



Newsletter

Number 279, April 2022

Carmel OCDS Community Meeting

Sunday 3 April 2022

Parish Centre of Christ the King Church

1pm Community Meeting

1:45pm Community Formation

St Thérèse of Lisieux

"Story of a Soul: Study Edition"

(Community Study: Chapter 5, from p.151)

2:20pm Divine Office in Church

Leader: Claire, Reader: Christine



Bethany Day

Tuesday 19 April 2022

To be confirmed

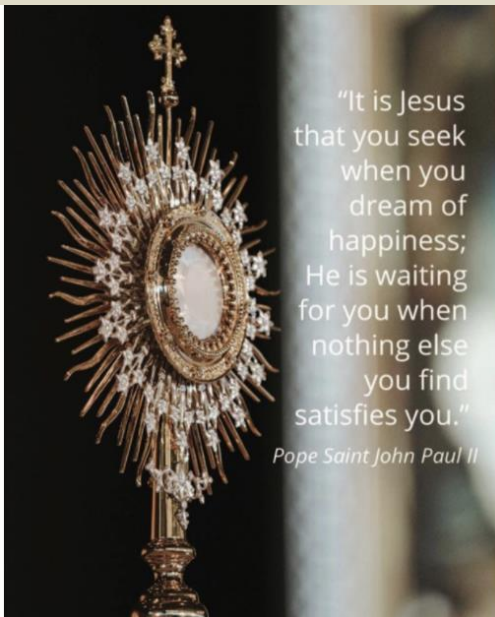
Birthdays

Mary O'Boyle Sunday 3 April

Noeline Sapwell Tuesday 12 April



NZ OCDS Website: www.carmel.org.nz



"It is Jesus
that you seek
when you
dream of
happiness;
He is waiting
for you when
nothing else
you find
satisfies you."

Pope Saint John Paul II

April: Dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament

Dear brothers and sisters in Carmel,

As I was reading this Sunday's Office of Readings, I saw this quote from *The Spiritual Writings of Blessed Francis Pulau* on the power of prayer for the Church:

"Since God does not distribute His graces to men except through prayer, because He wishes us to recognise Him as the source from which all good things flow, in like manner, He does not wish to save from danger, or cure our wounds, or console us in affliction, except by means of this same exercise of prayer."

We are halfway through Lent; mid-way through our special time of prayer, fasting and alms-giving; an appropriate time indeed to pray for those in need of our prayers. Hence, I urge all to join in the call of our Holy Father to pray for the people of Ukraine in a **Vigil for Peace**: 12 hours of Prayer for Peace in Ukraine. All churches in New Zealand shall be open from 7am to 7pm. New Zealand's Catholic bishops are asking Catholics here to offer special prayers for everyone caught in the Ukraine war by going to their local parish church on Friday 25th March (Feast of the Annunciation) to pray the Rosary.

Bishop Stephen Lowe, the Bishop of Auckland and Secretary of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference, said visiting a church next Friday would be a show of solidarity:

"All over Ukraine, people are having to flee their homes because of the war. Leaving our homes here in New Zealand to go to our local church to pray on this special day would very much be showing solidarity to the people having to leave their homes."

This is the season of Lent, which is about the change, the conversion of the heart. Christ calls us to love our enemies and to embrace each other as brothers and sisters. And as we pray for Ukraine, we also remember those caught in other conflicts, including Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Libya and elsewhere."

May we also continue to pray for the special members of our Community, the Sisters of Christchurch Carmel and all those who have asked for our prayers.

Have a blessed Holy Week and a Spirit-filled Easter.

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

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

**"Do you realise that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you and for you alone?
He burns with the desire to come into your heart."**

A SPIRITUAL AUDIT IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

It is always a good time for all members to check on our spiritual lives.

Have we progressed in the last year?

Have we been faithful to our Constitutions as Carmelites in the Secular Order?

Is our prayer life developing more each day – each year?

Do the people we come in contact with, know that we are people of prayer?

Do we seek to do God's will in all things?

Is the reason for us being in Carmel:

- That we desire to be drawn to a deeper way of prayer – and not just to belong to a sodality and meet people!
- Do we make an effort to get along with the other members, to encourage them and support them in difficulties?
- Is the Secular Order the main organization in our lives? Or do we just fit it in, when convenient?
- Are we free to practice what our Constitutions require for our way of life, or are our family and others made to suffer through our life?

Are we still willing to carry out our duties faithfully? Attendance at mass, meetings and daily prayers? Or are we growing careless and easy-going, when we do miss? This does not apply to sickness or when no Mass is available.

It is good to think about the year past, and if we are going forward or backwards – for we never stand still!! Change the things that need to be changed – improve on the good things.

Are we acquiring the Spirit of the Order?

Are we growing in the understanding of the life of Carmel?

Are we giving priority to our duties of Carmel and our commitment to it?

If we find that our fervour is lacking, we cannot fulfil our promises, or maybe we feel that God wants us to be in another way of life, then pray about it – and do what God wants us to do – not just carry on because we want to stay!

Talk it over with the Spiritual Assistant, but do not carry on if the heart is not in it. Promises made to God are meant with all our heart, God will help us with His grace to keep them; if we find it is too much for us, or not right for us, God will give us a new way of life to serve Him.

(With thanks to **Margaret Dwyer** for this excellent inventory, 1994)

File ocds:formation

Prayers for April

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, our new General, Fr Miguel Márquez Calle, 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:

- Our OCD nuns and friars in Ukraine, and all the people of Ukraine who are being attacked and bombarded



On Friday, March 25, Pope Francis will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as requested by the Blessed Virgin in Fatima

- Bishop Greg Homeming, OCD and the people of Lismore and Brisbane, recovering from severe floods
- Fr Jérôme, OCD and our Goma school mission
- Fr Michael-Thérèse, Fr Antoine and CSJ
- Fr Philip, CSJ and the University Chaplaincy Team
- Sr Mary Teresa and our Carmelite Sisters
- Our Special Members, especially Margaret Dwyer. Also Dorothea, Stephanie, Rosaline and Peb
- John Paul II Centre for Life and prayers for life. Also, Megan on Board of Trustees.
- Those who have died recently 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 and her daughter, Stephanie, Marian's son, Stephen, Noeline and Hec, baby Carter, Fr Arsène, Shaun Hickland (NET Ministries), Carol Miers' cousin, Raewyn, Claire's Sister Marie (very sore back), Megan's sister, Linda (heart attack), and Edith (cancer)

Our Holy Father's Intentions for April:

- We pray for **health care workers** who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

St Teresa and the Risen Christ



NATIONAL STATUTES

PART VII – Organisation and Government Section Fourteen – Elections

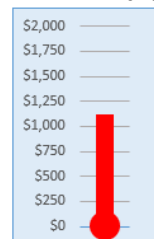
*"O guide our minds with thy blest light,
with love our hearts inflame."*

42. As part of their preparation, members prayerfully reflect on the 'signs of the times' and on the gifts and abilities of their brothers and sisters in community as they discern who might best fulfil the functions of a good working Council. Some relevant attributes:

- **Prayerful** – a contemplative outlook
- **Pastoral** – ability to address the needs of members in the context of the good of the whole community
- **Prophetic** – ability to discern the 'signs of the times' in the light of the Gospels and set practical priorities for the community
- **Collaborative** – able to promote the co-responsible involvement of all members in the life of the community
- **Apostolic** – a practical appreciation of the place of the Teresian Carmel in the local Church.

OUR MISSIONS PROJECT

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



New Total



Our Lady of Mt Carmel

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

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