

CARMEL CONTACT

from the Australian Carmelites

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Mary, help of christians

Our Lady, Help of Christians, was chosen by the Australian Synod of Bishops as patroness of the Australian Church in 1844.

No doubt the Bishops were conscious of their people struggling to establish a new way of life in a new country. At that time it was also a real struggle to establish the Church which faced much opposition from both the government and the community in general.

Even though the Church had sought the protection and intercession of Our Lady under this title for many centuries, it was only in 1814 that this feast was formally established. A new feast for a new nation.

Pope Pius VII instituted the feast in thanksgiving for his safe return to the See of Peter from which he had been forcibly removed by Napoleon. While the Pope was held prisoner in France the church prayed earnestly for his release. It came unexpectedly towards the end of May and Pius arrived in Rome on May 24 1814.

As we approach the end of

this millenium, we are conscious that for so many of our brothers and sisters life is still a struggle.

In spite of all our wonderful advances in science, medicine and technology, in art, music and literature, in food production and harnessing the world's resources, we find so many who suffer, so many who will never experience these advances, so many who live in poverty for want of bread, peace, justice or loving understanding.

There are others, too, who suffer the poverty of hope or acceptance, and for whom this world holds not bright hope, but the desert of despair, loneliness and fear.

There is a great need for healing and peace for ourselves, our nation and our world.

As Carmelites we have always looked to Mary in difficult times. The early Australian Carmelites also chose Our Lady, Help of Christians, as their patroness and protector as they struggled to establish the Order here.



Detail from leadlight window of Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Joseph's Church, Port Melbourne

We look to Mary again in this final year of preparation for the Year of Great Jubilee in the year 2000. We seek her intercession for all those who need healing and for peace in our world.

Through the intercession of Mary, Help of Christians, may the vision of the world as God's love would make it become a reality for all people in the year 2000.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fr David Hofman'.

*Fr David Hofman, OCarm
Director*

Carmelite Justice and Peace

Ever since the General Chapter of 1971 the call to justice and peace has appeared frequently in the statements and in the commitments of the Carmelite Order. Over these years Carmelites have worked on the question of justice in the world through study, reflection and ministry to and with the poor and the other victims of injustice in the world.

Carmelites recognise the need to respond to the situation of the poor, to the demands of the Gospel, to the social teachings of the Church and to the rediscovery of the Order's identity and charism in the years since the Second Vatican Council.

In the footsteps of Christ

The following of Jesus urges Carmelites to stand by the poor and to proclaim Good News for them and among them. The law of love demands that all the children of God be loved and come to their full dignity as brothers and sisters of one another in the human family. The early christian community inspires Carmelites to dwell on the Word of God, to share their goods, to prayer together for the coming of the Kingdom and to build communion through the Eucharist.

In the footsteps of Mary

Mary as Mother, Sister and Virgin is a model of new relationships based on listening to the Word of God and responding in total obedience. She unites her song with the hopes of the poor and looks forward with them to a world of justice among the marvels worked by God in her.

In the footsteps of Elijah

Elijah, the prophet, the other

great inspiration for Carmelites, stands in the presence of the living God. Torn apart by the destruction of his people he opposes the idolatry of king Ahab and queen Jezebel which causes that destruction, and he proclaims the justice of the one true God. As a prophet he mapped out the way of solidarity by standing by the people, the way of justice by restoring their human dignity, and the way of conversion by giving back to the people their sense of identity through their faith in Yahweh.

This kind of understanding has come as the result of many meet-



ings, much research and a deep desire to be faithful to the calling of Carmelites in the world of today. United in prayer and fraternity, this service of justice forms the pattern of life for Carmelites today: prayer, fraternity and service integrated in one approach to life in the convent and among the people.

Service among God's people

Over the years various forms of service have emerged. In many parts of the Order there are Justice and Peace Commissions whose task it is to motivate the members by reminding them of what the Order and the Church have said and guiding some of the initiatives the members might decide to take. In many places there are

centres to take care of the poor, with food, clothing, health and hygiene, counselling. Many of the churches of the Order are located in places where the vast majority of the people are very poor. By basing their preaching on the scripture, and with a keen eye to what is happening in society, Carmelites are giving a message which is aimed at moving people to conversion of the kind that leads to action for justice as well as, and sometimes instead of, the traditional devotional practices of the Church. In some instances, such as the Philippines, Zimbabwe and

Brazil, Carmelites have engaged in the struggles of the people against oppressive regimes.

Carmelite Identity

For Carmelites this call has become part of their identity. The Carmelite way of being in the midst of the people "is a sign and a prophetic witness of new relationships of fraternity and friendship among men and women everywhere. It is a prophetic message of justice and peace in society and among peoples. As an integral part of the Good News, this prophecy must be fulfilled through active commitment to the transformation of sinful systems and structures into grace-filled systems and structures" (Carmelite Constitution n.24). The Carmelite commitment to justice and peace looks towards the building of liberating relationships between people and God, between people among themselves, between people and the whole of creation.

Fr Mícheál O'Neill, O.Carm.

Fr Mícheál is the Carmelite General Councillor for Justice and Peace.

Fr Francis Mathew Adappoor



Introducing Father Francis Adappoor who arrived in Australia in January this year to begin his post-graduate studies.

I was born on 27 June 1968 in Kerala, India, which has a very dynamic Catholic Community. I hail from the Adappoor family which has given many priests and religious to the Church. My uncle Joseph (my father's youngest brother) is a diocesan priest who serves in the diocese of Kothamangalam, Kerala. Another of my uncles, John, is a Carmelite priest in India.

I was born as the fourth son of Mr Mathew and Mrs Aleykutty Adappoor. I have a younger sister and three elder brothers. My sister, Joilin, belongs to the Congregation of Sisters of the Destitute. All my brothers, Devasia, Joseph and Johnson got married. Devasia and Joseph are farmers and have two children each. Johnson is working under Communication Ministry of India and is expecting a child.

Having completed the 10th standard, I became an aspirant of the Carmelite Community at Karukadam in Kerala on 16 June 1984. I belong to the Indian Commissariat which is part of the Upper German Province. Our present Provincial is Fr Richard Winter and Fr Thomas Kizhakemury is the Commissary Provincial of India.

Carmel Around the World

Lay Carmelites in the English Speaking Caribbean

Lay Carmelites have been in the English speaking Caribbean for 60 years. They have 400 members, many of whom are actively involved in their parishes. As a community, the Lay Carmelites conduct a prayer apostolate for the sick.

At present the Lay Carmelite National Council is very active in conducting a programme to encourage youths between the ages of fifteen and twenty to become members of the Carmelite Third Order.

Carmelites in East Timor

For the last 8 years the Indonesian Carmelite Province has welcomed candidates from East Timor, though no Carmelite ever worked there. They know the Carmelite Order through the *Carmelite Sisters* who have been working in East Timor since 1974.

I made my simple profession at Kartikulam in Kerala on 9 May 1988. I completed my philosophy studies between 1988 and 1990. I also did Bachelor of Arts in English Literature between 1990 and 1992. I finished my Bachelor of Theology between 1992 and 1995. I became a perpetual member of the Order of Carmelites on 13 June 1993. I was ordained a deacon on 22 December 1994 and a priest on 31 December 1995.

I did pastoral ministry in the diocese of Mananthavady, Kerala for one year. I served in the minor seminary of Karukadam as Spiritual Director and teacher for two years.

I arrived in Australia on 28 January this year and started my Master's Degree in Theology at Yarra Theological Union in Melbourne on 22 February, 1999. My thesis will be on Mary in the Gospels. I hope to join the Master's Degree in Spiritual Direction which is scheduled to commence at Melbourne College of Divinity in December, 1999.

Can you help us look after Fr Francis while he is in Australia?

Your support will not only provide further education for him, but through your generosity many others will be touched by his ministry in India.

Please use the form on the back of my letter.

Thank you - Fr David.

After a long process of negotiation, the Bishop of Dili, Mgr. Carlos Belo, has given permission for the Indonesian Province to send two priests to start a Carmelite foundation in his diocese.

On 5 January 1999 Frs. Henry Gheta and Matthew Siringo-ringo arrived in East Timor to begin their ministry. Mgr. Belo appointed Fr Henry chaplain of a retreat house in Maubara run by the Carmelite Sisters, and Fr Matthew pastor of a parish in Liquica. For the time being both friars live in the retreat house in Maubara, which is situated about 50 km from Dili. Frs Gehta and Siringo-ringo are fellow students of Frs Hilarius and Agung who are living and studying in Australia.

Eucharistic "heart" of the Lateran Basilica

The major Roman basilicas follow the custom of leaving the Blessed Sacrament exposed all day. In the Lateran Basilica the chapel where there is continuous adoration is that of St. Andrew Corsini, O.Carm.

Prayer for Healing and Peace

This prayer may be used by one person or by a group.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God,
you chose Mary to be the mother and help of all Christians. Through her intercession grant us health in mind and body, freedom from sorrow, hope in despair and peace in our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

A reading from Marialis Cultus by Pope Paul VI

Mary offers a calm vision and a reassuring word to modern people...Mary shows forth the victory of hope over anguish, of fellowship over solitude, of peace over anxiety, of joy and beauty over boredom and disquiet, of eternal visions over earthly ones, of life over death.

Psalm 103

My soul, bless the Lord,
Bless God's holy name!
My soul, bless the Lord,
Hold dear all God's gifts.

Bless God, who forgives your sin
And heals every illness,
Who snatches you from death
And enfolds you with tender care,
Who fills your life with richness
And give you an eagle's strength.

The Lord who works justice
And defends the oppressed.
The Lord is tender and caring,
Slow to anger, rich in love.

Canticle of Mary

I acclaim the greatness of the Lord,
I delight in God my saviour,
who regarded my humble state.
Truly from this day on
all ages will call me blest.

For God, wonderful in power,
has used that strength for me.
Holy the name of the Lord!
whose mercy embraces the faithful,
one generation to the next.

The mighty arm of God
scatters the proud in their conceit,
pulls tyrants from their thrones,
and raises up the humble.
The Lord fills the starving
and lets the rich go hungry.

God rescues lowly Israel,
recalling the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham's heirs for ever.

Intercessions

We pray to God, through the intercession of Mary, help of Christians, for our needs, and the needs our families and friends, our Church and our world.

For all who suffer in body, mind or spirit (especially ...) – Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.

For families and friends affected by suicide – Mary, comforter of the afflicted, pray for us.

For all who suffer violence and the effects of war – Mary, queen of peace, pray for us.

For all who suffer from addiction – Mary, mother of hope, pray for us.

For unity among the followers of Jesus – Mary, help of Christians, pray for us.

other intercession may be added

We draw all our prayer together in the great prayer of Jesus as we say:
Our Father ...

Final Prayer

Lord,
rest your healing hand upon the sick;
may your life-giving power flow into every cell of our bodies and into the depths of our souls restoring us to wholeness and strength.

Come into the brokenness of this world with your healing love. Give us a vision of the world as your love would make it: a world where the weak are protected and none go hungry or poor; a world where the benefits of modern life are shared and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races, religions and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love; and give us the inspiration and courage to share in the task of building it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us, keep us from evil, and lead us to life everlasting. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CARMELITES...



Brothers who:

- **Seek the face of the Living God**
- **In the midst of the people**

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CARMEL CONTACT

Carmel Contact is a publication of the Australian Carmelites designed to keep you, our friends and supporters, informed about the members of our Order, our hopes and our spirit. It also provides an opportunity for us to support you in your Christian life.

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