

TYBURN NEWSLETTER

TYBURN MONASTERY COR JESU FONS VITAE, 74 DODS RD. NGAKURU RDI, ROTORUA 3077

SACRED HEART 2017



Dear Friends of Tyburn Monastery

Every year during Lent one Sister of our community is assigned the task of painting the Paschal Candle for Easter. The Paschal candle needs to have a Cross. On top of the Cross is an A and at the base an O (standing for the Greek words Alpha and Omega, in English – the First and Last – referring to Christ). The year is also written. So the Sister doesn't need to be especially talented artistically. Usually however there is also painted a Paschal Lamb standing triumphantly with a banner. The Sister may be fond of lambs, but that is not the point.

From Easter on, the Lamb appears constantly in the liturgical readings and hymns and is one of the forms used to represent Christ. Jesus was crucified on the eve of the Jewish Passover Feast, at about the time when the lambs were begun to be slain. As the blood of the lambs protected the Israelites from the last deadly plague in Egypt, so the blood of Jesus also conquered death and bought life for the souls of all, spiritual life in this world and unending life in the next.

Sometimes the Lamb is pictured with a pierced chest, which is reminiscent of the Sacred Heart, and a chalice which reminds us of the Holy Mass. In the Eucharist we partake of His living Body and Blood, just as the Israelites ate the Paschal lamb. Our Lord Jesus Christ has given us everything that He could to ensure our salvation, and in the beautiful Exultet of the Easter Vigil we sing of His mercy – “O wonder of your humble care for us! O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!” Do we love Him in return?



“The first thing necessary in loving our Lord is to believe Him lovable. What are the sort of persons one loves? First, they must be easy to get on with. How many, in their heart of hearts, think Our Lord easy to get on with? We think Him touchy, unapproachable, easily annoyed or offended. And yet all this fear of Him pains Him very much...He has an almost foolish love for us. Never was a mother so blind to the faults of her child as Our Lord is to ours. He makes allowances to an almost extravagant degree. He is infinitely quicker to pity and help than to blame and punish. Whatever attracts you in your fellow-creatures is His gift, and possessed by Him in a higher sense...There is nothing easier than to love God, because there is nothing unlovable in Him.” (Rev. Daniel Considine SJ)



The main event of this year has been the Silver Jubilee of our Prioress Mother Mary Rachel. She did not really want a big celebration but the community secretly organized one for her anyway. She made her temporary profession at Tyburn Priory, Sydney, on the 22nd of February in 1992. So on the 25th we had the Jubilee celebration with Bishop Steve who kindly came to preside at the Holy Mass for Mother. Many

friends and also some of her relatives from Australia came for the occasion – much to her surprise. She was presented with a papal blessing from Pope Francis and a number of other gifts from the people, including quite a lot of Masses which were celebrated for her on that day. We thank everyone for their help and participation in her celebration to make the day such a happy one for her. May He grant her another 25 years of faithfulness in His service!

On the 4th of March we farewelled our chaplain of two years, Rev Fr Lucas who was called by his provincial to return to India. We were most grateful for his dedication in providing the daily Mass for us and our visitors during these years and regretted his departure. Now he is working in North India near Delhi. Since then we have been grateful for the generosity of R.Fr Seejo, R.Fr Jobin and R.Fr. Joseph who have said the daily Mass for us and most recently we have welcomed R.Fr Santey.

On the 24th of March Most Rev. Bishop Steve gave a weekend retreat for 10 people. The retreat was on the stained glass windows in the chapel which correspond to the five Sundays of Lent in year A. As this year is Year A of the Liturgical cycle, it was a good opportunity. All those present much enjoyed their retreat and hope the Bishop will give one every year.

During the Easter Octave we were happy to receive a postulant, Sr Theodora. She is now settling into our monastic life and continuing her journey of discerning her vocation with us.



Holy Thursday this year was rather overshadowed by Cyclone Cook which was forecasted to arrive in the afternoon. The warnings being issued prevented a few guests from arriving that day but as the Cyclone was not so bad most of them came the following day. We thank God that the already flooded areas of New Zealand were not subjected to more serious flooding and pray those affected by the floods will receive the necessary help to rebuild or restore their homes.

We also remember the people of Peru where something like 700,000 have lost their homes due to floods. Many parts of Peru rarely receive rain, let alone floods, so the houses are not built to withstand so much water. Our monastery in Sechura stands on the edge of a desert, but even there, some walls are on the point of collapse due to the rain. Colombia too has suffered from flooding, landslides and loss of life and we commend them to the Lord.



In Ecuador they have had the joy of a Monastic Profession. Sr Luz made her perpetual vows on the 25th of February in the presence of the Bishop Alfredo Espinoza, other priests and many of the faithful of the area including some of her family. Now she is Mother Luz with a white cowl, ring and crucifix.

Also in France there was celebrated the Monastic Profession of Sr Brigid. She made her first profession in Nigeria when we had a foundation there. There were about 2000 people present for that profession

so it was the biggest profession ceremony ever held in the Congregation! France could not rival those numbers, but perhaps the lack was compensated for by the presence of 16 priests and the Bishop Joseph de Metz Noblat as well as other guests.



R.M.Seraphim, whom many of you will remember, is now Prioress in France and arrived there in the middle of winter and a blanket of snow. Despite the cold she was made to feel at home by the sight of a real live kangaroo, hopping through the snow! It seems a neighbour has a love for animals and cares for a number of unusual pets.



At the Mother House, Sr M.Euphrasia. Sr. M.Ethelburga and Sr M. Stella, first fruits of the foundation in Nigeria, made their Temporary Profession. As you will remember, that foundation could not continue, but many Sisters who joined there are now in other Houses around the world, including here at Ngakuru, and are doing very well.

The ceremony for the opening of the cause for canonization of our Foundress Marie-Adele Garnier was held on the 3rd of December and at the gathering afterwards, Mother General heard that the house where Adele was born was unexpectedly up for sale. It is located at Grancey-le-Château, a Burgundy town in the Archdiocese of Dijon.

Thanks to benefactors from all over the world, that house has now been purchased. The house is intended to contain a chapel, a museum and an information centre about Mother Marie-Adele Garnier. Part of it will be also used as a small conference centre and retreat centre for day groups and some overnight guests. It is hoped to be opened by late 2017 at the earliest.

There will be a pilgrimage following the path of M.Foundress from Tyburn to France starting on 4 May next year (2018) See the flyer enclosed with this newsletter.

Mother Foundress continues to be invoked by a variety of people for help in their needs. Here is one



story told by R.M.Xavier: "It is about one year ago that a former parishioner of Don Gianmario Piga – author of The Path of Mother Marie-Adele – followed his advice and came to visit me here at Tyburn Convent.

"Her problem was quite simply that she had been married for over four years and both she and her husband dearly wanted to start a family. Even though they both conscientiously followed sound medical advice, God still had not granted them their hearts' desire. Sara had related to me the long story of what the doctors had described as a hopeless case and their advice to give up the idea of having a family and to concentrate on developing her other many gifts instead...So this she did – for a time. Then she decided to follow Don Piga's advice and came to visit me with her much loved grandmother. ...So we agreed then and there to visit the Tomb of our Foundress Mother Marie-Adele Garnier in the Garth of our Convent adjacent to the Crypt of the Tyburn Martyrs. The three of us went together. We prayed the official prayer for Mother's canonization and after that Sara knelt down before Mother's tomb and prayed silently for a long time. She was in tears when she stood up and told us that she felt the close motherly presence of our Mother Marie-Adele as she was praying and now she was filled with a new hope..."

"Imagine my delight and joy when Sara telephones me after a week or so to let me know that her doctor gave her the results of a test he had just done. 'He tells me the results are positive and I am pregnant. Thank you so much Mother!' With great joy I promised her my continuing prayer through Mother Marie-Adele until the birth of the babe. On January the 9th 2016 Sara Meloni gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby girl who was given the name Anna Grace Adele!"

It has been about two years since we had a visit from a Mother General, so it was with much joy that we welcomed V.R.Mother Marilla for her first visit here as Mother General on the 8th of May. The Novices and Postulant were able to meet her at last and enjoyed encouraging lessons each day with her. On the 13th RMXavier arrived and on the 14th gave a talk about Mother Foundress to the people who had come. She had caught a cold on the aeroplane from London, and though her voice was croaky, her enthusiasm was undimmed. On the 15th they both returned to Bombay, en route for the United States where they have been invited to give a day retreat at Long Island. Mother Xavier has also been invited to be recorded on a EWTN program with Rev Fr. Mitch Pacwa so that will occur during their visit. The Program will air on the 5th of July, find it in the EWTN Live times.

We hope to hold again the 40 hours adoration here in preparation for Corpus Christi. The adoration begins on Friday and continues until the Sunday Mass of Corpus Christi with a Eucharistic procession, weather permitting. If you wish to assist in the adoration, please contact us either by phone or by the contact form on our website www.tyburnmonastery.co.nz. This website was hacked off some years ago, but through the kindness of a German friend, Michael Mattern, has been redone now and made secure. It may be used for Retreat bookings and payments, candle and prayer intentions, vocation information etc. This newsletter will also be available there.

We wish you all every grace and blessing on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Holy Mass that day will be offered for the intentions of all our friends and benefactors and we thank you most sincerely for your support and interest in our life of prayer,

The Tyburn Nuns