

**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
19TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sun	09	9.30 am	Parish
		11.00 am	Peggy (Health)
Mon	10	10.00 am	Pat Burton Intentions
Tue	11	10.00 am	Michael Baldock, RIP
Wed	12	10.00 am	Ward Family Intentions
Thurs	13	10.00 am	Carol Jenssen, RIP
Fri	14	10.00 am	Lilian Njeri Munene Intentions
Sat	15	10.00 am	Rufus and Naomi Francis (Health)

SUNDAY'S WORD FOR LIVING



1 Kings 19:9,11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Romans 9:1-5

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

Feelings

This Sunday most of us will notice mainly the story of Jesus walking on water, together with Peter sinking into it. But there is another very interesting spiritual dimension that I would like to suggest.

What do you think was going on in Jesus' own heart and soul during these events?

We know that Jesus had emotions. We have seen them before, as when Lazarus died. In last week's Gospel, Jesus had been hit hard by news of John the Baptist's death. So he had taken a boat to a deserted place in order to grieve, quietly, by himself. But the crowd got there first and immediately pressed him into service when he arrived. Instead of the hushed time for grief he needed, Jesus' heart had been moved by the needs of the suffering people before him. He spent hour after hour, healing and curing and feeding. Exhausting.

Then came the story for this Sunday. Jesus sends the crowd away at last. And notice a strange thing, usually ignored: he "made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side." Why send them ahead? Why stay there alone? The answer is easy. He still needed to be alone to process John's death, which he had not yet gotten to do.

He climbed up the mountainside and took his own time to commune with his heavenly Father. The Gospel says that by now it was evening, and that Jesus prayed well into the night. A gusty wind came up.

He could not have been comfortable.

I would love to know what his prayer was like. He had studied the scriptures since his youth, so maybe the

story in our First Reading came to mind. There the prophet Elijah too was up on a mountain-side, and there too, a heavy wind came up. The Lord was not in the wind, we are told. Nor in the earthquake that followed. Nor in the fire that came next. The Lord God was in the "tiny whispering sound" that followed.

Jesus on the mountain-side heard this voice too. But what did he feel? Let's take a shot at it.

He opened his bruised trust to the Father, and lay this trust alongside his very personal loss. Perhaps Abba reassured him that, even against the evidence, all human beings have to rely on God, especially when it seems that tragedy has the upper hand. Jesus was divine, but divine consciousness and knowledge rested only in the deepest realm of his soul, and needed this silent time to emerge.

In prayer, Jesus returned to his normal level of trust in God, but stronger now. In the same way that he "learned obedience through what he suffered" (Hebrews 5:8), maybe he had to learn a higher level of trust through loss. Trusting is not a sheer act of the will, not simply a blind decision, but a quiet re-emergence of God's faithful love.

Then, at last, Jesus does walk on water. How must it feel to leave the solid ground and walk on slushy liquid? Perhaps this walking was symbolic of the trust he had come to in his night of prayer.

Maybe trust feels like walking on water.

John Foley, SJ

Like Jesus, maybe we have to learn a higher level of trust through loss



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, Margaret Nicolas, Gail O'Connor, Joan O'Sullivan, Geraldine Paine, Julian Philips, Lola Rinvoluceri, Mario Rinvoluceri, Sadie Taylor, Helen Wilkinson and Ginny Woodroffe.

Please also remember in your prayers all those who have died recently, especially Sophie Rinvoluceri, Denis Wood, Mary Henderson and Antony Roberts, and those whose anniversaries are about this time including: Garfield Loney, Roisin Kelleher-O'Callaghan, Mary Byrne, Eric Fagg, Irene Loynes, Beryl Spinks, John Harvey and Declan Melody.

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

Note: Saturday 3.00 - 5.00 pm is now suspended

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.

FACE COVERINGS MUST NOW BE WORN IN THE CHURCH

AND FOR THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION AT MASS IN THE GARDEN

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.

Sophie Rinvoluceri, RIP

In your kindness, when you open your heart in prayer please remember Sophie Rinvoluceri who died peacefully at home on Tuesday, 4th August.

Sophie was a committed and valued member of our parish community and was a member of our choir. Born in 1940 she published poetry in English and French. A small sample is reproduced here.

Pray also for her husband, Mario, and their devoted children, Martin, Bruno and Lola.

Coming together

Under the fading light
that gathered us together,
the fading light that brings
mosquitoes around a lamp,
we sat in groups of twos or threes
on the concrete steps
leading up to the house
that sheltered our diverse souls
within the unity of its walls,

Was it the summer breeze
in the falling dusk which brought us
together in this tiny garden,
uniting our past and future
in the certainty of a happy present?

1996, Hungary

Long I Have Loved You

Long I have loved you,
mother of so many years,
while memories of earlier times,
embedded in stray thoughts,
will criss-cross the lattice
of our days and nights;

Tell me mother, or rather
shall I tell you, that the lamp
is always there above the book I read,
the fire logs still sizzle in the grate,
the pictures on the wall
look down upon my reading

and you are at once far and near
in this eternity.....

*November 1998, Faversham
To my mother.*

On a journey

Faraway son,
in our hometown,
free at last from an ever present mother,
do you love me
in your solitary hours,
do you care for me, son,
who, always affectionate,
always forgiving, wishes me,
from the bottom of his heart,
to find happiness at last
in the wonder and surprises
of everyday life.

2000, Meudon, France

My solitude and yours

Have I walked along the streets
where a thousand people walk,
noticed you and you and you,
my brother in misfortune,
my sister in happiness,

Have I grasped the movements
of the crowd, the thoughts
of each passer-by, as this woman
clad in yellow, peers through
her squinting eyes at some object
in a shop nearby?

Have I spent my money and my time
on some absurd triviality, when
somewhere, far away, a child
lies hungry on the floor?

Have I felt any brotherhood
as I brush against you, neighbour,
in the silence of the street,
in my solitude and yours.....

August 2003, Canterbury

Sophie's Funeral will be on
Wednesday, 19th August.

*May Sophie
rest in peace
and rise in glory*

Face Coverings for Holy Communion

Since 8th August, we now ask parishioners who come to the parish Sunday Masses in the garden to wear face coverings for the reception of Holy Communion.

Saturday Individual Prayer suspended

With Public Mass available, few people have taken advantage of the times of individual prayer in the church.

The Saturday two-hour prayer-time is now suspended.

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.

Update on building works

Thankfully, the work on the external of the church and Whitefriars is going well.

In 2017 we commissioned a thorough asbestos survey of the entire premises. The church and Whitefriars was shown to be free of any asbestos. However, we were made aware of an external pipe (SVP) that had this material. Thankfully, it was and continues to be safe. Because of work that needs to be done, we commissioned a second focussed survey. As we proceed, pipes with asbestos will be completely removed. This was not part of our budgeted plan, but needs to be executed safely and responsibly.

Once the current schedule of works is complete, we hope to begin work on Carmel Hall. To this end, we applied for further funding from the Carmelite Charitable Trust. We are pleased to inform parishioners that an additional grant has been approved. This will help us to advance this work for the benefit of the parish.

9.30 am Mass last Sunday in the garden



The Prayer of Helplessness

*As Peter felt the force of the wind,
he took fright and began to sink and cried out
'Lord! Save me!' (Mt. 14:30)*

In her autobiography, *The Long Loneliness*, Dorothy Day shares how she once prayed at a very low time in her life.

Dorothy Day, as you know, wasn't raised into the faith, but came to it on her own after a certain romance with atheism. An intellectual, moving in Marxist and anti-church circles, she entered her twenties convinced that if anyone had the courage to look life square in the eye, she or he would not believe in God. She had support in that. The love of her life at the time was one who shared her views. She moved in with him and bore his child outside of marriage. The birth of this child, a daughter, changed her in ways she had not foreseen. Holding her infant daughter, she was so overcome with awe and gratitude that she prayed spontaneously. "For so much joy, I need to thank someone!" Her faith was born from that, from the purest spring of all, gratitude.

She took some instructions, was baptized, and became a Christian. The father of her child, upset by the change in her, warned that if she had their child baptized he would leave her. She had the child baptized and he did leave her. Many of her friends reacted similarly. So, even as she was buoyed-up by her new-found faith, she found herself very much alone, without most of her former friends and support-systems; a single-mother, living on her own, lacking money, and without any practical vision of what she should now do with her life.

She floundered like this for awhile, feeling ever more lonely and unsure of herself. One day she couldn't take it any more. She put her young daughter in the care of friends and took a train to Washington, DC, where she spent the day praying at the *National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception*. Her prayer that day was one of utter helplessness. In essence she said to God: "I've given up a lot for you, and you haven't done anything for me! I'm lost, alone, unsure of what to do, and running out of energy and patience. I need help—need it now, not in some distant future! Help me! Help me now! I can't go on like this!"

She got back to New York that night and walked up to her apartment. A man was sitting on the steps waiting for her. He told her he had heard about her, had an idea, and he needed her help. He then explained to her

the concept of "The Catholic Worker." The man's name was Peter Maurin and the rest is history. From that moment on, she had a vision for her life.

Not everyone gets so quick and clear an answer in prayer, although more people than you would suspect have similar stories. Martin Luther King, for instance, shares how he once prayed at a low-point in his life:

"One night toward the end of January, I settled into bed late, after a strenuous day. Coretta had already fallen asleep and just as I was about to doze off the telephone rang. An angry voice said, "Listen, nigger, we've taken all we want from you, before next week you'll be sorry you ever came to Montgomery." I hung up, but I couldn't sleep. It seemed that all of my fears had come down on me at once. I had reached the saturation point.

I got out of bed and began to walk the floor. Finally I went to the kitchen and heated a pot of coffee. I was ready to give up. With my cup of coffee sitting untouched before me I tried to think of a way to move out of the picture without appearing a coward. In this state of exhaustion, when my courage had all but gone, I decided to take my problem to God. With my head in my hands, I bowed over the kitchen table and prayed aloud. The words I spoke to God that midnight are still vivid in my memory:

I am here taking a stand for what I believe is right. But now I am afraid. The people are looking to me for leadership, and if I stand before them without strength and courage, they too will falter. I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. I've come to the point where I can't face it alone.

At that moment I experienced the presence of the Divine as I had never experienced Him before." (MLK, *Stride Towards Freedom*)

Christina Crawford, commenting on a low-point in her life, says: "Lost is a place too!" She's right. And lost is the place from which we are especially invited to pray. When we hurt all over and live in a shame we can't bear, and are on our knees because we're too weak to stand, we're in the perfect posture for prayer. God hears prayers of helplessness.

Lost is a place too!

Ron Rolheiser

*"At that moment I experienced the presence of the Divine
as I had never experienced Him before"*

Finding God

The God of revelation is a hidden and mysterious God. The disciples experienced this God on the Sea of Galilee: they were caught in a storm while Jesus was up on a mountain by himself praying. The Gospel says they were terrified when they saw him walking on the water.

Elijah thought he would experience God in a strong and heavy wind, or in an earthquake, or in a fire. Instead he found God in "a tiny whispering sound."

We keep thinking that God will be found in the great and powerful, and we wonder why so many people seem never to find God.

Our sights have to be lowered, so to speak, from the powerful to the powerless, from the rich to the poor, from the satisfied to the suffering, from the oppressors to the oppressed. We have to listen carefully for the tiny whispering sounds of alienation and powerlessness.

Lord, let us see your kindness.

**Let us see it in all the little people who follow you,
carrying their crosses of daily sacrifice, suffering,
humiliation, and victimization.**



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.

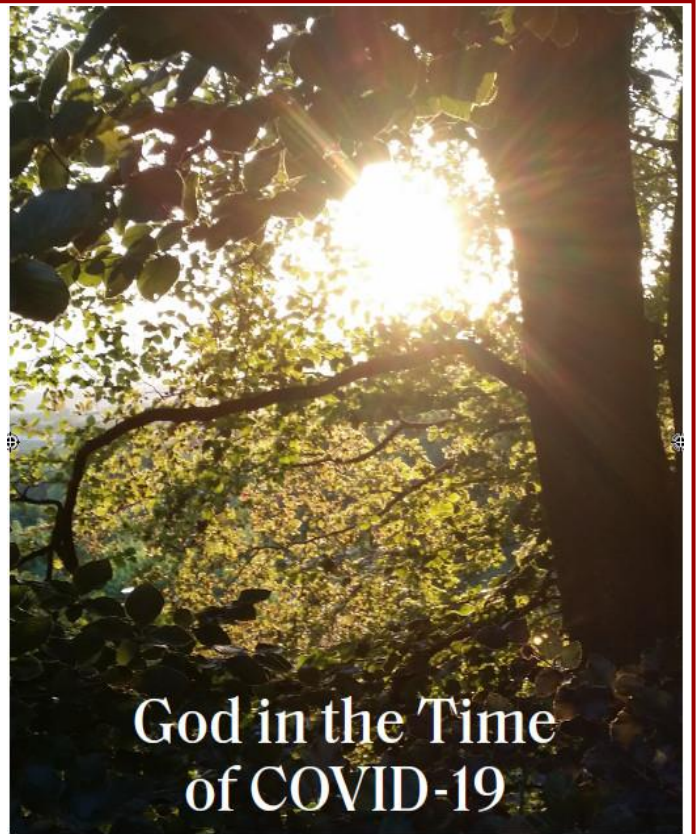
May God, who is never outdone in generosity, through the intercession of Saint Jude, bless you for your kindness and support of this book.

Full list of contributors:

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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



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!

Gather Online

Tuesday, 11th August 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](#)

Every Saturday at 9.00 am

INTER-CHURCH HOPE PRAYER

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

Need the SVP? Tel. 07563 702033