



## Newsletter

Number 267, March 2021

### Carmel OCDS Community Meeting Sunday 7 March 2021

**12:00pm Formation Groups**

**12:45pm Community Meeting**

Welcome & opening prayers

Roll call & apologies

Minutes of previous meeting

Treasurer's report, Correspondence

General business, General discussion

Closing prayers

**1:45pm Community Formation**

St Thérèse of Lisieux

"Story of a Soul: Study Edition"

(Community Study: Chapters 2-3, from p.77)

**2:30pm Father's Teaching**

**Divine Office in Chapel**

Leader: Megan, Reader: Lyn

**Afternoon Tea**

Prep. & Serving: Pat C. & Karen

Dishes: Ken & Christine



**Bethany Day**

**Tuesday 16 March 2021**

**(10:30am – 1:00pm)**

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

12:00pm Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:30pm BYO Lunch and Study

**Birthdays**

Pat Carroll Thu. 4 March

Margaret Dwyer Wed. 24 March

Marian Pavletich Wed. 24 March



**NZ OCDS Website: [www.carmel.org.nz](http://www.carmel.org.nz)**

**March: Dedicated to St Joseph**  
**Husband of Mary, Patron of Carmel**  
**Feast Day: 19 March**

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

A blessed Lent to all! Hope this finds you well as we journey through this holy season of Lent.

It was indeed wonderful to meet with everyone at our first meeting earlier in February: we had our Community study on St Thérèse, listened to Fr Michael-Thérèse's teachings on the Sunday's readings at Mass, and prayed the Evening Prayer of the Divine Office together as a Community.

Bethany Day was well attended too. The mood was very relaxing, lots of laughs, and thoughts shared. We watched a video and then proceeded to the Chapel for some quiet time. We had a new enquirer (Amy) amongst us. Welcome, Amy, to your first Bethany Day!

Please note that there will be **two meetings** in March: 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March. As Easter Sunday falls on 4<sup>th</sup> April, it has been agreed that we shall move our April meeting forward to March 28<sup>th</sup>.

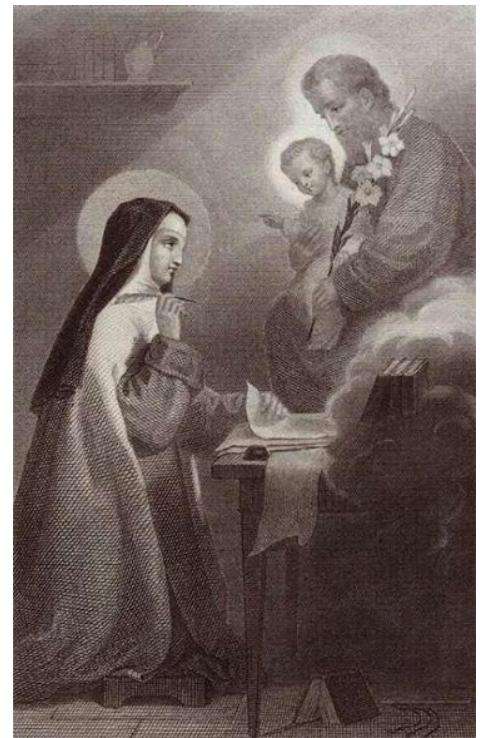
March 28<sup>th</sup> is the birthday of our Mother St Teresa of Jesus – the Council feels that it would be apt for the Community to make our annual **Renewal of Promises** on that day. As in previous years we shall do this in the Chapel with Father present.

On 24<sup>th</sup> March (Wednesday) Megan and I shall give a presentation on behalf of our Sisters titled "**What it means to be a Carmelite**". This shall be to a group called the U3A (Third Age Uni) and will be held at the Lincoln Events Centre, Meijer Drive, Lincoln at 11am. All are welcome.

**St Joseph, pray for us and bless us all with a holy and fruitful Lent.**

Blessings in Carmel,

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



March quote from St Teresa of Jesus:

**"...I took for my advocate and lord the glorious St Joseph and commended myself earnestly to him; and I found that this my father and lord delivered me... and that he gave me greater blessings than I could ask of him."**

## EXCERPTS FROM “ST JOSEPH, PATRON OF CARMEL” (PART TWO)

A Letter from the Prior General, O.Carm. (P. Mícheál O’Neill) and Superior General, O.C.D. (P. Saverio Cannistrà)  
to the Carmelite Family on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
proclamation of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church

### The patronage of St Joseph

One of the characteristic thoughts of Teresa was that while other saints are destined by God to help in certain kinds of need, St Joseph has a kind of universal mandate, to assist in any kind of need, material or spiritual. (*Life* 6, 6). It is on this conviction that the feast of the patronage of St Joseph was founded, in a way that was typically Carmelite. In the year 1628, the intermediate General Chapter of the Spanish congregation of the Discalced Carmelites, declared St Joseph as the principal patron of the Discalced Order...

...Joseph came to be known among Carmelites as the best of teachers and was held to be the protector and patron especially of those who are overburdened or who have lost their way in trying to follow Jesus Christ...

### Today’s world

We are living now in a period in which the Church is not so concerned with defending itself from an outside enemy but seeks to recognise its mission of giving authentic witness to the truth of the Gospel. Thus, in a world where there is need for “*concreteness and the sense of mystery*”, in a world in which we tend to flee from the bonds of stable relationships and commitments and to revert to a kind of sterile narcissism, Joseph shows us the way of self-denial, daily responsibility, the silent dedication to the care and growth of family. Any father of a family will want to heal the wounds of his own home. Our patron helps us to see the need to heal the wounds of humanity, and the wounds of the Church. There is no Church, there is no Carmel without people, who, forgetting themselves work day and night to give others a sure foundation in which they can trust. These people work away from the limelight, bearing in their own hearts all their own concerns and anxieties, very often, not seeing the fruits or even see the goal, trusting only in the one from whom their paternity comes and takes its name (*Ef* 3,15) These are the people who will always find in St Joseph their patron and model, “*their father and lord*”.

The Word came to Joseph in a dream, which we may understand as his prayer, his interiority. We might say that every Carmel is a place of dreams: prayer is like a dream, that has within it a secret message. A Carmelite community is a group of people that dreams of making of its own home a new Jerusalem, people who share the dream of the prophet for a better world, people who allow themselves to be captured every day by the dream of salvation. In listening every day to the Word of Salvation, we are conformed to Christ in his obedience and in his desire to serve, as the one who did not come to be served, but to serve, as one who found in small children the example of how we must be if we want to enter the kingdom of God. Carmelites, like Saint Joseph, know the dream and keep alight the flame of hope that shines for the new world promised to those who are

attentive to the word of God, because God will make all things new.

Saint Joseph protects Carmel, not only because he protects it from hostile attack and from every adversity, but also because he helps Carmel to remain firm in the simplicity and profundity of its identity. With his being just he points the way that we must follow and the goal for which we must strive. In this sense, there is no doubt that our veneration of Saint Joseph is not only a devotion or pious practice, but rather a life plan, that is an integral part of the charismatic heritage of Carmel. Together with Mary, Joseph is the gospel icon in which we Carmelites may see and understand what it means to live “*in allegiance to Jesus Christ*”. It is right then that we continue to turn to him as our father and patron, but also as a faithful friend and reliable guide in our following in the footsteps of Jesus.

As the world continues to deal with Covid-19, we unite in prayer for the doctors and nurses, for medical researchers, and for all who have fallen victim to this pandemic and for the families who are in mourning for the loss of loved ones. May Joseph, our protector, protect each one of us, and with the tender love of God, spread his protection throughout the whole world.





## Prayers for March

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

### We pray for:

- Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, Archbishop Paul, SM, the appointment of a new bishop for our diocese and all our priests, religious and seminarians
- Our 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
- Sr Ann Teresa, OCD: Final Profession on 1<sup>st</sup> May
- Our Special Members, especially Stephanie Tabley, Rosaline Closel, Margaret Dwyer and Peb Simmons
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Those who have died recently, especially Fr Pius Sammut, OCD, Bishop Azuaje Pérez, OCD, Fr Reginald Foster, OCD and the consolation of their families and communities
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially all those affected by the coronavirus. Also prayers for Fr Benito (cancer), John Garvey (cancer), Karen's cousin, Rose (motor neurone disease), Megan's mother, Josie, Sonia Sookwah, Fr Nicholas, OCD, Fr Eugene, OCD, Mother Dorothea, Joan O'Neill (cancer), Stephanie (Annette's daughter), Dora Termeer, Raymond (Ken's brother), Karen's grandson, Tommy and Laura (safe birth of their baby), and Louise Tillaart and her daughter

### Our Holy Father's Intentions for March:

- Let us pray that we may experience the **sacrament of reconciliation** with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

### NATIONAL STATUTES PART VI – FORMATION IN THE SCHOOL OF CARMEL Section Ten – Formation of Members

22. Ever desirous of preserving the Teresian spirit in our communities it is important that: ...

- the whole formation process is carried out in a friendly, respectful and non-judgemental way, allowing aspirants to respond in their own time as we share with love the riches of our vocation...



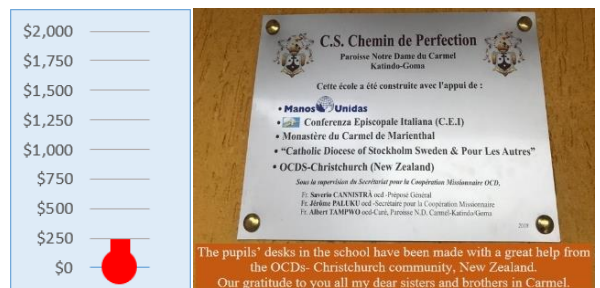
**Our Lenten Journey with St Teresa of Jesus: Look at Him...**



**First community meeting for the year, 7 February 2021**

### OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

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



The pupils' desks in the school have been made with a great help from the OCDs- Christchurch community, New Zealand. Our gratitude to you all my dear sisters and brothers in Carmel.

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

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