



Carmelite Newsletter

Australia, New Zealand & Oceania

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOWNSVILLE OCDS COMMUNITY



On Sunday, 15 November 2020, after a total of eight (8) years in formation, with many obstacles being placed in our way, seven (7) members of the Townsville Teresian Community Group-in-Formation made their definitive promises. The members who professed their definitive promises were: John Rens, Carmelina Mamawal, Barbara Millard, Maria Parker, Theresa Toomey, Delcia Torresan and Kath Wales.

At the wishes of Fr. John Kunnathumadappallil, OCD, the ceremony was performed at the 8.30am mass of the Holy Spirit Parish as a witness to church community of the OCDS in Townsville. Fr. John presided over the ceremony as Fr. Gerard Moran, OCD, was not able to attend because of the current Covid-19 border restrictions but he was able to give a virtual retreat.

It's been a long road with intrepid and creative leadership from Cheryl Rens, OCDS, who has been a Carmelite secular for many years, first joining the Varroville community where her father was also a member. The ceremonial scapulars were designed and sourced with the help of the nuns of the Goonellabah monastery.

Solemn Profession of Vows – Sr. Thérèse-Marie of the Eucharist OCD

It is with great joy and gratitude to God that we invite all our brothers and sisters in Carmel to pray for Sr. Thérèse-Marie of the Eucharist, OCD, who will make her solemn profession of vows during a Sung Mass on Monday 14 December, Solemnity of our Holy Father St John of the Cross at the Carmel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Launceston. Archbishop Julian Porteous will be principal celebrant and homilist, with a number of Tasmanian and visiting clergy concelebrating. Please pray that Tasmania's borders will be open to all states to enable Sr. Thérèse-Marie's family on the mainland to attend the mass.

You would be very welcome to join us for this occasion, Brett, if that were at all possible, but of course with the logistics and uncertainty of interstate travel as it is at present, I understand that is most unlikely. Please keep us in your prayers on this blessed day. God bless! Your sister in Carmel, Mother Teresa Benedicta, OCD.

❖ Carmel and the Immaculate Conception

In 1306 the General Chapter celebrated at Toulouse decreed that this feast should be celebrated with due solemnity. *Emanuele Boaga, O.Carm.* <http://www.carmelites.ie/citw20042.html>



GREETINGS FROM ALL OF US HERE IN THE GOONELLABAH CARMEL.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

From the time the coronavirus pandemic emerged at the beginning of the year until now, we have been blessed to have Bishop Greg Homeming, OCD with us each week to celebrate our Sunday Masses. These Masses have been recorded by professional staff of the diocese who stream them online to the public each week. We have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback from many people who are not able to attend Sunday mass because of the restrictions, so we are happy to be able to help out in our small way. It is a privilege to be able to listen to Bishop Greg's homilies each week and it still amazes us that our Sunday masses are being viewed by up to 18,000 people. We continue to pray for all the members of our Carmelite family across the region. Wishing you all a grace-filled Christmas. God bless, The Carmelite Nuns, Goonellabah. Mass can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYxOjNyku4JC108vfeTq-fQ> and past masses also.

ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT WITH BL MARY OF THE INCARNATION (BARBE ACARIE)

Invite friends to subscribe at: www.retreat-online.karmel.at



The friars of the northern French province (Paris) have produced, in association with the nuns of the Pontoise Carmel, an online retreat focussing on Blessed Mary of the Incarnation. It is available in a range of languages, including English. The wife and later widow, Barbe Acarie, was instrumental in bringing the Teresian reform to France. She later became an extern in the Carmel of Amiens, subsequently transferring to the Carmel of Pontoise.

Three of her daughters became Carmelites. For candidates unsuited to Carmelite life, she helped establish the French Ursulines for the education of young girls. She was deeply involved in the religious revival of France in the 16th and early 17th centuries. She counted many influential figures as friends or associates including St. Francis de Sales, St. Vincent de Paul and Cardinal de Bérulle. The French Carmel has brought us many treasures, including Thérèse of Lisieux, Elizabeth of the Trinity, Lawrence of the Resurrection, Marie-Eugène of the Child Jesus and Jacques of Jesus. This is a chance to get to know better one of our lesser known blessed but a great devotee of St. Teresa, whose writing profoundly influenced her. The life of Madame Acarie (1566-1618), founder of Teresian Carmel in France, was open to the gospel. She will guide us in preparing us to receive the incredible gift that God gives us in his Son. Her spiritual writings consist of only a few pages entitled: *The real exercises*. Above all, she will teach us to offer our heart to God as the manger of poverty where he can rest. We will follow her on the path of virginity and vigilance, obedience and freedom, trust and commitment, service and mission and finally the humility that was the basis of her union with God.



70 + 50 = 120

Congratulations to Fr. Greg Burke, OCD who recently celebrated his 70th birthday and his golden jubilee of religious profession. Fr. Greg is parish priest of the Infant Jesus of Prague parish in Morley, WA and is one of the wizards on our new Carmelite.com website.



FROM THE AUCKLAND CARMEL



Like most people we have found this year an exceptional one with lock-downs and Covid-19 precautions; however, we have been blessed in only having a cold bug that was recently passed round the Community and is now almost over. During the first lock-down we participated in the daily Mass online and were able to receive Holy Communion from the supply of Hosts in the tabernacle. Throughout the second lock-down it was a great privilege to have mass offered daily here in our chapel although we were unable to open it to the good people who would normally be present. Since then they have gratefully returned to participate each morning at mass.

Water shortages have continued in Auckland throughout this year so we appreciate the recent heavy rainfalls and at present the monastery gardens are bountiful with fresh greens and colourful flowers. Our friends and benefactors are very generous and thoughtful for us so we have very much to thank God for!

With appreciation, your Sisters in Auckland Carmel.

WEB BLESSINGS

One of the great blessings of 2020 was the creation and launch of the new Carmelite.com website for the Regional Vicariate of Australia, New Zealand & Oceania. This was an initiative of the friars and has been ably pushed forward by Fr. Greg Burke, OCD and Michelle Jones. Michelle might be known to some as the author of the recently published book *The Gospel Mysticism of Ruth Burrows: Going to God with Empty Hands* – see further details in the books section of this newsletter. The website can be accessed at: www.carmelite.com.

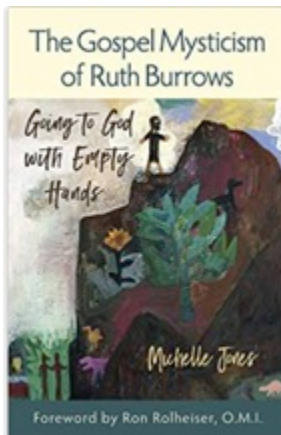


*Carmelite Spirituality has inspired and helped people to a deeper life.
On this site we seek to share that spirituality with you.
In your own time you are welcome to...
explore, enjoy, be enriched and challenged
by this gift of the Spirit*



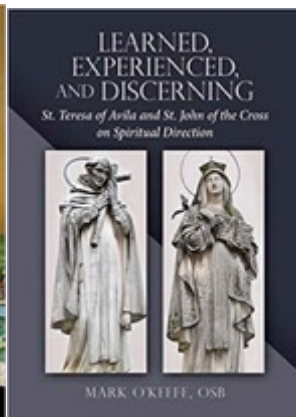
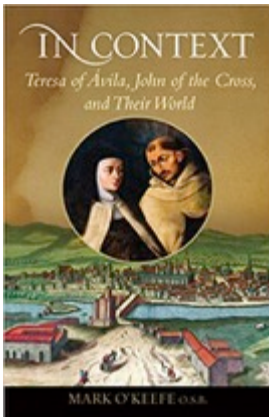
SUMMER HOLIDAY READING SUGGESTIONS

Here are four suggestions for your summer reading or as Christmas gifts for family & friends, available from online booksellers, such as Amazon or Book Depository.



This recent book – published in 2018 – is by our web master, Dr. Michelle Jones. Michelle has previously worked as a lecturer at Notre Dame University, and as the Director of the Centre for Faith Enrichment – the adult faith formation agency of the Archdiocese of Perth. She is a consecrated woman and lives a contemplative life of prayer in rural WA in affiliation with the Ruth Burrow's (Sr. Rachel's) Carmelite Monastery of Quidenham, UK. Her book gets this glowing endorsement from Prof. Keith Egan, himself an O.Carm. tertiary.

'Fresh, frank, and fruitful beyond measure is the wisdom of Ruth Burrows about what it means to be a Gospel mystic. Michelle Jones has plumbed the depths of that wisdom and offers readers a clear and insightful exploration of Burrows' guidance for the Christian willing to stake everything on the crucified Jesus. Jones's book shows why Burrows is one of the most important Carmelite authors in our time. A caution: the wisdom of Ruth Burrows may change your life.'

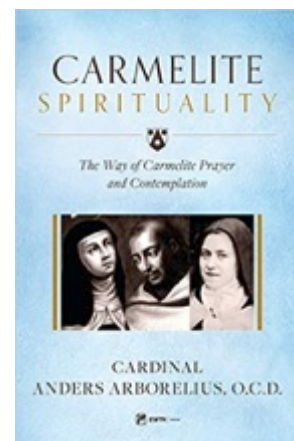


This year Mark O'Keefe, OSB has produced two books on Carmelite themes: one setting out the valuable background to the lives and work of St Teresa of Jesus and St John of the Cross; the second on spiritual direction according to the writing of Teresa and John. These are in addition to his earlier Carmelite works: *The Way of Transformation: Saint Teresa of Avila on the Foundation and Fruit of Prayer and Love Awakened by Love: The Liberating Ascent of Saint John of the Cross*. Mark O'Keefe is a monk and priest of St. Meinrad Archabbey and was rector/president of its seminary and taught moral theology. He is chaplain to the Disalced Carmelite nuns in Terre Haut, Indiana.

In this illuminating book, the Swedish Carmelite Cardinal Anders Arborelius, O.C.D., shows you how, by praying, sacrificing, and meditating in your own particular circumstances, as the great Carmelite saints did in theirs, you, too, can awaken to the sweet presence of God within you and grow ever more eager to hurry toward Him in your daily pilgrimage toward eternity.

With the help of Cardinal Arborelius and these enlightening pages, you'll learn:

- Why true silence is necessary if you are ever to be transformed by the Word of God;
- How to access or create for yourself such a transforming silence;
- Why temptations are an essential part of every living spiritual life;
- How, even amid tasks and temptations, you can recognize the enduring presence of Christ in your life; and
- How, if you ask with sincerity, the Holy Spirit will rush to your aid as you advance step by step toward an abiding intimacy with Jesus and with God the Father.



« O most glorious Virgin Mary, most sweet mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, my good Advocate, have mercy on me, a poor and miserable sinner. O most excellent Lily of the shining and admirable Trinity, I beg you to pray for me so that through you I may embrace your dear son Jesus Christ with perfect love, and that I may be made a soul according to his heart. » (True exercises)





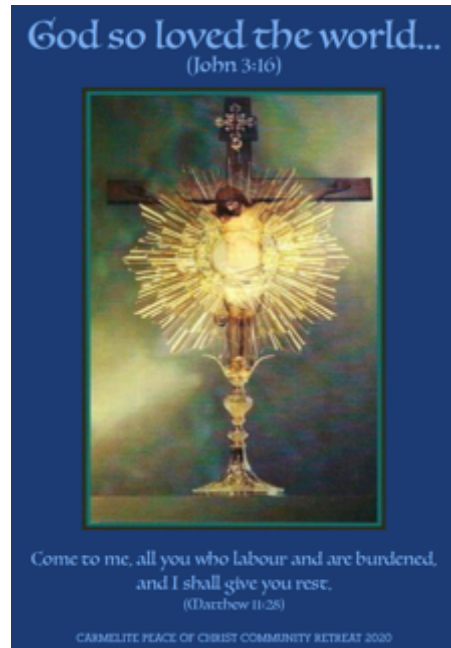
NEWS FROM CHRISTCHURCH PEACE OF CHRIST COMMUNITY

The Christchurch Peace of Christ community opened its annual retreat this year (13-15 November) to Catholics outside the OCDS community, with people coming from Auckland in the north to Dunedin in the south. The retreat was led by Fr. Philip Sulezer of the Community of St John. Over two and half days, there were six talks and ample time for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and for confessions. Topics covered: original sin, God's saving love, distractions in prayer, persistent or habitual sins. Personally, I gained the following insights:

- Read the scriptures daily to hear God's word and do His will;
- Pray to be equipped with tools and resolutions to help the spiritual life: lectio divina; examination of conscience;
- Use ACTS in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament: adoration, contrition, thanksgiving and supplication.

Lyn, our community Formator summed it up: 'Fr. Philip did a grand job and the whole atmosphere including the weather was great. I am sure everyone went home with new resolutions and walking on air.' We are all still savouring the goodness of the Lord now that the retreat sends us out into the world!

Maureen William, OCDS, President, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch.



The Retreat and Conference Centre offers a range of retreats in 2021 including the following in the first months of 2021 as part of the Carmelite Retreat Program. The full list of retreats and services can be seen at: <https://mtcarmel.com.au/carmelite-retreat-program>.

1. 6 February 2021 - *Friends of God and Spiritual Friendship: Discerning Friendships and Their Importance for All Christians* - Br. Adalbert Imperial, OCD.
2. 19-21 February 2021 - *The Gift of Joy! A Taize Retreat* - Annemarie Nichol and Fr. John Armstrong.
3. March 6 - *Lazarus Come Out* - Lorraine Murphy, OCDS.
4. 12-14 March 2021 - *Embracing Three-Dimensional Thinking: The Length and the Breadth, The Height and the Depth* - John Charadia and Artist Tutor Team.
5. 16-18 April 2021 - *Praying with St. Teresa of Jesus* - Fr. Ferdinand de la Cruz, OCD.
6. 1 May 2021 - *Are You the One Who is to Come?* – Dr. Robert Gascoigne.
7. 21-23 May 2021 - *Call to Interior Prayer* – Fr. Paul Maunder, OCD.

WHAT DOES THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION TEACH US?

The dogmatic definition of Bl. Pius IX is vastly different and impersonal compared with Our Lady's words to St. Bernadette: 'I am the Immaculate Conception.' How can a person be a definition? Karl Rahner explains: 'Mary is she who is perfectly redeemed ... Everything comes together in her: her grace, and the salvation of others; the receiving of salvation according to the Spirit and faith, and the acceptance of it according to the flesh; official service and personal charism ...' Mary, in her Immaculate Conception, underlines two important principles of the spiritual life: first, God cannot unite Himself to anyone who not completely free of sin; secondly, God always gives the grace necessary for one's vocation - in Our Lady's case a special, unique vocation and so a special and unique grace.



PRAYING SIMPLY AT HOME - IN THE PANDEMIC AND BEYOND



The Carmelite Friars' Community at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre are happy to offer you some practical guidelines and resources for praying in your homes during a time that is unsettling but also calls for a positive response. We hope they will open up new possibilities for you.

Topics include - www.mtcarmel.com.au/the-prayer-project

What is prayer?

Praying with a Carmelite - Thérèse of Lisieux was a 'master' at conversing with God in a simple way.

Praying with a Poem - The Breastplate of St Patrick.

Praying with the Prayers of the Mass - Prayers of Spiritual Communion.

LITURGICAL PURPLE AT MATHOURA FOR ADVENT



A message from the Carmel of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Mathoura.

We are very pleased to have the following greeting sent on behalf of the sisters from the recently founded Carmel in the Wilcannia-Forbes diocese.

'For the beginning of Advent, a jacaranda tree has dropped a beautiful purple carpet onto the path leading to the humble chapel of the Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Mathoura, Wilcannia-Forbes diocese. As they prepare to celebrate their second Christmas, the Sisters are so grateful for the prayers and support of so many from the Carmelite Family throughout Australia during the past year. They ask prayers for their novices and for their plans to expand their building in the coming year.'



VISIT OF RELICS OF ST THÉRÈSE AND STS LOUIS & ZÉLIE MARTIN



Fr. Michael McGoldrick, OCD generously gave us a large banner/installation of the Martin Family, which had been seen St. Teresa's church in Dublin in September last year. There was a spare one at the Avila Retreat Centre in Dublin. OCDS members from the Sydney and Varroville communities were able to take the banner and a range of books, pamphlets and Carmelite promotional materials to the following venues: St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney; St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta; Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara; Corpus Christi Church, St Ives and Notre Dame University, Broadway. Terrence McBride and Angela Finnegan from the Sydney community are seated at the booth set up in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. A large number of books and materials on Carmelite topics were sold or given away at the various sites.

The relics pilgrimage was sadly cut short and did not make it to Melbourne, Launceston or Perth. There was a committee formed for the Varroville visit, which included Lorraine Murphy, OCDS from the Varroville community and Jill Ditton, OCDS from the Sydney community. A day of reflection was organised for the OCDS at the nuns' monastery, which was well attended by the Sydney and Varroville OCDS communities.



Relaxing in the nuns' reception area during the day of recollection are: Lorraine Murphy, OCDS, President St Elijah community, Varroville; Brett Doyle, OCDS, President National Council; Lucy Denley, OCDS, Mary Immaculate Community; Barbara Stenning, OCDS, National Councillor.



Fr. John Landy, OCD gave a number of talks giving background to the lives and holiness of Louis and Zélie Martin, interspersing them with reflections based on his time working in the General Curia in Rome. Jill Ditton, OCDS, President, Mary Immaculate community, Sydney; Lorraine Murphy, OCDS, President, St Elijah community, Varroville; Fr. John Landy, OCD.



The visit to Varroville coincided with a meeting of the nuns' Association of Our Lady of the Southern Cross. Above are from the left: Sr. Jennifer (Varroville now Toronto), Sr. Maria (Goonellabah), Sr. Jacinta (Toronto), Sr. Moira (Ormiston), Sr. Jocelyn (Varroville now Toronto).

FIFTY YEARS A DOCTOR (OF THE CHURCH)



27 September 2020 was the 50th anniversary of St. Teresa's of Jesus' being declared the first woman Doctor of the Church by St. Paul VI. She was followed a week later by St. Catherine of Siena and then by St. Thérèse in 1997 and later by St. Hildegard of Bingen.

The apostolic letter, *Multiformis Sapientia Dei*, is available in English translated by Deb Thurston OCDS at <https://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/en/multiformis-sapientia-dei-50th-of-the-teresian-doctorate/>.

The 50th Anniversary of the Doctorate of Santa Teresa of Jesus was celebrated on 27 September 2020. In commemoration, the Diocese of Avila, the Disalced Carmelites and the Catholic University of Avila (UCAV), along with collaboration from the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, organised the International Congress *Exceptional Woman. Fifty years of the Doctorate of St. Teresa of Jesus*. The opening act of the Congress took place on 27 September, the anniversary date of the first woman recognized as Doctor of the Church. The Congress itself will take place from 12 April 2021 to 15 April 2021. For more information: <http://congresosantateresadoctora.es/>



NEWS FROM SAMOAN OCDS COMMUNITY IN FORMATION

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!

On behalf of OCDS Community in Formation, I fraternally greet you all, our Secular Carmelite Brothers and Sisters!

Currently, OCDS SAMOA has 10 Definitely Professed Members, 2 with temporary promises and 2 Aspirants.

I thank the President and National Council for the invitation to contribute to the newsletter, briefly outlining our current situation, united with everyone in the Region as we journey towards Oneness and the Summit! We are very much aware of the liturgically important time into which this call for Oneness comes. We are urged to be **Awake** and **Vigilant** in our **Longing** and **Waiting** for the **Coming** of the **Infant Jesus**.

The beginning of 2020 marked a time of deep reflection and 'soul searching' for all our members. God, without doubt was always so near to us. His love, mercy and compassion was manifested in the responses of members to all challenges especially those arising from the pandemic.

Highlights

On 1 May 2020, we celebrated St Joseph the Worker's Solemnity together with Noue P tamasese who made her temporary promises.

On 15 October, Solemnity of Our Holy Mother St Teresa of Jesus, three members made the definitive promises: Nellie Ah Kuoi, Lusía Iakopo and Christina M Fa'alana'i.

During our Annual Retreat (30 & 31 October) we welcomed as observers our 'first married couple'. Our November meeting was cancelled because of the pandemic.

Our formator, Mother Maria Elisapeta of Christ the King, OCD, was re-elected as Prioress, and we welcomed this as a sign for the future stability of the group and for our guidance and formation.

We look forward to our annual visit with the nuns during Advent on the Solemnity of St John of the Cross, which is an occasion we look forward to. We will have a Thanksgiving Mass to formally end the year.

Whatever the situation, let us join hands, hearts and spirit in gratitude to God and his goodness, which embraces us always. Yes, all is grace! Thanks be to God.

All the OCDS in Samoa wish you and your loved ones all the peace, joy, safety, and blessings of the Emmanuel and the Holy Family.

Ia manuia le Kerisimasi & 2021!

Deo Gratias!

SISTER ARIEL MARIA CHRISTINA OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

Sr. Ariel received the Carmelite habit on 2 February 2020 in the Carmel of the Holy Spirit, Ormiston, Queensland.



The *primary objective* of the formation process is to prepare people for the total consecration of themselves to God in the following of Christ, at the service of the Church's mission. To say 'Yes' to the Lord's call by taking personal responsibility for maturing in one's vocation is the inescapable duty of all who have been called. One's whole life must be open to the action of the Holy Spirit, travelling the road of formation with generosity, and accepting in faith the means of grace offered by the Lord and the Church. Formation should therefore have a profound effect on individuals, so that their every attitude and action, at important moments as well as in the ordinary events of life, will show that they belong completely and joyfully to God. Since the very purpose of consecrated life is conformity to the Lord Jesus in his *total self-giving*, this must also be the principal objective of formation. Formation is a path of gradual identification with the attitude of Christ towards the Father. If this is the purpose of the consecrated life, the manner of preparing for it should include and express *the character of wholeness*.

Vita Consecrata 65.



VARROVILLE CARMEL MOVES TO TORONTO



Our Community (Srs. Jocelyn, Jennifer, Jacinta, Anna, Sarah & Helen) has officially transferred from our Monastery in Varroville to a rented property in Toronto, belonging to the Sisters of Mercy. For some time as our numbers diminished, we found it difficult to keep up the cleaning and maintenance of our Varroville monastery. When we first moved to Varroville in 1990, we were a community of over twenty sisters, so the monastery catered for that number. At the time, we really tried to keep it modest in size and, after living in both the Dulwich Hill monastery and in Parkes, we certainly felt that we had moved to a smaller building!

So, we applied to the Sacred Congregation for permission to transfer to Toronto. The building is over a hundred years old, but it has been very nicely renovated some years back and accommodates us very well. We are in a well-established area with all the neighbouring houses built at a time when a back yard was considered a necessity. So, rather than the cheek by jowl sort of houses you see in modern day estates, we are surrounded by lovely trees and gardens. We also front on to Lake Macquarie, which is always beautiful, reflecting the clouds and changing colours as the tide ebbs and flows.

We were made welcome by the sisters of the Newcastle-Maitland Diocese on 29 October at an afternoon tea. The gathering gave us the opportunity to meet representatives of the various religious institutes ministering in the Newcastle Diocese. We are grateful for their kindness and their hospitality. This photo was taken on the occasion of the Welcome.

Our contact details are as follows: P.O Box 694, Toronto NSW 2283.



*The Virgin, weighed
With the Word of God,
Comes down the road:
if only you will shelter her!*



FIRST PROMISES ON ALL SAINTS DAY FOR VARROVILLE OCDS COMMUNITY

Despite the wild weather and pandemic restrictions, our Varroville OCDS Community was able to gather, though with the restricted numbers [15], to witness and celebrate three of our members making their first promises. We congratulate Edita Jeon, Mary Kelly and Barry Morkel on this blessed occasion of All Saints Day, 2020. We wish each of you every blessing as you continue your journey in Carmel. May it be an adventure with many graces and deep friendships.

Our whole Community welcomes you in what of necessity was a most unusual day because of the Covid-19 pandemic. November is normally our Community Day of Recollection; however, nothing seems 'normal' this year. We live in the hope that 2021 will be a little smoother. Our special thanks to Fr. Ferdie, Fr. Paul and Sr. Fines for preparing a safe environment for us.



BRISBANE OCDS - DEFINITIVE PROMISES AND RECEPTION INTO FORMATION



Margaret Board, OCDS and Chris Young, OCDS made their definitive promises on Sunday, 20 November 2020 immediately before the Community elections. Jamie Twain was received into formation, a year late because the pandemic border closures meant Fr. Gerard was not able to travel to Queensland. He deputised Fr. Frank Jones, spiritual director at the Brisbane seminary. Fr. Jones's aunt, Sr. Mary of Jesus OCD (RIP) was an extern nun at the Ormiston Carmel. Frank Jones did several stints as a missionary in South America, where he learnt Spanish, which has enabled him to undertake courses in Avila Spain at the Order's University of Mysticism.



'BEING DISCALCED CARMELITES TODAY'

Charismatic Declaration of the Teresian Carmel

79. The Sense of Belonging

'Together we form one family of the Teresian Carmel, divided into provinces and communities. We must foster a sense of belonging to the Order and a deep communion within it. Each person should feel as his own the experiences, needs, joys and sufferings of others, and seek to contribute through his commitment to prayer, fraternity, and service to the good of all. It is necessary to strengthen coordination and mutual aid at all levels, promoting initiatives of interprovincial collaboration, attention to the needs of the Order, mutual trust between the different instances of local, provincial, and general government, and especially with the availability of friars to the services that are required for the good of the Order.'

MELBOURNE OCDS COMMUNITY SUFFERS DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

HUSH

*Hush, ye songs of mountain air
that would entice my heart to sleep;
for I watch in silent prayer,
this vigil for my love to keep.*

*Be still ye waters of the stream,
let not your voice disturb my ear;
take not from this joyous dream,
for my Beloved is drawing near.*

*Let not the rustling leaf be heard
within the fields of His estate,
restrain the flight of raucous bird,
till thirsting soul He satiate.*

*Be calm ye flocks that sing on high,
while angel hosts prepare his path;
let not your ardent song deny
His flame of love upon my hearth.*

*All earth in silent homage bow,
and hush thy voice respectfully;
subdue thy joy by sacred vow,
for my Beloved whispers to me.*

*Let not creation's joy deny
this moment that my heart awaits;
love's whisper poured in endless sigh,
whose life this soul anticipates.*

*Hush the murmur of my heart,
quell the flames of her desire,
may other dreams be set apart,
That I may share Beloved's fire.*

*One song alone, this hear to know,
one voice in silent dream to hear;
one seed of love for love to sow,
for my Beloved is drawing near.*

*Hush now, all creation's song,
For my Beloved will not be long.
Hush.*

Peter Murphy

During the lockdown we organised a monthly Meeting in Spirit and our Formator continued working with our candidates on-line. We endeavoured to keep in touch, supporting each other and the wider Order as best we could.

Unfortunately some of our members lost loved ones during the lockdown and because of restrictions, we could not attend their funerals or visit our members. Thankfully were able to join them in prayer and for the funerals on line. Marilyn's mother, Irene, passed away and Kath's son, Nik passed away. May they rest in peace.

Sadly, Peter Murphy aged 67 years, our much loved and respected ex-President, passed away on the 17 July after a 2 year battle with motor neurone disease. Peter suffered much and as the disease progressed he was not able to do anything for himself. He was not allowed to have any visitors until near the time of his death, when his daughter was allowed to visit. Peter's faith, courage, trust, patience and surrender to God's will was inspiring. He wrote much poetry and dictated it to his daughter when he could no longer use his arms and hands, even when he was on the breathing machine, much of the time. Poetry was a great gift and comfort to Peter. *Hush* is one of his poems.

Also during lockdown, one of our dear younger members was diagnosed with advanced cancer. She has undergone surgery and is continuing with chemo. May the Lord grant her healing and peace. Thanks be to God for mobile phones and computers: they have enabled us to keep in touch.

We thank God for the gift of faith, which gives us strength especially during the difficult times. We wish you a very blessed Christmas and will remember all our Carmelite family in prayer



Peter Murphy – definitive promises 16 October 2016 with Fr. Gerard Moran

A CHRISTMAS CONVERSION

It was December 25, 1886, that I received the grace of leaving my childhood, in a word, the grace of my complete conversion ... I felt charity enter into my soul, the need to forget myself and to please others; since then I've been happy!

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus.



FRIARS' CHAPTER

At the friars' Chapter in August, Fr. Bernard was re-elected regional vicar for the next 3 years and Fr. Aloysius was elected 1st councillor and Fr. Paul Maunder 2nd councillor.

Following the Chapter the following appointments have been made.

Varroville community

Aloysius Rego Prior; student master
Ferdinand de La Cruz 1st councillor; asst. vocations director.
Des Williamson
John Landy
Paul Maunder
Shane Kelleher parish priest
Adalbert Imperial student
**the regional vicar, Bernard Hancock, will reside at Varroville

Morley community

Greg Burke Prior; parish priest
John Pallipadan 1st councillor, asst. parish priest
Tadgh Tierney
John Follent

St Ives community

Sunny Peackal Prior
Gerard Moran Vocations director.
Greg Chee Parish priest
Ransom Rapirap - still in the Philippines.



*Wishing you a
Happy & Holy
Christmas*

And should by chance you do not know
Where to find Me,
Do not go here and there;
But if you wish to find Me,
In yourself seek Me.

St Teresa of Jesus