



The VINE

News from the Secular Discalced Carmelite Community in England and Wales



June 2022



Delegates gather for an end-of-conference photoshoot.

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Deadline for contributions to the next Vine: Tuesday 4 October 2022

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A Carmelite Communion

14th June 2022

Dear Fellow Carmelites,

Apparently, it was Aristotle who said the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. I'm not sure in what context he meant it, but it was certainly proved true at the Presidents' Conference at Launde Abbey. Each president, group leader or their representative brought with them every one of you in the Secular Order. This was the reality. But over and above that, or under and deeper than that, there was a Presence there that I can only call mystical. A sense of the Holy Spirit embracing the Secular Order and breathing his Spirit into everyone. Certainly, for all those physically present, but, through them, all the members of our Secular Order, all of you. You were with us through your prayer and love and we were with you through the Holy Spirit.

This did not end when we all went home after lunch that Sunday. No, it is surely just the beginning. We have just celebrated Pentecost and been enriched by meditations and Mass for this great day, the day of the birth of the Church. Last Sunday we celebrated the Holy Trinity, the triune love into which we are all drawn, in which we all exist. Such a deep mystery, who can begin to fathom it? But perhaps the heart of the mystery lies in community, in the love and solace shared by all members of our communities, as in the new-born church.

We are all 'church'. Old or young, vigorous or frail, we are the stones, with all baptised Christians, that make up the building. Through living our vocation to prayer, study, and community, we are a flaming beacon that cannot but shine out, as did the beacons for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

I don't know where this Light is taking us, but there is a movement in our Secular Order that cannot be quelled. We now need to fully open our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit and listen in prayer and stillness. He will not let us down.

From September, I would like to take up my travels and see you all again, for you give me energy and hope. People tell me, you do this and that, but like blotting paper, I only soak up and redistribute, if you like, your spirit of love and prayer. The Holy Spirit is surely making us greater than the sum of our parts.

God bless you all,

With much love and prayer,

Annette

St Joseph's Seaford



Our little group of St Joseph's in Seaford has been growing and we now have six members, including one aspirant. On 6th March, we had the great joy of Miriam Holliday making her First Promise and Janet O'Meara making her Final Promise as Discalced Secular Carmelites. It was a very happy day for the whole group.

Brigitte Garcia

NEW OCDS GROUP IN HAMPSHIRE

Plans have been afoot for a while to set up a new Central Region OCDS group in Hampshire. This group hopes to have its first meeting in Romsey starting on Saturday 22 October.

Provisional timing to be 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Please spread the word to any you know in Hants/Dorset/Wiltshire who may have been put off joining an OCDS community - or continuing with an existing one - by distance.

For more details contact

Cyprian Blamires (OCDS Central Region Representative)
cpblamires@aol.com
01858 468224 07714 651756

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

On Saturday 12th March 2022 our community was joined by other London communities for mass, shared lunch and fellowship, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of St. Teresa of Jesus' canonisation.

On Saturday 2nd April 2022, our community joyfully celebrated as Christian Kendall-Daw made his Definitive Promise, during the mass at the Carmelite Priory. Followed by Christiane Ghose and Elisabetta Canetta being received into Formation - see photo below.

Caroline Moutell



North East Region

The North East Regional day was held at Woodhall Carmelite Convent, Wetherby. Unfortunately Mary Farrell was not with us as she had Covid! Annette also couldn't be with us as she had a family engagement. They were missed but all had a good fraternal day.



We all arrived at 10am and were offered coffee and a biscuit and had a happy reunion. Father Matthew Blake presided and celebrated the mass which took place at 11am which we celebrated with the sisters of Woodhall. During the mass Helen Hutchinson from Our Lady of Mount Carmel group at Darlington took her final promises - congratulations Helen.

After mass we had time for silent prayer, which the beautiful surroundings of Woodhall lent itself to. During this time Father Matt made himself available for the members to speak with him individually - thank you Father Matt.

We then had a copious shared lunch and more time for news sharing. Helen had brought a beautiful cake of which was inscribed in icing the words 'with zeal I have been zealous for the Lord God of hosts' which was Helens inner sentiment.

We then retired to the chapel to be instructed by Father Matt. He began his talk with the thought of the importance of the year 2022 for centenaries. Saint Teresa was canonised on the fifteenth of October 1622, Edith Stein was baptised on the first of January 1922, and Marie Eugene was ordained and became a Carmelite in February 1922. Father Matt said these were possibly the two most influential Saints of the twentieth century. He spoke about

Edith's empathy with Teresa, saying that possibly nobody knew Teresa like Edith. This empathy made it impossible not to become Carmelite and Catholic, 'she could no longer say no', this was a discovery for Edith as one does not become a Carmelite but discovers it within you.

Marie Eugene was set for the Priesthood, but for him something was missing, he found it when he picked up an abridged copy of the work of John of the Cross, which caused him to find his deepest identity and accept it. It was a personal encounter.

Father Matt spoke about Teresa's canonisation and said this was the Church's endorsement of her spirituality. Teresa was given a Grace and it is this Grace which we are living. John of the Cross said she was given the Grace of Foundress, but this gift is diffused to many and we ought to reflect on Teresa's canonisation in terms of our own stories. What we have is something within at a deeper level, therefore, the canonisation is particularly important for us. It is the Church's confirmation of the Grace, a Grace which constantly changes lives, in different cultures, contexts, and histories - the power is given to know who we are. Father Matt emphasised the importance to mark the centenary, it is a celebration of the vocation we have received, affirming that Grace which continues to be effective and powerful in the Church.

Father Matt referred to John of the Cross and Father Marie Eugene's statement that we should never try and imitate the saints - this limits the power of God. The grace of God is bigger and effects people in so many ways - if you put all the saints in one room they probably wouldn't get on!, they are all different, but at a deeper level they are all Carmelites - the grace of God is in the differences as well as in the unity.

Saint Teresa said, 'every new person who comes into the order, is the kind of person the order can be re-founded on', which means, we all have the fullness, but added to that is the uniqueness of the person - which enriches the pot.

Father Matt taught it is important to remember that centenaries are not a looking back to the past, but, they are an opening of the eyes to the fact that what was active and powerful then, is the same as now, but enriched and taking on a new form - doing good in different ways.

We are the foundation stones for what comes after - what really matters will never be taken from us, externals change, but Carmel takes on new forms and expressions.

Saint Teresa would be happy to be with us today - but she wants us to be ourselves, said Father Matt.

Verity Smith

East Anglia Region

On March 26 we came together at Quidenham Carmel for our Lent gathering which, after the problems of the last two years, was a special day. Sr Elizabeth Obbard joined us in the morning to give a talk on St Therese and her wholehearted acceptance of suffering following her concept of 'taking all'. This was followed by Mass celebrated by Fr Mike Smith OCDS during which Hannah Edwards of Our Lady of Walsingham Community made her Final Promise and Mary Hatcher and Lawrence Mitchell of Mother of Carmel and St Henry Morse group made their First Promises. In the afternoon we discussed the Roadmap for the Presidents' Conference and our understanding of community. The day finished with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Our next visit to Quidenham will be on the Feast Of Our Lady of Mt Carmel when Sr Marian will make her Solemn Profession. And before that we have the Carmelite Pilgrimage to Walsingham on 25 June which last year brought O.Carms and Discalced Carmelites together to honour Our Lady. So this year it feels like we're making up for the separation felt during the pandemic - so many blessings!

Joan MacInnes

WEBSITE NEWS

Regular additions continue to be made to our website. As well as up-to-date news of conferences and retreats (including the latest offerings from Boar's Hill) we now have a very extensive range of printed and audio resources.

The online library is particularly useful as a basis for formation programmes and personal reflection. As an example, we have just added transcripts of Father Matt's series of Lenten reflections, 2022 and his Easter Triduum reflections 2022 including meditations on The Annunciation and on Blessed Marie-Eugene on Baptismal Grace.

For those (including myself!) who don't want to spend lengthy periods in front of a screen, all the material can easily be printed out.

If you haven't yet explored the site I really would encourage you to do so. It's free to use, secure and - apart from useful information about courses and retreats - entirely free of advertisements!

Tim Burton

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Following their re-election at the Presidents' Conference, the members of your National Council met remotely by Zoom on 14th June. We noted that the Secular Order retreat at Ampleforth Abbey is now fully booked but there are ten places left for the retreat at Aylesford (25-29 July). Please send a £20 deposit to Phyl Ibbs and contact the retreat centre at Aylesford if you would like to come to one of our first actual retreats since lockdown.

Due to the impending rail strike, some who planned to travel by train will not be able to come to the Carmelite pilgrimage at Walsingham on Saturday 25th June. But we hope there will be a good Carmelite presence, nevertheless. Please contact Joan MacInnes for details.

Regional Days 2022

Regional Days are back! It is wonderful for people to make their Promises and be received into Formation after a long wait, both at these convivial events but also on other special occasions, as arranged with Fr Matt. Days are as follows:

Central	24th September
East Anglia	1st October
London	2nd April
North East	18th June
North West	to be arranged
South West	22nd October
West Midlands	19th March

Ratio and Constitutions

Arrangements are being made for these reprinted booklets to be for sale at the Carmelite Book Service. In the meantime, please contact Annette Goulden for copies at cost price of £1.00 and £4.00 respectively (plus postage).

Priorities following the Presidents' Conference

Your National Council is arranging a physical meeting with an overnight stay at a convenient venue in September, to give sufficient thought and prayer to the outcome of the Presidents' Conference. This will give us space to consider our priorities over the next few years.

Annette Goulden

2022 OCDS RETREATS

Not to be missed! A return to physical retreats!

Here are the booking details for the Secular Carmelite retreat being offered this July.

AYLESFORD PRIORY

Aylesford Priory in Kent from the evening of **25 July** to the morning of **29 July**, led by Fr Matt Blake OCD, based around St Teresa of Avila's Book of her Life. We have reserved 30 rooms, but we can add some extra if there is the demand. The all-inclusive cost will be £315 for single-occupancy and £275 sharing. (There are no ensuite rooms left at the present time). The booking procedure is as follows:

Bookings must be made directly at Aylesford through the Hospitality Manager, Gemma Reeman-Ridley. Email: gemma.reeman-ridley@thefriars.org.uk
Telephone: 01622 717272.

A non-refundable deposit of £20 must then be made to the OCDS Jubilee Fund:

- either by direct bank transfer: Account name: OCDS Jubilee Fund; Sort Code: 30-95-41; Account Number: 01358754, giving your name as reference followed by the letter A (for Aylesford)
- or by cheque, made payable to OCDS Jubilee Fund and posted to Phyllis Ibbs, 2 Woolliscroft Ave., May Bank, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 0NR. (Any queries about payment to phyllisibbs@gmail.com, tel 01782 712164)

The balance is paid on arrival at Aylesford or at any time during your stay.

PROMISES NEWS

Here is a summary of news which appears above.

Formation

Elisabetta Canetta	Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Teresa Kensington	2 April
Christian Ghose	Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Teresa Kensington	2 April

Final Promise

Hannah Edwards	Our Lady of Walsingham	26 March
Janet O'Meara	St Joseph, Seaford	6 March
Helen Hutchinson	Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Darlington	18 June
Christian Kendall-Daw	Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Teresa Kensington	2 April

First Promise

Mary Hatcher	Our Lady of Walsingham	26 March
Miriam Holliday	St Joseph, Seaford	6 March
Lawrence Mitchell	Our Lady of Walsingham	26 March



Thank you to Kathy Twist of The Holy Spirit group in Welshpool for sending us her beautiful painting.

The quotation from St Teresa reads:

The more you travelled IN to Jesus, the more you travelled OUT to others.

Kathy writes:

'This is a picture I have recently finished showing how Teresa was able to follow two roads. In to Jesus and out to others. Inspired by a talk by Fr Matt.'

Kathy's wonderful quote, and her picture, prompted me to respond personally to her:

'It reminds me of another quotation which sounds to be just the opposite but is in fact complimentary. I can't recall it exactly but it's something like: I left my house at daybreak minded to wander just for a while. But I found myself tarrying until the evening, finding that the journey out was also the journey in.'

TB