

31 May 2020

Served by the Carmelite Friars

Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Faversham with Teynham

Whitefriars, 35 Tanners Street, Faversham ME13 7JW
Tel. 01795 532449 faversham@rcaos.org.uk
Website : www.whitefriarsfaversham.org

This Sunday is Pentecost. We pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit

VIRTUAL PARISH OFFICE

The physical Parish Office is closed until further notice

Emails to the Parish Email address will still be received and answered.

Parish Email:

faversham@rcaos.org.uk

We continue to have phone contact through the usual number

Parish Phone:

01795 532449

We will keep parishioners regularly updated via our

Parish Website

www.whitefriarsfaversham.org

Parish Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/OLMCFaversham

Mass Intentions for the week

The love of Christ celebrated in the Eucharist remains at the heart of who we are as a Christian community. Please unite with us in prayer at home.

Sun	31	10.30 am	Parish
Mon	01	10.00 am	Peter O'Brien, sick
Tue	02	10.00 am	Special Intention
Wed	03	10.00 am	Special Intention
Thurs	04	10.00 am	Anthony Rushton, RIP
Fri	05	10.00 am	Special Intention
Sat	06	10.00 am	Special Intention

THIS IS PENTECOST SUNDAY

Although we cannot gather together for prayer, please join us in our daily rhythm of prayer at home. See our website and Facebook for prayer resources.

9.40 am Morning Prayer

10.00 am Weekday Mass

10.30 am Sunday Mass

12.45 am Midday Prayer

6.00 pm Evening Prayer

8.00 pm Prayer in union with Pope Francis



The Language of the Spirit

Lorenzo Rosebaugh, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate (OMI), was shot to death as he was driving with a number of his fellow missionaries to a community meeting in Guatemala.

The real motive behind his killing may never be known. On the surface, it appeared to be nothing more than a violent robbery, but given the circumstances of Lorenzo's life and his life-long fight on behalf of justice for the poor, everyone, myself no exception, wants to believe that his being shot was more than a question of being at the wrong place at the wrong time. Too many things suggest that this was more than an accident. If nothing else, his death by gunshot is somehow symbolic: Lorenzo wasn't meant to die of old age in a comfortable bed.

I first met Lorenzo at our mother-house at Aix-en-Provence in France years ago. He had just returned from a long missionary stint in Latin America where, among other things, he had lived on the streets of Recife with its poor for several years, without roof or fixed address. A serious illness drove him back to the USA and his Oblate community sent him on a sabbatical to France. He arrived there unable to speak any French whatsoever.

Yet, when I met him, less than a month after his arrival, he was sitting on the steps of the church which is attached to our community residence with a dozen street-people gathered round him. They were sharing food and cigarettes and some kind of conversation. It looked like a picnic in the park.

There is nothing exceptional about this except that Lorenzo couldn't speak a word of French and the people gathered round him couldn't speak English, Portuguese, or Spanish (his languages). Yet they clearly seemed to be communicating with each other, and deeply, in a way that would trigger envy to an outsider, and Lorenzo was their focal point.

How? How can we speak to each other beyond communicating in the ordinary languages that we know?

We speak through the spirit, through the language of the Holy Spirit, a language that transcends the spoken word and the language of our bodies.

When the Evangelist, Luke, describes the first Pentecost, he tells us that, after receiving the Holy Spirit, the first followers of Jesus came out into public and began speaking and, everyone, absolutely everyone, no matter their ethnicity or language, heard the disciples' words as if they were in their own language. The old barriers of native language no longer blocked hearing or understanding. The language given by the spirit transcended ethnicity and native tongue.

It is too easy for us to simply write this off as a miracle, an exceptional foundational intervention by God which helped found the church. That may also be true, but there is another point to this: language functions at different levels.

At its most obvious level, language depends upon the spoken word and that word is always in a particular language, e.g., French, English, Spanish, Chinese. At this level words have a relative power, but they can also deceive and lie. Words don't always accurately mirror the heart. Moreover, they invariably fail us just when we need them most, especially in depth situations where tragedy, death, and betrayal render us mute.

But we have other languages besides these. Beyond the spoken word there is body language. Our bodies speak louder and more honestly than do our words. Through our bodies, through its gestures and the nuances of its countenance, we speak more deeply and more truly than we do with our words.

And we have still yet a deeper language: more deeply than through the body, we speak through the spirit, through the language of the Holy Spirit, a language that transcends the spoken word and the language of our bodies.

What is the language of the spirit?

The Holy Spirit is not just a person inside the Trinity, hopelessly abstract and beyond our conception. Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit is the very concrete, conceivable, and tangible insides of charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, longsuffering, fidelity, gentleness, and chastity. These speak through us more loudly and clearly, either in their presence or their absence, than do all our words and gestures.

In the end we are not fooled by each other. We hear beyond spoken words, bodily gestures, and beyond what we explicitly intend to say to each other. The heart reads the heart and the spirit recognizes itself wherever it sees itself as manifest. Thus many of us talk passionately about our love for the poor, but the poor do not hear us, understand us, or gather round us, even when our diction is perfect in their native tongue.

While working in Latin America, Lorenzo Rosebaugh spoke only broken Spanish and broken Portuguese. Yet the poor there heard him and perfectly understood what he was saying. He spoke no French at all and still he was able to sit on the steps of a church in France and gather round him the street-people there who spoke only French—and they understood him clearly, as in their mother-tongue. Such is the language of Pentecost.

Ron Rolheiser, OMI

The Holy Spirit is the very concrete, conceivable and tangible insides of charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, longsuffering, fidelity, gentleness and chastity.



Read & Ponder Sunday's First Reading - Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at

this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished.

'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

Sunday Mass with Archbishop John



[Click here](#)

Our Archbishop, John Wilson, will celebrate a live-streamed Mass at St. George's Cathedral this Sunday at **10.00 am**. You can participate by clicking above.

Bishop's Mass Every Thursday

Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time. In order to show a spiritual solidarity, at 7.00 pm each Thursday, a Catholic bishop will celebrate Mass in his cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join.

[Click here for direct links](#)

Val Newman, RIP

In your kindness, when you pray please remember Val Newman who died on Tuesday, 26th May, aged 78 years. Val is parishioner Stephen Newman's sister-in-law. Of her he comments, "a lovely gentle fun lady who was always a pleasure to see". We pray that she is now reunited with her husband who died 19 years ago on 30th May.



Ellen Waters, RIP

In your kindness, when you pray please remember Ellen Waters who died on 5th May. Please also pray for her husband Denis, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren as they grieve the loss of a caring and cheerful woman. Ellen's funeral will be on 1st June at Barham Crematorium.

GETTING READY TO OPEN CHURCHES

Preparing the way - a gradual process

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is continuing to work with our Government to enable our churches to be opened as soon as possible, initially for individual prayer.

The Government has stated that places of worship will probably not open until the beginning of July at the earliest. The Bishops of England and Wales has prepared information which will assist with the opening of church buildings for private prayer.

As soon as these guidelines are finalised, we will be in a position to act.

We need suitable volunteers to help

This process require risk assessment and careful planning, so that everyone can remain safe. When the time is right and our own parish plan has been approved, it will have to be well supervised and will need a team of volunteers to manage the process who are *not in any COVID-19 vulnerable category*.

Not every church will be able to open at once, and not every church will be able to open according to the same timetable. Churches will only be allowed to open if the parish can demonstrate that it can put the necessary measures in place.

To open our church we will need volunteers - can you help?

Volunteers will help to keep the church sanitised and supervise visits in one-hour slots. The generosity of suitable volunteers will determine when the church can be opened, once our plan is approved.

Please email faversham@rcaos.org.uk if you can help.

Churches Together in Faversham

CTiF had been preparing a large gathering and church-wide celebration for Pentecost Sunday. Unfortunately, this is no longer possible. However, a short video praying for the people of Faversham and the surrounding areas has been produced.

We encourage you to take a few brief moments to view it and pray gently by [clicking here](#)

"Like" our Parish Facebook Page

Join the increasing number who are using our [Parish Facebook Page](#) for daily news & updates.



Living Faith Booklets - Free Online

Those who wish can, access *Living Faith* at http://www.livingfaith.com/account_dev.php *Magnificat*, is also offering its issues free online during the crisis. <https://us.magnificat.net/free>

PARISH SVP URGENTLY NEEDS YOUR HELP! - Two ways to respond to the SVP Appeal -

The local community needs our support now more than ever
and this means we're running short of funds.

One of our members, Guy Felton, is doing a sponsored walk of 5 miles a day and intends on walking the equivalent of Faversham to Lands End. That's an incredible 340 miles.

Please donate what you can to help the SVP help others during these difficult times.

Through his sponsored walk, Guy is trying to raise £500 to support local people struggling with poverty, illness and loneliness.

To sponsor Guy and donate online [click here](#)



SVP Our Lady of Mount Carmel Conference - Financial Appeal

Dear Parishioner,

I hope this message finds you well!

SVP Faversham have had the need to call on you for financial support because our funds are very low, and we are not able to support local people at the point of need as we are used to. The lockdown and constraints have meant that we are not able to carry out our usual fundraising activities.

We believe that it is essential to continue to support local people in need and we are making an appeal to your generosity for that purpose.

Please, if you can support this appeal, then kindly make a bank transfer marked 'SVP Appeal' to:

SVP Our Lady of Mount Carmel- Faversham
NatWest - Account No. 46075364
Sort code: 60-60-04

This is a one-off appeal, but there is also an opportunity, for parishioners who are able, to set up a standing order so the SVP may continue to be responsive to local vulnerable people in need.

Thank you and God bless,

Oma Megbele

SVP Treasurer

Need the SVP? Tel. 07563 702033

Restoration & Repair Works Update

The process of installing scaffolding around both the church and Whitefriars buildings has begun and will be completed on 2nd June. This will enable the next major works to be done.

We thank Marie Mann for overseeing the repointing works. We will also be repairing and replacing severely rotten windows. We will also inspect properly the guttering, fascias and soffits around Whitefriars. Our hope is that they will merely need minor attention and painting, but we will not know until the scaffolding is up.

We are in the process of trying to secure additional funding, but recognise this is a difficult time. We offer renewed thanks to all who have contributed in so many ways to the Restoration and Repair Appeal.

A Story to Tell? A Gift to Share?

During this extraordinary period of social distancing, self-isolation and lockdown, we are not able to print and distribute our weekly newsletter. However, we can continue to make it available online on our website.

Perhaps one advantage is that we are not limited by print space. Over the past weeks we are grateful to those who have shared their poetry and other gifts with us. We know that there are so many who have positive contributions to share with others. If you have something for inclusion in our newsletter that people may enjoy and will maybe raise their spirits, please do send us brief submissions and we will do our best to share your interest with others. Photographs are always welcome! Send your contribution by email to:

faversham@rcaos.org.uk

Thank You to Parish Zoomers!

Each Tuesday and Friday we have an opportunity to gather online via Zoom. Thank you to parishioners who have been able to join us. The Tuesday Virtual TeaTime normally stimulates a lively chat about a huge variety of topics, and it is always good to see smiling faces. If you haven't been able to join us yet, we look forward to welcoming you. People do not need to stay for the whole hour; you can just call in for five minutes if you prefer. Our Friday gathering is also a very warm, open and inspiring exchange of reflections on selected Scripture passages. You don't need to be an expert on the bible to come along. So, try one or other or both sometime!

PLEASE PRAY FOR the sick and housebound: Audrey Bampton, Angela Band, Shelagh Bradley, Margaret Bridgen, Millie Castelino, Wendy Coley, Bob Costa, Baby Olivia Durkin and her mum Beth Durkin, Michael Earls, Carol Gostling, Jeanne Harvey, Jackie Hitchcock, James Kilcoyne, Deacon John Letley, Ruth Mackay, Barnaby Marchant, Gail O'Connor, Joan O'Sullivan, Julian Philips, Sadie Taylor, Helen Wilkinson and Denis Wood.

Please also remember in your prayers all those who have died recently, especially Val Newman, Ellen Waters, John Grant, Kevin Aylett, Martin Gough, Rhiannon Newbery, Joy Wight, Thomas Byrne, and those whose anniversaries are about this time including: Peter Hunter, Winifred Morrison, Lydia Kane, Ken Scarlett, Michael Keavney, Jesusa Bright, Joan Gibbs, Margaret Allies, James Hunt and Princess Andrew and all whose names are recorded on our Easter List of Remembrance. *May they and all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Gather Online

Many are already using Zoom to interact virtually. This is an easy way to chat and keep in touch. Participants will need a video camera, microphone and headset or speakers on their device (PC/iPad/Tablet etc.). Download the Zoom App for free here: <https://zoom.us/support/download>



We have set up two online meetings, which any parishioner is welcome to join.

Tuesday, 2nd June at 4.00 pm

- VIRTUAL TEATIME -

An opportunity to catch up with other parishioners, have a chat and share a cuppa together.

To join others, simply

[click here](#)

Friday, 5th June at 4.00 pm

- SCRIPTURE REFLECTION -

An opportunity to reflect together on selected scripture passages and to pray.

To join others, simply

[click here](#)

Every Saturday at 9.00 am

INTER-CHURCH HOPE PRAYER

Details at <http://www.hopefaversham.org.uk>

PARISH FINANCES

We fully appreciate these difficult times.

- WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES -

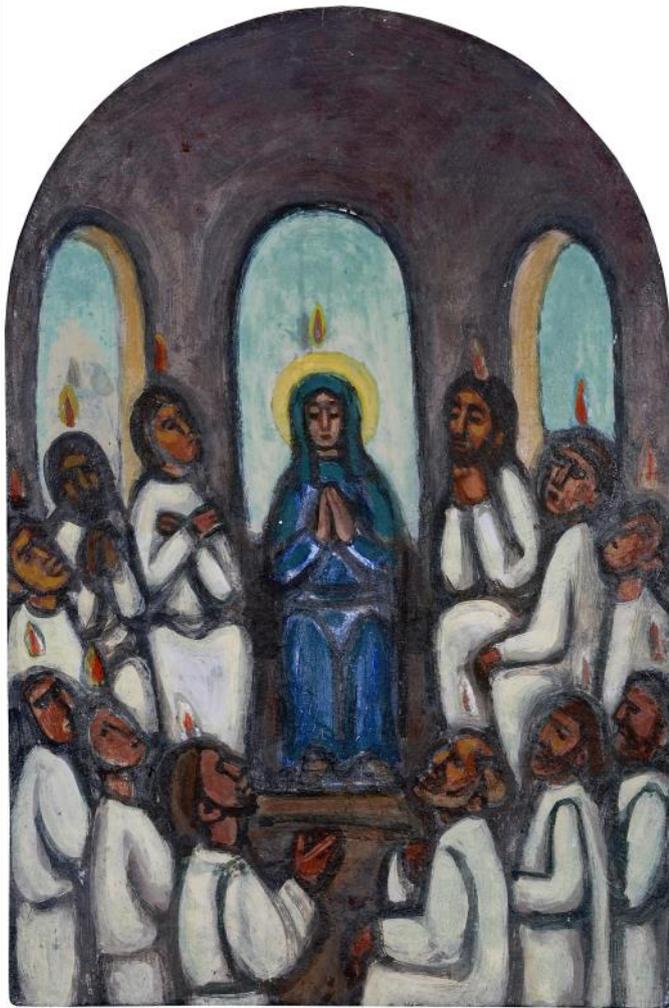
We ask parishioners who are able to put your normal contribution into an envelope and keep it until later.

- STANDING ORDERS -

Some parishioners have asked about making their regular contribution by Standing Order. If you would like to do this, please send an email to faversham@rcaos.org.uk asking for a form.

THANK YOU!

Our Parish is served by a Community of Carmelite Friars



Descent of the Holy Spirit by Adam Kassowski,
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Faversham

Fiery
 Spirit of Love,
 O Father of the Poor,
 Warmth in a Land of Chill,
 Comforter of Us All: rich, poor:
 prisoners of global virus.
 Breathe your life
 into our
 dying
 hearts
 and souls.

Now, more than ever
 we ask you to bestow upon our beings
 knowledge, wisdom, understanding, courage.
 Oh, send us out to the whole earth.

Let your fire,
 smoldering in us,
 light up all on our path.

Aloud we cry,
Veni Sancte Spiritus!

Anne Osdieck

Fidelity - living with a shared spirit

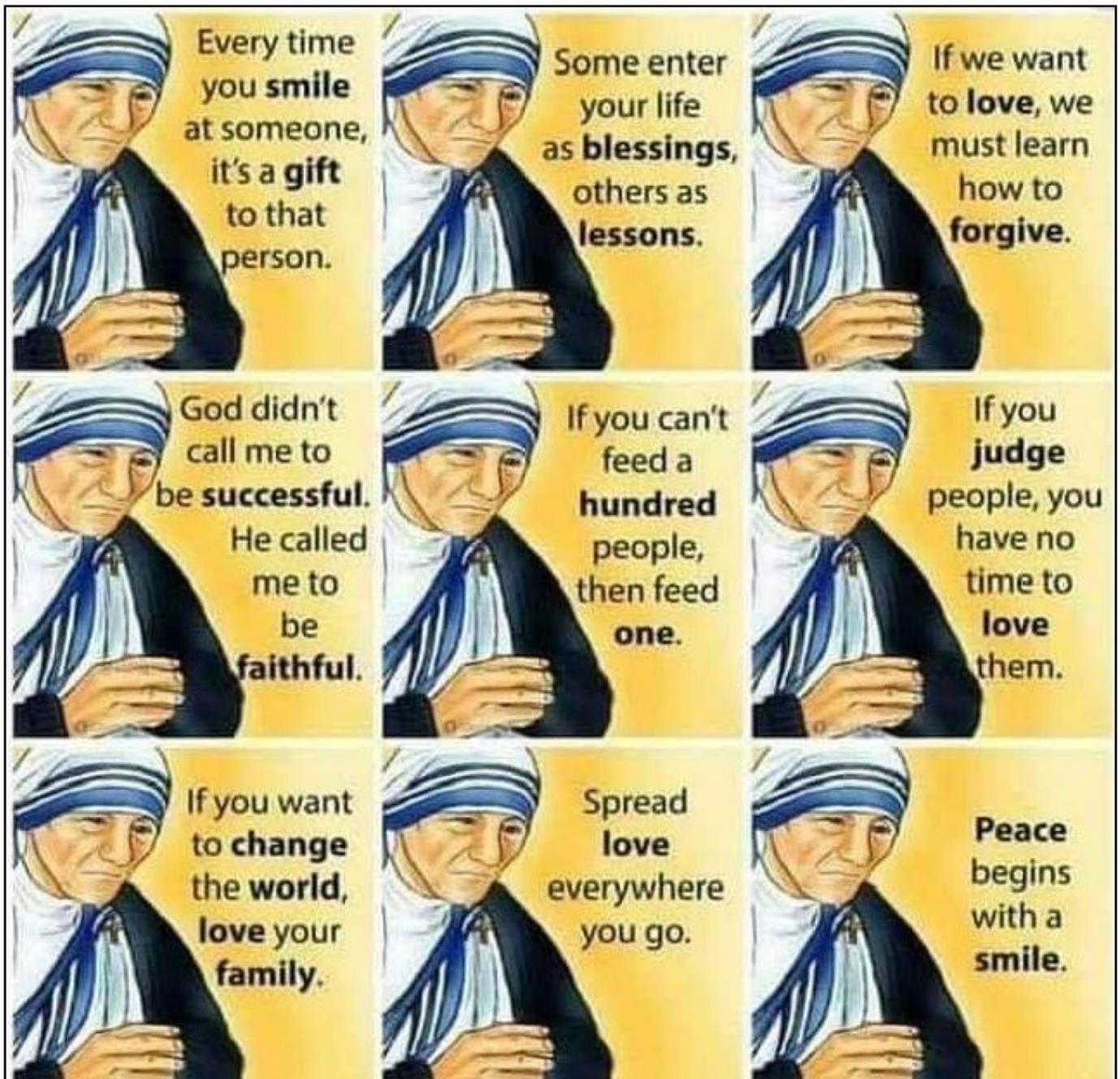
More thoughts from Ron Rolheiser, OMI

What can lie deeper than tangible human contact? What can be more real than that? The answer is fidelity, fidelity as the gift of a shared moral soul, fidelity as the gift of trust, and fidelity as remaining true to who you were when you were in tangible human community and contact with those people who are no longer part of your daily life. That's what it means to be faithful.

It is interesting how the Christian scriptures define community and fidelity. In the *Acts of the Apostles* we read that before Pentecost those in the first Christian community were all "huddled in one room". And here, though physically together, ironically they were not in real community with each other, not really a family, and not really faithful to each other. Then after receiving the Holy Spirit, they literally break out of that one room and scatter all over the earth so that many of them never see each other again and now, geographically at a distance from each other, ironically they become real family, become a genuine community, and live in fidelity to each other.

At the end of the day, fidelity is not about how often you physically connect with someone but about living within a shared spirit. Betrayal is not a question of separation by distance, of forgetting an anniversary or a birthday, or of not being able to stay in touch with someone you cherish. Betrayal is moving away from the truth and virtue you once shared with that person you cherish. *Betrayal is a change of soul.* We are unfaithful to family and friends when we become a different person morally so as to no longer share a common spirit with them.

You can be living in the same house with someone, share daily bread and conversation with him or her, and not be a faithful family member or friend; just as you can be a faithful friend or family member and not see that friend or family member for forty years. Being faithful in remembering birthdays is wonderful, but fidelity is more about remembering who you were when that birth was so special to you. Fidelity is about maintaining moral affinity.



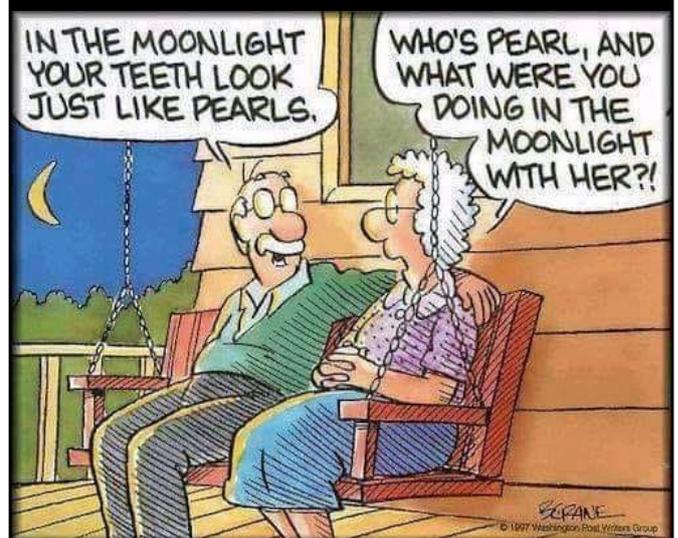
CAFOD CORONAVIRUS APPEAL

COVID-19 has already hit many of the wealthier nations, affecting both health and economy, however, those in less fortunate circumstances and in poorer countries are facing a humanitarian disaster.

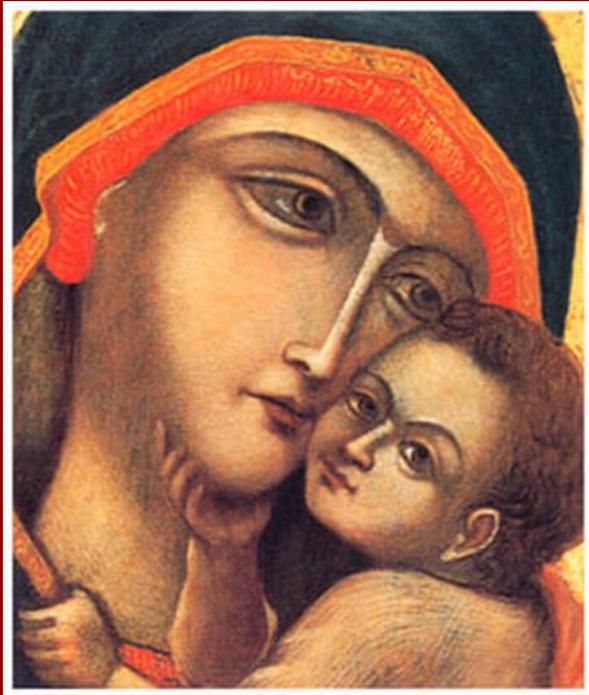
There is a risk of families facing starvation with not enough to eat or without access to clean water. Those living with HIV or other underlying health conditions will be particularly vulnerable to coronavirus whilst another major concern is the virus reaching refugees camps where the struggle for reasonable healthcare is already a matter for concern. CAFOD are therefore expanding and adapting their programme to prevent the spread and reduce the risk of coronavirus in communities. Every step taken now to get food and clean water to families, will help prevent deaths and reduce suffering.

Those who would like to donate to the CAFOD *Coronavirus appeal* can do so [here](#).

Apostrophes are sometimes important, but not always obvious in speech!



May is the month of Mary



Regina Coeli

13th Century Marian antiphon

O Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For He whom thou didst merit to bear, alleluia.
Has risen, as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia.

O God, who gave joy to the world through
the resurrection of you son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
grant we pray, that through the intercession
of the Virgin Mary, his mother,
we may come to the joys of everlasting life.
Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen

Mary, overshadowed by the Spirit of God, is the Virgin of the new heart, who gave a human face to the word made flesh. She is the Virgin of wise and contemplative listening who kept and pondered in her heart the events and the words of the Lord. She is the faithful disciple of wisdom, who sought Jesus - God's Wisdom - and allowed herself to be formed and moulded by his Spirit, so that in faith she might be conformed to his ways and choices. Thus enlightened, Mary is presented to us as one able to read 'The great wonders' which God has accomplished in her for the salvation of the humble and of the poor.

Constitutions of the Carmelite Order, 1995

A Prayer to Our Lady in times of Pandemic

O Mary,
you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at his cross, participated in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,
you know what we need, and we are confident you will intercede for us, as at Cana in Galilee.
Call upon your son Jesus, the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure.

Show us, O Mother of Divine Love, how to conform our lives to God's will
and to follow the way of Jesus, who knows our sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so that, through the Cross, we may come to the glory of the Resurrection.

Amen