order in question while not actually living in community.

Lay people in Carmel
The lay movement attached to the Teresian Carmelites – the Carmel of St Teresa of Avila, St John of the Cross, St Thérèse of Lisieux, St Elizabeth of the Trinity – is known as the Secular (meaning 'lay') Carmelite Order. We feed our souls on these and other great Carmelite teachers of prayer. The charism of Carmel involves going deeper in prayer as an inspiration for everyday action.

History of the Order
The Carmelites are the only Order originating in the Holy Land itself, and – though their origins are lost in the mists of time – we hear of their existence from the twelfth century onwards. The first members were male hermits on Mount Carmel who felt a close affinity with St Elijah – whom they took as their patron along with Our Lady. They fled to Europe in the thirteenth century when their existence was threatened by the Muslim presence in the Holy Land. The Women's Order and the Secular Order were established in the mid-15th century.

Is Carmel for me...?
What commitment to OCDS involves
Membership of a local community and through this the worldwide Order.
Attendance at monthly community meetings (focusing on study, discussion, and prayer)
A rule of life involving the private recital of the Morning and Evening Prayer of the Church plus a daily period of silent prayer.
Regular attendance at Mass

Might I have a vocation to Carmel?
Indications of a vocation to Carmel might include:
Spiritual hunger, a longing to go deeper into the treasures of the Catholic faith
An attraction to one or more of the Carmelite saints
A desire to spend time alone with God

Some of our guides in Carmel
St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)
One of the most astonishing figures in the history of the Church; she founded seventeen monasteries in twenty years, thereby spearheading the reform of the ancient Carmelite Order, and she wrote four spiritual classics that are still immensely popular today.
St John of the Cross (1542-1591)
One of the greatest teachers of contemplative prayer in the history of the Church, his writings have inspired countless poets and writers as well as spiritual leaders down to the present day.
St Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897)
A remarkable figure who spent all her adult life behind the walls of a monastery unknown to the outside world, but wrote a spiritual masterpiece, *Story of a Soul*, which has since sold millions of copies; her teaching of 'the Little Way' has entranced and inspired many.
St Edith Stein (1891-1942)
A German Jewish convert to the Catholic faith and an acclaimed philosopher who became a Carmelite. She died in Auschwitz together with her sister Rosa, leaving a body of profound spiritual writings.

Modern guides
Among Carmelite teachers of prayer to whom many today look for inspiration are the late Ruth Burrows, Elizabeth Obbard, Fr. Iain Matthew.

To order copies please contact Cyprian:
cpblamires@aol.com

2024 OCDS retreats update

Retreat Centre	Rooms	available	dates	organiser
Honiton			28 -30 June	Wincanton group
Douai Abbey	22	full	2 - 6 July	c.armelle@btinternet.com
Ampleforth		2 places	15 - 19 July	imaryfarrell@yahoo.co.uk
Wistaston	27	1 place	26 -28 July	annette@goulden.co.uk
The Briery, Ilkley	22	several	13 – 15 Sept	Mary Farrell
Honiton			20-22 Sept	Bristol & St Austell Groups

Regional Days and pilgrimage 2024

June 22	Walsingham Pilgrimage
September 28 -	North Regional Day, Thicket Priory
October 5	East Anglia Regional Day, Quidenham
October 19	Central Regional Day, Northampton

CACS Organised Pilgrimages

		topic
October 10 – 16	Avila	St Teresa of Avila
December 20 – 27	Israel	Ascent to Mount Carmel
September 2 – 6	Lisieux and Alencon	led by Fr John McGowan

2025

September 19 – 21	Presidents' Conference	Hinsley Hall, Leeds
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Stop-press

The OCDS retreat 2-6 July at Douai Abbey has room for one more. Please get in touch with Armelle Belcher if you are interested: c.armelle@btinternet.com

ADMISSIONS AND PROMISES

Ioan ap Dewi	Wirral	16 December	First Promise
Elisabetta Canetta	Kensington	6 April	First Promise
Christiane Ghose	Kensington	6 April	First Promise
Loretta Taylor	Norwich	23 March	First Promise
Sona McCullough	Norwich	23 March	Admission to Formation
Maria Taubenhau	Norwich	23 March	Admission to Formation
Filip Zeilinski	Norwich	23 March	Admission to Formation