



The **VINE**



FEBRUARY 2020

News from the Secular Discalced Carmelite Community in England and Wales



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Deadline for contributions to the next Vine: Tuesday 9 June 2020
Contact: Tim Burton OCDS carmel@kinabra.net 01328 700165

Photo above: detail from window by artist Margaret Rope, Quidenham Carmel.

The Candles of Carmel

Dear Fellow Carmelites

As the days lengthen and snowdrops spring from the bare earth, February brings us the feast of the Presentation in the Temple, Candlemas. This day of light foreshadows the Light of Easter, filling us with hope for 2020. The new decade ahead of us is full of hope for the Carmelite Order. We are many candles of light to the world, all lit by the same Source. Our small and often flickering individual flames unite with the Flame that is the Light of the world. We are one wide community, one wide Order of Discalced Carmelites, as the wealth of news in this edition reveals. Each branch of Carmel, the friars, nuns and seculars, shares its light with the others, fired by the same Light of prayer.

Along with visiting our Secular Order groups and communities around the country, I have had been able to meet the prioresses of eleven Carmels. Whilst each Carmel is unique and has its share of challenge and struggle, I am made more deeply aware how their lives grow from prayer and merge back into prayer in the daily rhythm of the mass and Divine Office. Each Carmel offers its unique flame, growing from its own history and tradition and fanning out to new ventures. To our Carmelite sisters, on behalf of the Secular Order I offer our support and prayer, our news and information about our secular way of life, and our profound gratitude for their living flame of prayer that glows quietly in the dark, giving us warmth and comfort. Not only a flame for us seculars in the ups and downs of our lives in the world but also the for the whole order, indeed, for the whole church.

But the key purpose of my travelling is to join our communities and groups for their meetings, to be warmed by their unique way of living their Carmelite lives, and to bring contact with the wider family of Carmel. Some communities have long histories and valuable traditions, other groups are fresh to Carmel and finding their way. In the last few years, seven new groups have been formed in England and Wales, and in 2019 our website received 44 enquiries about the secular Order.

As Fr Matt once said, each Secular community has its own vocation. Just as we do individually, so also the community gradually discovers where its calling is taking it. For some, their role becomes closely linked with the apostolate of the friars (Constitutions 26), for others their apostolate is in the parish, in family life, in the workplace, and in care for housebound members. All apostolate grows from the burning Flame of Love, or it is a ‘noisy gong or clashing cymbal.’ (1 Cor 13:1). In this edition of *The Vine* we hear of the forthcoming Provincial Chapter and read of the new ventures planned for CACS throughout the country, as well as the Teresian Prayer Group in Kensington and the retreat programme at Boars Hill.

This year, may we share our candles of light more and more with each other. May the amazing generosity and determination that burns brightly in our Secular communities shine in our troubled world. May our witness to our Carmelite charism, be it through family life, formation work, retreats, courses, parish activities or other, be placed on the lampstand, ever drawing light through prayer from the Living Flame of Love. We know, as we sit before a flickering flame in the solitude of prayer that we are united with our fellow seculars, with our friars and our nuns in the great Light of Christ.

Annette

Wincanton Community

Greetings, love and prayer from Wincanton to all our wonderful Carmelite family in other communities for 2020. We have some changes since the beginning of the year. Our dear President, Jackie Clayton, has stood down after six years and has been replaced by Barbara Smith. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Jackie who has given us so much over the years, not least her love and commitment to the Lord and to Carmel.

After much prayer and reflection Barbara stood for president and she was accepted unanimously. We are very blessed to have her guiding our group in the years to come.

Helen Marquis has stood down as Formateur due to ill health and her place has been taken by Sue Berkley Matthews who will be helped in this by Margaret Goldschmidt and Jackie Clayton, who are already guiding new members on a one to one basis and would like to continue doing this. The Council members are Sue Berkley Matthews, Margaret Goldschmidt and Caroline Dawnay. Margaret Goldschmidt will continue as Treasurer and Caroline will provide the necessary secretarial backup.

Sadly we have to tell you that Tony Aplin's beloved Spanish wife Maria died a few weeks ago and her funeral was held in our church of St Luke and St Teresa here in Wincanton. Her two daughters and her grandchildren spoke movingly of their mother and grandmother both in Spanish and English and the Mass was a joyful witness to the love and faith that Maria and Tony gave their family. On a personal note I will never forget seeing Maria and Tony in Avila on one of our Carmelite pilgrimages walking along the floodlit walls saying their Evening Prayer together.

Barbara Smith

Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Teresa community, Kensington

On Saturday 7th December 2019, our community celebrated with great joy as Jacqueline Heys made her Definitive Promise and Abundia Munar made her First Promise during Mass at the Carmelite Priory (see photo).



One morning during the Christmas season Michael Ionta, president of the community 2013-2019 and Marisa Wilson, current president, visited Maureen Fitzpatrick, president of the community 2007-2013, in her home. They were joined by Mary Jeyaseelan a member of the community under the three presidents, who is unable to attend the community meetings at present because of her husband's illness. It was a blessed and joyous occasion for all, in the spirit of Carmel.

Christian Kendall-Daw

A new cross for Kensington

A new cross showing the triumphant Christ has been installed at the Carmelite Church in Kensington. The cross, painted by artist Dr Guillem Ramos-Poqui, is based on the 13th century Umbrian School when the Saviour was depicted with his arms spread open and showing his wounds.

Fr Iain Matthew OCD commented: ‘The living Christ, the risen Jesus, came to the troubled disciples with his wounds displayed. The print of the nails and the opening made by the spear are there in his risen body. The same Christ comes to us now in the power of his crucified love. His Passion is not simply past. What he did then, for them, he does now for us: loves to the limit, destroys the power of evil, opens up our lives to love. He comes to take us with him as he passes from this world to the Father. The Mother of the Lord and the beloved disciple gaze at us, inviting us to trust this truth. The crucified, risen Jesus gazes at us to let him embrace us.’

(Photograph by Mary Jeyaseelan)



Eastern Region



Around 30 Secular Carmelites from the Eastern Region met at Quidenham Monastery on 26 October. Fr Matt confirmed final promises by Aileen Shiell and first promises by Shirley Lyons and Hugh Lyons (see photo). Celia Gladden and Laurence Mitchell were accepted for Formation.

East Anglian seculars have been delighted to hear that two Carmelite priests now have care of the parish of St Mark's, Ipswich.

The arrival of the two clergy was marked on October 6 when parishioners welcomed Carmelite brothers Fr Paul Vincent and Fr Bineesh to the parish.

During the mass Bishop Alan Hopes installed Fr Paul as the new Parish priests and blessed Fr Bineesh for his future pastoral ministry.

Margaret Keane OCDS

Margaret was born in NW London in 1932. Her early life was shaped by the Second World War. She worked as a librarian in a company and always had a love for books. Margaret converted to Catholicism and later became interested in the Carmelite Order. Following close connections with the Sisters at Lanhearne Convent, Cornwall she was received as a solitary by Father Rooney in 1976 at Kensington.

Margaret married John and during their happy marriage they had four children. Following Margaret's diagnosis with multiple sclerosis and chest problems the family moved to Westbury in Wiltshire for her health. She joined The Little Way in December 2007. By then Margaret was restricted to a wheelchair but pursued several CIBI courses from home. She was never able to attend a meeting but always very interested in what we were doing, prayed for us and with us, received large print minutes of meetings and followed us in our reading for ongoing formation.



Margaret's condition deteriorated with many admissions to hospital from which she rallied. Her final admission led to her death on 5th December 2019. The Requiem Mass took place in Westbury on 3rd January 2020 and was celebrated by Parish Priest Father Tom Finnegan. In his homily Father reminded us that in death, life is changed not ended. As Margaret supported those she knew in

life she will continue to do so in heaven. A granddaughter Harriet said Margaret had taught her the importance of faith. That it is not just a belief but how it is practised and lived in one's life, such as decency and honesty. She hopes to aspire to the faith her grandmother had. John, a son told us that his mother was not materialistic but valued people more than things and kept in touch with all her large family. She was a lot of fun and always concerned for and interested in everyone.

Elizabeth and Patrick Dillon

Peter Giles Heron OCDS

Giles, a member of the Cleethorpes group, died on October 5th 2019. A very kind, gentle and prayerful man, he had been ill for many years. He received his formation at the Doncaster group - as we all did - and made his First Promise and attended meetings there for quite some years. In July 2012, he made his Definitive Promise at Cleethorpes where the Holy Rosary Group was in the process of being formed. Sadly, however, shortly afterwards his health issues worsened. He also suffered a stroke which resulted in serious mobility and communication problems. Although he wasn't able to attend 'Carmel Days' any longer, his Carmelite identity was very important to him. He

continued his life of prayer and reading and valued contact with the group and news of the order.

We remember him with fondness - as will the parish - especially, perhaps, the older members. Twelve years ago Giles was involved in the formation of a 'Senior Citizens' group which still meets monthly for mass, lunch and a social afternoon.

After many difficult years, and much suffering, may he now rest in peace.

Shirley Gardham

THE 2020 WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

This year's Carmelite Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on Saturday 27 June. The timetable will be as follows:

11am	Talk by Fr Matt Blake OCD (Chapel of Reconciliation)
12 noon	Pilgrims' Mass (Chapel of Reconciliation)
1-2pm	Picnic lunch in grounds of the Shrine
2pm	Silent procession to the Church of the Annunciation Walsingham Village
3pm	Exposition and Benediction at the Church of the Annunciation
4pm	Depart

For further information please email jpmacinnnes@gmail.com

Our 2020 pilgrimage takes place at a particularly significant time for the English Catholic community, as the following short item explains.

The Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary 2020

The bishops of England and Wales have designated 2020 as the year of Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary. This follows the two-year Dowry Tour which saw the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham being taken to different cathedrals around the country accompanied by a programme of prayer calling upon Our Lady to guide and protect our country by her prayers in the years to come.

We pray that the people of our country may work together to build a common good. May the truth of the Gospel inspire us to create a culture that respects life and embraces the great diversity of our people. May it open our hearts to serve our community, seeking the good of others before ourselves, especially those who are poor and marginalised.

The timeline for the rededication is as follows.

- **21 February 2020:** All Catholics and anyone else who wants to join in will be invited to begin a personal 33 day consecration to Jesus through Mary following the method of St Louis de Montfort. This includes an invitation to go to the Sacrament of Confession.

- **Wednesday 25 March 2020** (Feast of the Annunciation): All who are following the consecration will consecrate themselves to Jesus through Mary on this day.
- **Thursday 26 - Saturday 28 March 2020**: a three day triduum of prayer during which all will be invited to recite the Litany of Saints and Martyrs of England, pray the Rosary and go to confession in preparation for the rededication.
- **Sunday 29 March 2020**: a personal rededication of England as Dowry of Mary. This will be done in Westminster, Walsingham, every cathedral, every parish and as many homes as possible. It is a personal rededication following the guidelines in the book 'The Angelus Promise' which can be obtained from the shrine.

Free copies of *33 days to Morning Glory*, written by Fr Michael Gaitley, are available free of charge from the Shrine, on request (shop.walsingham.org.uk). These have been distributed throughout the Tour and provide a do-it-yourself retreat programme in preparation for Marian consecration.

SECULAR CARMEL AROUND THE WORLD

(from CARMELITANI SCALZI - OCD newsletter: <http://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/>)

Brazil

Between the 15th to the 18th of November there gathered together in the City of Aparecida, the Brazilian Capital of Marian devotion, some 500 people from throughout Brazil, laity, religious and priests, for the commemorative Forum for the 100 years of the Secular Carmel in Brazil.

Organized by the OCDS Provincial Council of the St Joseph Province, the topic chosen for the conferences focussed on Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. The title of the Congress was: 'In the heart of the Church I shall be Love'.

South America

Between the 19th and the 22nd of September 2019, nearly 80 members of the OCDS family from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, accompanied by some OCD religious, gathered together in the house of the Episcopal Conference of Argentina (The Cenacle, Pilar City) to share a few days of formation and fraternity.

The meeting focussed on the study of the Constitutions of the Secular Order, by means of conferences and group meetings. Attending the meeting was Fr General's Delegate for the OCDS, Fr Alzinir Debastiani. During the meeting, we were also able to enjoy moments of happiness and recreation, as well as a visit to the sanctuary of the Virgin of Luján, close to Pilar City.

Guatemala

Fr. Javier Mena OCD participated in the 'Santa Teresa de los Andes and the Family Spirituality' Congress that took place in the city of Guatemala this past November from the 6th to the 10th. Participants in the Congress, organized by the Secular Carmelites of Central America, included 147 secular Carmelites and some religious from 12 Central American countries. The Congress was offered as an homage to St. Teresa of the Andes in the centenary of her death.

The Anglo-Irish Province

The Provincial Chapter will take place 11-16 May 2020 at Boars Hill and will be facilitated by Anne Donald OCDS. As this Chapter is the first open Chapter for this Province, the traditional two weeks has been reduced to one week to enable all the friars in the Province to attend throughout the Chapter. Preparatory work has been intensive. Two Plenary Councils will take place shortly before the Chapter, one in Ireland to be held on 22 April and one at Boars Hill for the English friars on 23 April. Sr Shelagh, President of the Association British Carmels, and Annette Goulden, National President of the secular Order, have been asked to address the English Plenary Council.

Refurbishment of Kensington Priory

If you visit the Priory you may come across young men kneeling in the corridors. No, they are not hopeful friars, but electricians, carpenters and other workmen bringing new floors, new light and conference facilities into this ancient building in the heart of London.

OTHER NEWS

Reminder of social media of the Association of British Carmels

Don't forget you can follow news of our Carmelite sisters with the following links:

www.carmelitenuns.uk

Twitter (@carmelnunsgb)

Instagram (also@carmelnunsgb)

Facebook (Carmelite-Nuns-in-Britain-270631133883090).

Each social media account is run by a different sister in a different Carmel, to share the workload.

OCDS archives

All our archives are now housed at Kensington Priory in a small room on the second floor, managed by Anne Courtney. If anyone is keen to write a history of the Secular Order, these archives are a treasure trove! You can peruse 1930's Manuals for Lay Carmelites, read a report of the first Secular Order Community to be inaugurated in England: the ladies' group at Kensington, read about our previous archivist's (Judith Swarbrook) travels to list Carmelite places to stay, and explore many ancient documents and photographs (sadly not all labelled). We are very grateful to Anne, who is a qualified archivist and looks after our archives voluntarily in her spare time.

Anne is, of course, bound by her professional integrity regarding the management of the archives, but she herself is not a Carmelite. Following concerns raised by some groups about security and confidentiality of material, especially that of a personal or sensitive nature, please send your archives in the first instance to the National President, Annette Goulden. Annette will remove any sensitive material (to be kept in a secure and private archive) before passing the documents to Anne for cataloguing.

The team at the CACS team accomplished a lot in 2018-2019.

September 2018

Launch of Carmelite prayer courses: School of Prayer and Prayer Guides Course

October 2018

Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality (CACS) social media pages launched

September 2019

Living Prayer: A course in contemplative prayer and living

Living Flame: A spiritual direction training programme (Carmelite tradition)

November 2019

Study Pilgrimage in Avila, led by Fr Matt Blake

December 2019

Launch of the Advent and Sunday Delight Series

We continue to reach out to all Christians, the unaffiliated and all who are searching.

- Our Spiritual Enrichment Lecture Series (SELS) continues to teach, inform and transform the lives of many.
- Through the SELS videos, hundreds of people continue to be affirmed in their journey of faith and be nurtured in their spiritual lives.
- Through our prayer courses and formation programme in contemplative living and spiritual direction we are preparing the next generation of prayer companions and spiritual guides who will continue Christ's mission of evangelization through being a prayerful presence in the world.

During 2020, we plan to:

- launch a live stream retreat project giving access to thousands to our digital retreats and Quiet days (Cherith days) in real-time.
- launch a video streaming project of our SELS videos, retreat conferences and talks.
- continue running our prayer courses and spiritual formation programmes.
- host over 300 participants for our Scripture & Spirituality Conference 2020 which will be live-streamed.
- release a new study series in spirituality – 'Studies in Carmelite Saints'.
- lead a number of study-pilgrimages in the Holy Land, Spain, Portugal and France.

By the end of the present new decade (2030), we hope to:

- graduate more than 300 people from our Prayer Courses who will take Carmelite spirituality to their places of influence continuing the work of spiritual renewal in the Church and transformation in the world
- train 30 Prayer Course and Spiritual Formation Facilitators who will join the CACS team as trainers
- facilitate the spiritual formation of 200 new Spiritual Directors in the Carmelite Tradition

- establish 10 Training Centres in the UK (Scotland; England: London, North Central; Wales) and in Ireland, the United States, Australia, Nigeria and Kenya
- build up over 1000 Video and Audio Resources available for online access
- host 10 International Conferences
- run 10 Scripture & Spirituality Summer Schools with an international audience
- lead 30 Study-Pilgrimages for over 180 Pilgrims introducing them to the spirituality of Carmelite saints and mystics in the places associated with them and sanctified by their presence – Holy Land, Portugal, Spain, France, etc.

And more ...

YOU CAN HELP US TO ACHIEVE THIS FOR THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY

(cf. Ephesians 1:12)

Please consider becoming a partner in this amazing work of God
 You can also mention us to your friends and potential donors.
 May God bless you in the New Year and beyond.

In Christ the Lord

Fr Alexander of Mary Queen Beauty of Carmel
Director, Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality, Oxford

(For a short video outlining the work of the CACS please copy the following link into your browser: <https://vimeo.com/386502223>)

Spiritual Enrichment Lecture Series

The CACS engages top academics, experts, authors and practitioners in the field of Carmelite spirituality for the Spiritual Enrichment Lecture Series (SELS). Participants will hear keynote speakers who will explore the practice of contemplative prayer and spiritual guidance in the Carmelite tradition.

These talks will be particularly suited to those who wish to know more about contemplative prayer or to deepen their experience of it. They will also be of great relevance to anyone whose ministry involves accompanying others in prayer and spiritual direction.

The next lecture will be on 7th March at Boars Hill Priory and is entitled *‘Empowered to Forgive: Bringing healing to relationships.’* The cost for the day is £30 including refreshments. Further details from whatson@oxcaxs.org or tel 07849 96572.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Regional days in 2020

Central	9 May	North West	25 April and 3 October
East Anglia	25 April and 31 October	South West	30 May
London	6 June	West Midlands	2 May
North East	25 July		

Secular Order retreats at Boars Hill and Ampleforth Abbey

Going Deeper with Teresa of Avila's Way of Perfection

Having gone deeper with Teresa's *Book of her Life* last year, we will now cast out into further deep waters with her. Bring along your copy of *The Way of Perfection*.

Boars Hill	June 8-12	Ampleforth Abbey	July 13-17
	August 3-7		

Fr Matt will give a total of seven talks, starting from the Monday evening and finishing on Thursday afternoon. There will be a celebratory final meal on the Thursday evening and a closing mass on the Friday morning.

Boars Hill: The total cost from Monday evening to Friday morning is: £275 for a single room and £235 for a shared room. An extra lunch on the Friday is £25.00. Please book with Irene: retreat@carmelite.org.uk or telephone 01865 735133 or leave a message on 07842 090185.

Ampleforth Abbey: Please book with Mary Farrell: imaryfarrell@yahoo.co.uk or telephone Mary on 01325 789454.

These retreats with Fr Matt are a wonderful way to meet other members of the Secular Order and to enter more deeply into the meaning of our Carmelite vocation.

The Teresian Prayer Group, Kensington

The Teresian Prayer Group meets once a month in the Carmelite Priory, 41 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4BB. The aim of the Group is for its members to grow in prayer, following the teachings of St Teresa of Avila. Membership of the Group is free and anyone can join.

The monthly meetings typically have a distinguished Carmelite speaker, a time of quiet prayer and small group discussion. **In 2019/20 they will be on a Thursday evening at 6.30 for 6.45 pm to 8.15 pm.**

Further information: mark.courtney@oxon.org tel: 020 8288 0536

Pulse Retreat for Families

The annual Pulse retreat for families will take place this year from 15-17 May at the SPEC centre in Pinner, Middlesex.

It will have:

- A preached retreat for adults led by Fr Matt Blake, OCD
- Activities and a school of prayer for children aged 2 and up to 14 years old, (contact the organisers if you want to bring your teenagers too)
- A crèche for babies aged up to 2 years old.

Starts Friday at 7pm and ends Sunday at 5pm.

For further details and to book a place, go to <https://www.pulse-retreats.com/catholic-family-retreat> or enquire at hello@pulse-retreats.com