



# Newsletter

Number 272, August 2021

## Carmel OCDS Community Meeting

**Sunday 1 August 2021**  
**"FOUNDATION DAY"**

**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

**No Community Formation**

**2:00pm Mass in Chapel**

**Afternoon Tea**

(Please bring a plate.)



Prep. & Serving: Karen & Odette

Dishes: Ken & Mary



**Missions**

For Goma and  
Musoshi in DR Congo

## Bethany Day

**Tuesday 17 August 2021**

**(10:30am – 1:00pm)**

10:30am Morning Tea

11:00am DVD

12:00pm Chapel – Quiet Prayer

12:30pm BYO Lunch and Study

## Birthdays

Maureen William Thursday 5 August

Christine Pitcaithly Thursday 12 August



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

## *August: Dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

July 16<sup>th</sup> was the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, our very own feast day.

Trust everyone had a blessed and happy day.

We celebrate our Community's **Foundation Day** on 1<sup>st</sup> August (Sunday) which coincides with our next monthly meeting. There shall be a slight change in our programme: instead of our usual group study (on St Thérèse) there will be Mass at 2pm. We will then have afternoon tea to celebrate. Please bring a plate. Thank you.

The 15<sup>th</sup> of August, Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, is the day when **Sr Anne Mary of the Assumption** makes her Solemn Profession. It shall be at the Carmel Monastery at 2pm. We are all invited. Sincerest gratitude to those who have volunteered to help on that day.

A trivia down memory lane – 76 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1945, the Second World War came to an end. Please do not stop to pray for peace in this fragile world of ours.

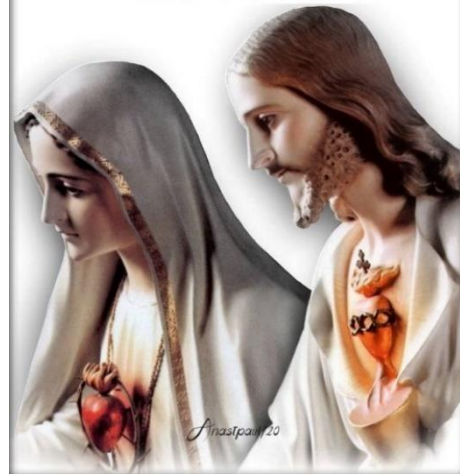
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, please pray for us.

Blessings in Carmel,

Maureen William, OCDS

(President, Peace of Christ Community, Christchurch)

*"I want My Church to... put the  
 devotion  
 to this Immaculate Heart  
 beside the devotion to  
 My Sacred Heart."  
 Jesus to Lúcia of Fatima*



August quote from St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face:

**"Do not be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her enough.  
 And Jesus will be very happy, because the Blessed Virgin is His Mother."**

# EXCERPTS FROM “EDITH STEIN [ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS] AND SILENT PRAYER (2): THE TRANSFORMING EFFECTS OF PRAYER”

By Joanne Mosley (“Mount Carmel” Magazine, April – June 2019)

## A deep faith in transformation

...Edith had a firm and deep faith in the transforming effects of prayer. This can stem only from a disposition of being open and receptive to God... Here are three examples – referring to silent prayer, Scripture and the Eucharist respectively – all three passages encouraging and inspiring, for faith alone can keep us vibrantly alert to what is happening:

### On silent prayer:

*“No human eye can see what God does in the soul during hours of inner prayer. It is grace upon grace. And all of life’s other hours are our thanks for them.”*  
(“The Hidden Life”, p. 6)

### On a prayerful reading of Scripture:

*“We need hours for listening silently and allowing the Word of God to act on us until it moves us to bear fruit in an offering of praise and an offering of action.”*  
(“The Hidden Life”, p. 16)

### On receiving Communion:

*“I am no longer what once I was.”*  
(“The Hidden Life”, p. 137)

This theme of transformation runs throughout Edith’s writings on prayer, revealing to us its many aspects. But they all come down to these two: prayer transforms *the person who prays*; and, through that person’s prayer, it transforms *the Church and the world*.

## PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

### Calm in times of stress

At the most basic level, prayer helps us to survive, especially in times of stress. Edith herself was no stranger to stress. When a schoolteacher, she felt she was faced with mountains of work and an avalanche of essays to mark!...

*“The duties and cares of the day ahead crowd about us when we awake in the morning (if they have not already dispelled our night’s rest). Now arises the uneasy question: How can all this be accommodated in one day?... Thus agitated, we would like to run around and rush forth. We must then take the reins in hand and say, ‘Take it easy! Not any of this may touch me now. My first morning’s hour belongs to the Lord. I will tackle the day’s work which He charges me with, and He will give me the power to accomplish it.’ ”*  
(“Essays on Woman”, p. 143)

...Prayer, then, calmed her down and gave her strength... Focus on God, and he will take care of everything and show us how to manage...

### God’s ‘dream’ for us

The most essential aspect of our personal transformation through prayer is to become the person God wants us to become. He has a vision – a ‘dream’ for us – of how we might be fully alive and holy, and grow in the likeness of Christ...

*“...What we can and must do is open ourselves to grace; that means to renounce our own will completely and to give it captive to the divine will, to lay our whole soul, ready for reception and formation, into God’s hands.”* (“Essays on Woman”, p. 143)

This *openness* to grace, to which Edith refers, is absolutely vital, and very Carmelite. It is all about taking down the barriers and thus creating *an open channel of receptivity to God*. It is in this way that we can also be formed into an instrument – even, as it were, without trying. This is how we can help others in the sense of *literally* being instruments whenever help is needed. But there is another way – a hidden and yet deeper way – of helping others, and this is where *prayer itself* has a transforming effect on the church and the world.

## THE APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER

### ‘Wherever there is grief

...Edith believed in the transforming effects of prayer – the vocation of Thérèse, open to all, to be love in the heart of the Church. So, drawing inspiration from Thérèse’s desires to be an apostle, a prophet, a teacher and so on, Edith transposed onto those roles, as it were, the ones relevant to the current situation of war. She wrote, in that first month of the war:

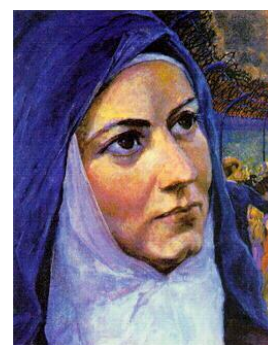
*“You cannot help here or there like the physician, the nurse, the priest. [But] You can be at all fronts, wherever there is grief, in the power of the cross. Your compassionate love takes you everywhere, this love from the divine heart.”* (“The Hidden Life”, p. 96)

This is the apostolate of prayer...

### Into another world

*“...From the moment I met her in the [Nazi] camp at Westerbork... I knew: here is someone truly great. For a couple of days she lived in that hellhole, walking, talking, and praying... like a saint... When she spoke, it was impossible not to be moved by her humility and conviction. Talking with her was like... journeying into another world, where for the moment, Westerbork ceased to exist.”* (“Edith Stein: A Biography”, p. 186)

...Edith was focused on God to such an extent that the effect was passed on *even to other people*, as if through osmosis...



*“The glow of a saintly Carmelite radiated from her eyes. You could feel the heavenly atmosphere that her faith had created around her.”*  
(ES, p. 185)

*“...in the end, none of those [conflicts and] contrasts will remain. There will only be the fullness of love.”* (ES, p. 186)

## Prayers for August

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 Arsène, MAFR and his agropastoral project to help the poor in Musoshi (DR Congo)
- Success of the General Chapter of Discalced Carmelites: Rome, 30<sup>th</sup> August – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021
- Fr Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy Team
- Sr Anne Mary, OCD: Final Profession on 15<sup>th</sup> August
- Our Special Members, especially Dorothea, Stephanie, Rosaline, Margaret and Peb
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life
- Samuel Pitcaithly and the three young men who have entered the novitiate of "Home of the Mother" in Spain
- Those who have died recently, especially Barbara's friends, Ross and Julie Shaw, Karen's brother, Cyril, and the consolation of their families
- Those who have asked for, or need our prayers, especially all those affected by the coronavirus. Also prayers for Fr Benito (cancer), Annette's daughter, Stephanie, Marian's son, Stephen, Noeline and Hec, Gary Miers (cancer) and his wife, Carol, Kelvin (surgery), baby Carter, Kathleen Kikelly (cancer), Sr Mercy Kariuki, Gay (broken wrist), Marian's grandson, Casper (RSV), and Megan as Chaplain

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

- Let us pray for the **Church**, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

### NATIONAL STATUTES PART VI – FORMATION IN THE SCHOOL OF CARMEL

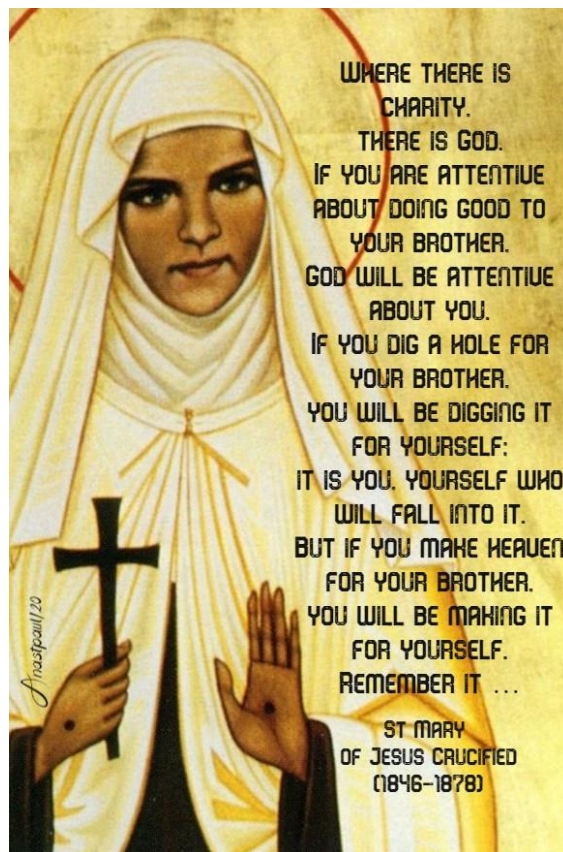
#### Section Ten – Formation of Members

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

- the Council ensures adequate ongoing formation is provided and members are prepared to share responsibility for the ongoing welfare of the Community.

## Our August Carmelite Saints

- 7 Sat. St Albert of Trapani (priest)
- 9 Mon. St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (martyr)
- 18 Wed. Bl. Leonard Duverneuil, Michael Aloysius Brulard, Hubert of St Claude (priests, and their companions, martyrs)
- 25 Wed. **St Mary of Jesus Crucified Baouardy (virgin)**
- 26 Thur. St Teresa of Jesus' Transverberation



### CARMEL RETREAT

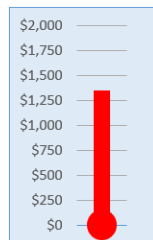
*"A Retreat with Jesus, Mary and Joseph"*  
Retreat Director: Fr Sean-Mary Britto, CSJ

November 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 2021

Rochester Hall, Canterbury University, Ilam  
Live in cost \$230 Day only \$110

### OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

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



New Total



The children in class

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

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