



Newsletter

Number 257, April 2020

April: Dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament

No Community Meeting in April
No Council Meeting in April
No Bethany Day in April

Community Formation

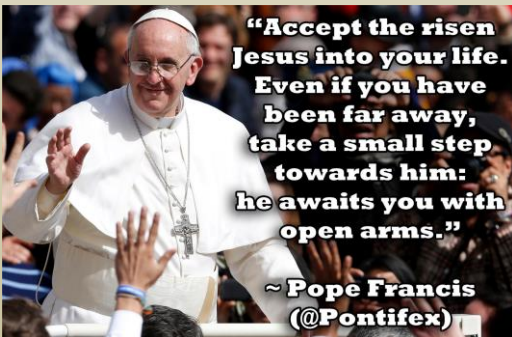
St Thérèse of Lisieux
 "Story of a Soul: Study Edition"
 (Please read Introduction and Prologue)



Birthdays



Mary O'Boyle Friday 3 April
 Noeline Sapwell Sunday 12 April



"Accept the risen Jesus into your life. Even if you have been far away, take a small step towards him: he awaits you with open arms."

~ Pope Francis (@Pontifex)



The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I shall want.

With these words in mind, may we find strength in facing the uncertainty of how events are going to pan out from the Covid-19 pandemic. Let us use this time of enforced retreat to improve our relationship with God through prayer and the reading of the Scriptures. Also, may we continue to receive Christ in spirit by following Holy Mass online daily.

Even though we are unable to meet (for an indefinite time) for our monthly Community meeting, we shall stay in touch through our Newsletter, e-mails and phone calls. Please continue to pray for those who asked for our prayers and for our special members.

The 7th of March was a special and relaxing Saturday with Fr Ferdie: with Father celebrating Mass, expounding a poem of St John of the Cross, Reconciliation, a shared lunch and a meeting in the parlour with Mother Teresa and Sr Pauline from Tonga. Earlier on that week, our dear Lyn took Fr Ferdie to visit with several of our special members.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, let us remain close in prayer for each other, for our loved ones, and, for the world to turn to God once again to invoke His mercy and abundant grace.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and St Joseph, pray for us always.

A Blessed and Holy Easter to all.

God bless always,
 Maureen William
 (President OCDS, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)

April quote from St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face:
"One single act of love will make us know Jesus better... It will bring us closer to him for all eternity."

FR FERDIE'S VISIT AND TALK IN CHRISTCHURCH Saturday 7 March 2020

"The Living Flame of Love" St John of the Cross

*Oh, living flame of love
That tenderly woundest my soul in its deepest centre,
Since thou art no longer oppressive, perfect me now if
it be thy will,
Break the web of this sweet encounter.*

*Oh, sweet burn! Oh, delectable wound!
Oh, soft hand! Oh, delicate touch
That savours of eternal life and pays every debt!
In slaying, thou hast changed death into life.*

*Oh, lamps of fire,
In whose splendours the deep caverns of sense
Which were dark and blind with strange brightness
Give heat and light together to their Beloved!*

*How gently and lovingly thou awakenest in my bosom,
Where thou dwellest secretly and alone!
And in thy sweet breathing, full of blessing and glory,
How delicately thou inspirest my love!*

This poem of St John of the Cross is his shortest complete work, but it contains the fullness of his teaching on the **union of the soul with God** – our hope and our goal. It is the quest of being united and transformed by love... an invitation of the Trinity to join them in this journey. The poem was originally given to a lay person, Doña Ana de Peñalosa, which indicates that it is meant for everyone.

The experience of the union of the soul with God is a way of life. We become the presence of God to others. But it is God's initiative as God loved us first.

In the "wound", God shows us our unworthiness... how we are limited, helpless and self-centred. We need to have the courage to say 'yes' to purification.

There is also the hiddenness and transcendence of God. Faith, hope and love are the *only* way to God, and this is because it is the way he came to us. Because of his faith, hope and love in us, he never gives up on us. We come to be like him through these three theological virtues. We need to continuously listen to God as we continue our journey on earth:

*"Here I am again, Lord, in my unworthiness...
In my giving myself to you, through faith, hope and love,
I am opening myself to you and letting me
be transformed by you in your presence..." [Fr Ferdie]*

The imagery of "fire" is the revelation of the living God. It is a consuming fire, painful because of our attachments. But the Holy Spirit gives us the courage to be martyred.

We experience God's hiddenness because of our attachments. But God does not move; he is always fully present. So, we need self-knowledge and purification because we do not want to see him as he really is.

The "flame", or our cross, is now seen as sweet because of our faith, hope and love in God. So, because we know God loves us, we see our cross in a different way.



Prayers for April

Thank-you, Lord, for all the blessings you give us each day.

We pray for:

- Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, Bishop Paul and all our priests, religious and seminarians
- Our new Provincial, Fr John Grennan, OCD, Fr General Saverio Cannistrà, OCD and all our Carmel family, especially our Carmelite Sisters. Also, vocations to Carmel and to our own Peace of Christ Community **(Please offer a decade of the rosary daily for this, as requested by Bishop Greg Homeming, OCD)**

Special Intentions:

- Fr Jérôme, OCD and our Goma school mission
- Fr Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy Team
- Our Special Members, especially Rosaline Closel, Margaret Dwyer and Peb Simmons
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Shaun and Samuel returning home from Ireland
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially all those affected by the coronavirus. Also, Stephanie & Patricia (Annette's daughter & granddaughter), Steven (Eddie's son), Stephen (Marian's son), Rosemarie (Karen's cousin), Ken (Noeline's son-in-law) for continued healing, Mother Teresa (from Tongan Carmel), Sinead Gilgunn recovering from a stroke, Fr Michael-Thérèse's family, Noreen Tod and her daughter Kathleen, Esetha, Kelvin Rush, Catherine Stocks, and protection for Simona (Karen's daughter) treating patients with coronavirus

Our Holy Father's Intentions for April:

- We pray that those suffering from **addiction** may be helped and accompanied.

NATIONAL STATUTES PART IV – SERVING GOD'S PLAN Section Seven – Apostolate and Mission

17. Called to a life which is both contemplative and apostolic, Secular Carmelites:

...have concern for the poor and contribute to their needs both individually and as a community wherever possible.

"Fix your eyes on the Crucified and everything will become easy for you. If His Majesty showed us His love by means of such works and frightful torments, how is it you want to please Him only with words?"

Blessed Teresa Mary Manetti of the Cross

Our April Carmelite Saints

17 Fri. Bl. Baptist Spagnoli (priest)

18 Sat. Bl. Mary of the Incarnation (nun)

23 Thu. Bl. Teresa Mary Manetti of the Cross (virgin)

Lockdown – by our own dear Eddie

*Lock it down, lock it up, lock it in, dear Eddie.
Whatever the cause is, we've got to be ready
To help one another in the times ahead,
And listen to Jacinda, whatever she said.*

*Keep apart from your friends and your mates,
And no more shaking hands.
Give them the old-fashioned elbow jolt,
We've all got to make a stand.*

*Listen to some happy songs
On the radio or the tape.
And if you're feeling down and out,
Chew on your favourite grape.*

*So, here's to you and here's to me
And here's to all of us.
Let's keep walking on the sunny side,
And not kicking up a fuss.*

And finally, the Church's great hymn to our Blessed Mother for help:

**Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae;
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.**

**Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Hevæ,
ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.**

**Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos
misericordes oculos ad nos converte;
Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exilium ostende.**

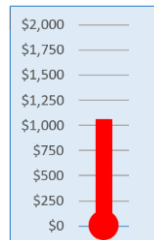
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.



OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

To help Fr Jérôme, OCD in providing education for the children in Goma

- The account for donations is:
SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES,
03 1593 0029937 00
- Please put your name and "Goma" in the details for the deposit.
- No receipt is necessary because it is printed on our bank statement.
- No tax refund is possible because we are not a registered charity.



New Total



Another view of the school

The Seal of Carmel: "Zelo zelatus sum pro Domino Deo exercituum"

"With zeal have I been zealous for the Lord God of hosts"