

**Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Faversham with Teynham**

Served by the
Carmelite
Friars

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

Now that we have resumed public Mass, come and join us!

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
18TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sun	02	9.30 am	Parish
		11.00 am	Ray Smith, RIP
Mon	03	10.00 am	Betty Bushell (belated birthday)
Tue	04	10.00 am	Hetty Demomme, RIP
Wed	05	10.00 am	Karen Wallace (welfare)
Thurs	06	10.00 am	Marc Rennie Intentions
Fri	07	10.00 am	Robet McKinley, RIP
Sat	08	10.00 am	Bernadette McNally Intentions

SUNDAY'S WORD FOR LIVING



Isaiah 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things
to eat and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

Romans 8:35,37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of
Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being
persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being
threatened or even attacked. These are the trials
through which we triumph, by the power of him
who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no
angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to
come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any
created thing, can ever come between us and the
love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's
death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where
they could be by themselves. But the people heard of
this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot.
So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he
took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and
said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped
by; so send the people away, and they can go to the
villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied,

'There is no need for them to go: give them some-
thing to eat yourselves.' But they answered 'All we
have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them
here to me' he said. He gave orders that the people
were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five
loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and
said the blessing. And breaking the loaves handed
them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds.
They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collect-
ed the scraps remaining; twelve baskets full. Those
who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say
nothing of women and children.

Hungers of body and spirit

The crowds in today's gospel had nothing to eat, but Jesus knew they had another hunger apart from that of the stomach. They followed Jesus, listening to every word he spoke, and in none of the stories does it say that they were bothered about food for the body. In today's episode, it is the apostles who expressed this concern, on behalf of the people. In another place it says that Jesus "looked at the crowd, and felt sorry for them, because they had been with him for several days, and had nothing to eat." Yet the twin hungers in today's world are for meaning as well as for food.

Jesus sets the apostles a seemingly impossible challenge. When they point out the lack of food he tells them to feed the people themselves. This, of course, cannot be done, and they tell him so. He then taught them, and us, a basic lesson: "Whatever you have is enough. Just let me have it, and I will do the rest." At Cana, all they had was water, and it was all he needed; he would do the rest. In another version of this story, where one of the apostles says, "We only have a few loaves and some fish, but what is that among so many?" The temptation was to put the loaves and fish back in the bag.

There is power in the actions of Jesus as he says a prayer and begins distributing the bread. Before he called Lazarus forth from the tomb, he raised his eyes to heaven, and said "I thank you, Father, that you have heard me." It was his constant contact with the Father that inspired his actions. At his baptism in the Jordan he had heard the Father's voice saying "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." He lived constantly with the Father's approval, even when everyone else reject-

ed him. What a lesson this is for all of us! In commissioning his apostles, later on, he would tell them to feed the hungry. Because he came "to do and to teach," that is why he fed the hungry before sending his disciples to do the same.

It is a scandal that so large a part of today's world is made up of hungry people. Most of us have more than we need of money, clothes, food, etc. We may not have as much as we want, but most of us have more than we need. There is a struggle here, and there is a tension from which we cannot escape. "Whatever you do for the least of these, I will take as being done for me." The decision to walk in the Christian Way removes many of my options and choices. Christianity is much more than just saying prayers. It is also a call to action. It is a call to do as Jesus would do. I cannot read today's gospel and remain indifferent or detached.

"It is in giving that we receive." When we give, we discover that we are not at a loss. It is an extraordinary paradox, but it is literally me. I will never know this until I try it. How do you consider yourself in the whole area of responsibility for the welfare of others? We are all familiar with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, CAFOD, Mary's Meals etc., and we may admire what they do. But we must go beyond admiration and become willing to imitate, and follow their example. Christianity is about witnessing, and in the witnessing is the invitation to "go and do likewise." The opposite to love is not necessarily hatred, but indifference. If God is love, and I am indifferent, then I must seriously examine where God is in my life. This is a fundamental and basic question that must be asked, and it must be answered.

"Whatever you have is enough. Just let me have it, and I will do the rest."



PLEASE PRAY FOR the sick and housebound: Audrey Bampton, Angela Band, Shelagh Bradley, Margaret Bridgen, Paule Cailleau, Bill and Millie Castelino, Wendy Coley, Bob Costa, Baby Olivia Durkin and her mum Beth Durkin, Michael Earls, Anthony Freed, Carol Gostling, Jeanne Harvey, Jackie Hitchcock, James Kilcoyne, Janet MacKay, Ruth Mackay, Barnaby Marchant, Terry Newbery, Gail O'Connor, Joan O'Sullivan, Geraldine Paine, Julian Philips, Lola Rinvoluceri, Sophie Rinvoluceri, Mario Rinvoluceri, Sadie Taylor, Helen Wilkinson and Ginny Woodroofe.

Please also remember in your prayers all those who have died recently, especially Denis Wood, Mary Henderson and Antony Roberts, and those whose anniversaries are about this time including: John Radford, Donald Northrop, John Balbuenam, Joyce Sedgewick, Brenda Wortham, Mike Whiffin and Gordon Malloch.

May they and all the faithful departed rest in peace.

OUR CHURCH IS NOW OPEN FOR MASS AND PRAYER

VOLUNTEERS ENABLE OUR PARISH AND CHURCH TO FUNCTION

We are very grateful to parishioners who have already volunteered to assist in stewarding and those who have come to pray in our church

Now that Public Mass has resumed and taking account of people's habits the church will now be open at these revised times:

MONDAYS - SATURDAYS 9.30-10.30 am

SATURDAYS 3.00 - 5.00 pm

SHRINE TO ST. JUDE

The Shrine to St. Jude will remain closed until at least September. More volunteers who will be able to make the re-opening of the shrine possible. The shrine is held with great affection by parishioners and our many visiting pilgrims, so we hope we can find a way to open it soon through the generosity of parishioners.

BE SAFE - BE SENSIBLE - BE CO-OPERATIVE

Our volunteer stewards will help us all to be safe when we visit. Please do follow their guidance.

Do not enter the church or grounds if you have any Covid-19 symptoms

PUBLIC MASS HAS RESUMED IN OUR PARISH

As we return to Mass together we will notice some differences to reduce any risk of spreading the virus.

Masses will be shorter than usual (including the homilies!) and initially will be at these times:

SUNDAYS: 9.30 AM & 11.00 AM IN WHITEFRIARS GARDEN (60 MAX.)

MONDAY-SATURDAY: 10.00 AM IN THE CHURCH (25 MAX.)

We will be asked to sanitise our hands on entering and leaving, and observe social distancing before, during and after Mass. Holy Communion will only be offered on the hand and there will be no physical Sign of Peace. Unfortunately, toilet facilities will not be available.

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS

IN THE CHURCH (WEEKDAY MASS AND INDIVIDUAL PRAYER)

Registering for Mass

There will obviously be limited space. Therefore, we encourage parishioners to "register" for a Mass, so that people are not disappointed if capacity for each Mass is full. We will all need to be flexible, respectful of others' needs and may need to spread ourselves out over the whole week.

If you have email, we ask you to use this to indicate in advance (at least 1 day before) which Mass you wish to attend. If you do not have email, please phone.

Please be patient, as the Parish Office is not currently staffed.

We will confirm as soon as we can that there is adequate space at your desired Mass.

Each of us is requested to give our name, contact details and which Mass we attend.

Teynham

Unfortunately, as it is not our building and no risk assessment has been completed for the Greenstreet Chapel, there will be **no Mass** at this time in Teynham.

Volunteers

We need additional volunteers to help with stewarding at each Mass and sanitising afterwards.

With all of this, we know that our parishioners are understanding, sensible and aware of the need for these measures. Thank you for your patience as we do our best to get things right for the benefit of all.

Preparing for Sunday Mass in the church

We express our thanks again to parishioners who have been able to return to Sunday and weekday Mass. It has been a real blessing to be together again and to celebrate our identity as a community of faith.

We are tremendously grateful for the way in which parishioners have understood the need to observe the various measures that have been implemented to keep us all as safe as possible during the current pandemic.

We also thank you for taking the time to register for the various Masses. This helps us to gauge accurately not only current needs, but also what our needs might be once the weather is less favourable for us to have Sunday Mass in the garden.

Once that time comes and we need to have Sunday Mass in the church, we will be more limited with space. We will increase the number of Sunday Masses to try our best to accommodate everyone, but it may still be necessary to spread ourselves out over the whole week. Thank you for all your support, encouragement, understanding and patience.

Thanks for your generosity

Thank you to all parishioners who by various means, including your weekly Parish Offering, standing orders, cheques and donations by post are enabling us to keep our financial heads above the waters.

Gift Aid Envelopes

Many parishioners have already taken their Gift Aid envelopes. They will be available for collection again this Sunday at our two Masses in the garden.

Update on building works

Those who have been able to join us for Sunday or weekday Mass cannot have failed to notice the scaffolding surround the church and Whitefriars. We have been blessed with reasonable weather during the past couple of months while this phase of our restoration project has been underway.

The meticulous work of addressing the re-pointing of the external walls, mostly around the church, is going well. Once again, we thank Marie Mann for overseeing this aspect of the project. Many of the windows around Whitefriars have been repaired and are being prepared for final painting, while four of them will need complete replacing. Those who come to Sunday Mass in the garden this Sunday may notice that the corroded guttering around Whitefriars has now been removed, together with most of the fascia boards, in preparation for renewal. The discovery of damaged and slipped tiles, and a hole in the roof, was not expected, but this will also be remedied over the next month.

Once this particular phase is complete, we hope to be in a position to continue work on Carmel Hall, if we can secure adequate funding.

Please do continue to pray for the progress of this work, which will help to serve future generations of parishioners.

We began a mammoth task two years ago. Let's hope we can move as quickly as possible towards completion. We can then address other less-pressing areas of maintenance and restoration, as funds become available.

Gather Online

Many are already using *Zoom* to interact virtually. 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>



Tuesday, 4th August at 4.00 pm

- VIRTUAL TEATIME -

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

We will review this gathering at our next session.

To join others, simply

[click here](#)

- SCRIPTURE REFLECTION -

now that we have resumed public Mass, the meetings are now suspended.

Every Saturday at 9.00 am

INTER-CHURCH HOPE PRAYER

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

DISCUSS - REFLECT - SHARE

Although the weekly Scripture Reflection has been suspended, a suggestion that has reached us is that we might find opportunities to share on different pertinent themes together as "stand-alone" topics. If there is something in which you think other parishioners may be interested and which you might like to facilitate, please contact us at the Parish email address:

faversham@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH FINANCES

We fully appreciate these difficult times.

- WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES -

These are now available for collection before or after our Sunday Masses.

- 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!

SHRINE OF ST JUDE PRODUCES NEW BOOK

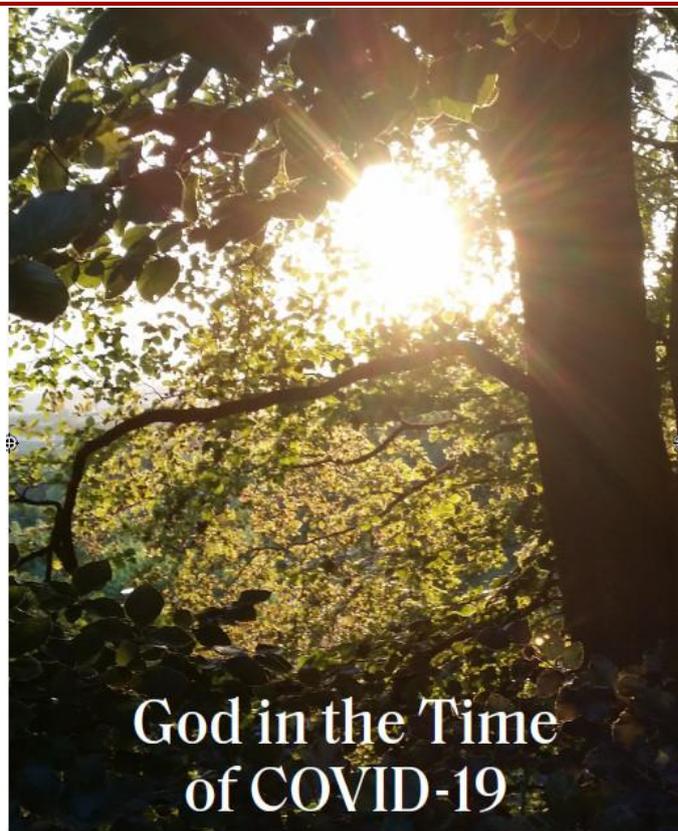
A new book *God in the time of COVID-19* is now available to pre-order. This little book of articles and reflections is offered as a way of maintaining a connection and of nurturing the interior life. The reflections were originally written online, but many of these articles are now available in this book.

There is a wide range of styles, content and approaches to suit the widest range of readers and all tastes. Writers include Fr Kevin Alban, O.Carm., Fr Brendan Grady, O.Carm., Fr Nicholas King, SJ. and many more.

Perhaps in future months and years it will remind us of what we were doing and reading in 2020.

Order your copy today online! Or, you can order by sending a cheque for £4.50 (incl a donation for P&P) to the Shrine Office PO Box address; or you can call 01795 539214 and donate by card.

Each copy sold will enable the Carmelite Charitable Trust to support the presence and ministries of the Carmelite friars in Great Britain and worldwide. The work of the Carmelite friars throughout the world is needed more than ever in this pandemic.



May God, who is never outdone in generosity, through the intercession of Saint Jude, bless you for your kindness and support of this book.

Full list of contributors:

Kevin Alban, O.Carm
Matthew Betts
Brendan Grady, O.Carm
Richard Green, O.Carm
Paul de Groot, O.Carm
Francis Kemsley, O.Carm
Nicholas King, SJ
Hugh Parry
Gerard Walsh, O.Carm
John Warrington

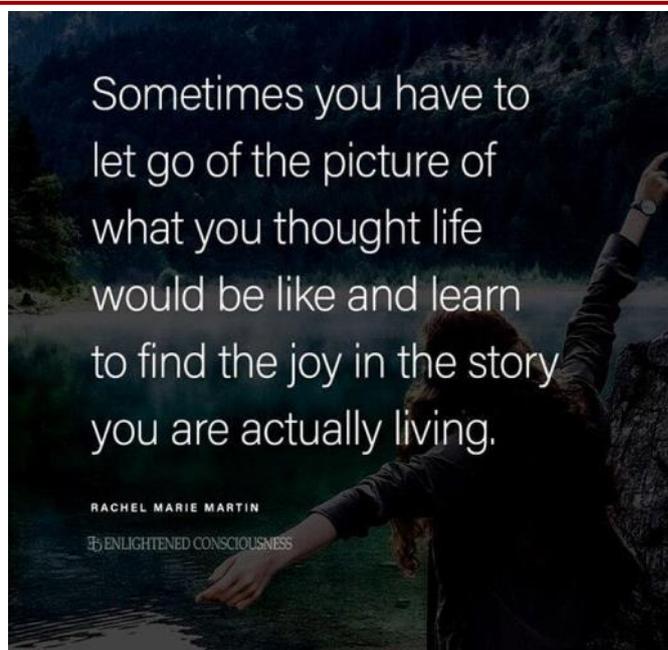
Articles include:

Our Relationship with God
What do we ask God for and why?
Disciples in the New Testament
Being a Disciple
My Lord and My God
How Saint Jude can help us to cope with COVID-19
Chatting with God
Prayer as Friendship
Pentecost and the Pandemic
Hope in the New Testament

impact

You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it.

- Nikki Banas | *Walk the Earth*



Sometimes you have to let go of the picture of what you thought life would be like and learn to find the joy in the story you are actually living.

The Higher Love

What will separate us from the love of Christ? (Rom 8:35).

For the longest time I misread the meaning of Paul's passage on the love of Christ. It was the "of" that threw me. I took it to mean our love of God, not God's love of us. Thus, trial or persecution or threats should not shake our love. No creature should come between us and our love for God, no power should overcome us. Love, in this reading, was a task to do, an achievement to be strived for. Our faith was a noble task of steadfast love on *our* part.

It is quite clear, however, that Paul is saying something else: nothing in existence can ever separate us from the love that God, revealed in Jesus, has for us. Not only does the first interpretation miss the boat by focusing on our attitudes and desires; it fosters one of the most persistent mistakes about our faith. Christian faith is not primarily about something we do for God. It is about what God does for and in us. It is not so much an account of human aspiration as it is a revelation of divine desire.

The covenant that Isaiah promised to David's progeny could not be bought or earned. It was there for the taking, like water for the thirsty to drink. It was the gift of food that need not be purchased, wine and milk without cost. All we need do is accept the offer.

This could be troubling. Does it mean that we don't have to work at all? Is our faith effortless? Are our actions, good or sinful, inconsequential in the eyes of God?

It certainly seems not. After all, the dragnet parable about the reign of God... suggests that we humans perform both good and evil acts.

More troubling still, it seems that at the end of the world there will be a host of angels who will separate the wicked from the just and cast the wicked into a fire, where they will grind their teeth. That statement sounds as though we actually can be separated from the love of God. It also sounds scary.

What's going on here? Is it possible that the refusal of the gift, the rejection of God's love, can separate us? Is faith in the promise, hope in the covenant, acceptance

of the love, the work we must do, the only effort we must make to avoid damnation? Of that I'm not sure; it raises the awesome question whether anyone is eternally lost.

But I do believe the words of the psalmist suggest an answer: "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works. The Lord is just in all his ways and holy in all his deeds. The Lord is near to all

who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth."

Jesus, his heart moved by compassion, cured the sick. More tellingly, when his disciples wanted to dismiss the pressing crowd to search for food, he told his followers to offer their own food freely. Five loaves and two fish fed thousands, the fragments filling twelve bushels. Maybe there is such a thing as a free lunch.

Somewhere in the mystery of God is an unlimited bounty, whether it makes sense to us or not. This God we meet in Jesus just does not work according to our ways. It may not make for good business, it may even be bad law, but whatever else it is, it seems to be God's way of loving.

John Kavanaugh, SJ

*Christian faith is not primarily about something we do for God.
It is about what God does for and in us.*

Need the SVP? Tel. 07563 702033



**Our Parish is served by a
Community of Carmelite Friars
We pray for parishioners every day.
Please pray for us.**



Congratulations, Joe!

We offer our very best wishes and the pledge of our prayer to Joseph Dean, who celebrated his 15th birthday on Saturday, 1st August. Joseph has been involved in different aspects of parish life from an early age. An experienced and dependable altar server, Joseph will often be spotted alongside the music ministry armed with guitar... when we are permitted to sing, of course!



from Colombia...

TODOS SON SANTOS CUANDO
HABLAN DE PECADOS AJENOS

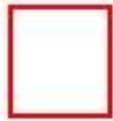
NOTAS DEL DIA

**Everyone is a saint
when they talk about
the sins of others**

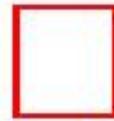
**I told my wife to
embrace her
mistakes...
She hugged me.**



**I have never insulted anyone.
I simply describe them, accurately.**



SUNDAY 2nd AUGUST 2020



KOUPES AT PARK FISH BAR

37 EAST ST. FAVERSHAM ME13 8AS

12:30pm – 4.00pm

Greek Koupes Special Greek Salad!

Plus, everything from the usual menu



CHARITY FUNDRAISING EVENT

PROFITS TO

**THE FRIENDS OF FAVERSHAM COTTAGE HOSPITAL
& COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTRES**

