

CARMEL CONTACT

from the Australian Carmelites

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The many faces of mothering

To be a mother could be to sit in the audience on speech night and hear your child named vix of the school. To be a mother could be to watch your son or daughter stand on the dais at the Olympic Games to receive a gold medal on behalf of our country. We have seen the faces of mothers, who radiate with joy and pride in their children.

There are also other images – the tragic face of the mother of Ronald Ryan, leaving the prison shortly before her son became the last man in Australia to be hanged; the face of a mother when she receives the news that her son, driving under the influence of alcohol, has been killed in a road accident. These too are among the many faces of motherhood.

We are never the same after giving birth to a child. Mothers who freely, or who are forced to, give their babies away, and those tragically from whom their babies are taken in death, in broken marriages or as stolen children, still carry their child in their hearts. Even mothers who are abusive or neglect-

ful are haunted by love for and of their children.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, stands with us as mother in the profound experience of bear-



ing a child. In the Scripture story, she knew the joy of seeing the birth of her son celebrated by a chorus of angels and the visits of shepherds and kings (Luke 2:13 and 16, Matt 2:11). She found the teachers in the temple marvelling at his wisdom (Luke 2:46). She too felt in her own heart his body broken in the shame and horror of unjust execution.

Mary, as a human mother, knew also that the most difficult work of mothering is 'letting go'. Like many of us with adult children, she attempted to bring her son home as he began to make a questionable name for himself as a preacher and healer (Mark 3:21 and 31). For mothers, the 'letting go' has begun even as the tiny child enjoys her or his first day at childcare or school. This is the journey of the child to become "other", to enrich us as a mother and as a person with new experiences of joy and grief. In a reflection of eucharist, to 'let go' is to enlarge and break open the heart in order to share it with others.

Mothering is about giving birth and nurturing. Many, who are not physical mothers and many who are not female, give birth to love, to wisdom, to new life in others. They too nurture the fragile child within each of us. The poet William Makepeace Thackeray once wrote, "Mother is the name for God on the lips and in the hearts of little children" and not only of *little* children.

Pat Mullins

Pope To Beatify Polish Carmelite



Polish Carmelite, Father Hilary Januszewski, is among a number of martyrs of persecution during World War II soon to be beatified by Pope John Paul II.

Father Hilary, a quiet, studious and prayerful man, was imprisoned at the Montelupi prison in Krakow in 1940 before being sent to Dachau concentration camp.

In 1945, when the war was close to ending and freedom was imminent, he volunteered to care for prisoners with typhus fever who were grouped together in wretched conditions in one section of the camp. Many of them were from the enemy country of Russia. After three weeks of caring for the sick Father Hilary also contracted the disease and died.

A letter to mark this occasion from the Prior General Father Joseph Chalmers, O.Carm. is published on the Australian Carmelite Province's website at www.carmelites.org.au

40th Anniversary of Ordination

Frs Jerome Watt and Peter Byrth celebrated the 40th Anniversary of their ordination at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Hilton on Wednesday 28 April.

Fr Jerome who was born in Melbourne is currently parish priest at Hilton and Fr Peter who was born in Maitland, South Australia, and served as Australian Provincial for six years, now lives in New Jersey USA. His ministry is in the North American Province of St Elias.

Terror in East Timor

Two Carmelites have recently begun work in East Timor. They are Fathers Henry Gheta and Matthew Siringo-ringo. Father Matthew is parish priest of Liquica the scene of the recent massacre of over twenty villagers. The following is a translation by Fr Hilarius Beslon Pandiangan of other events which the two Carmelites have witnessed in East Timor.

One January 15, while the two Carmelites were eating their lunch, the son of the village leader came running in and said, "People (the military) are coming!" Having put on their habits, the Carmelites ran quickly to the leader's house. Some military men were there. Acting seemingly without fear the Carmelites moved forward to meet them. But the military men avoided the Carmelites and left the village, kidnapping three young villagers. It was really horrible.

The next evening nearly all villagers had fled from their houses to the convent because they were so frightened by the death threats broadcast by the military at five o'clock that evening. The two Carmelites helped the nuns feed the people. At 9.30 pm the villag-

ers saw their houses engulfed by flame and the sound of gunfire in the distance. As the barking of the village dogs grew louder, the two Carmelites told the people to hide themselves in the convent. Having turned off all the lights the two Carmelites, the nuns and the villagers waited in silent prayer until the military had gone.



Fr Bruce with members of the Wentworthville community

Lay Carmelite Visits

Fr Bruce Clark, Lay Carmelite National Chaplain, visited eight Lay Carmelites on the east coast of Australia during April including: the Queensland communities of Bribie Island, Coorparoo, Warwick and Toowoomba, and the New South Wales communities in Sydney, Wentworthville and Wollongong and on the Central Coast.

At Coorparoo Fr Bruce was present for the first profession of Ursula and Bob McNab and Peter McMahon. The Wentworthville community is looking forward to

celebrating several Final Professions on May 24th, Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of our Province. Fr Bruce is also planning to visit the communities in Broken Hill and Adelaide.

Personal Profile

Karen Buswell

Parish Secretary at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish, Hilton, WA

I am married with two children, Mark (16) and Claire (14), My husband Clive is a surveyor. We have been married for 19 years. I have been involved in the parish since 1986 with the Children's Liturgy, Parish Council, Parish Finance Committee and Pastoral Team. My children attend Seton Catholic College and I am involved in this area by helping with tuckshop, making House Group Banner, P & F Committee, Seton Quiz Night Committee and helping with the Fun Run. With this and running my son to his part time job and my daughter to her basketball, which she is very committed to, I am kept fairly busy.

I have had the pleasure of working with the Carmelites since the 19 February 1990. I remember my interview with Fr Shortis for this position. My daughter had just started pre-primary at Mount

Carmel School, my son was already there. I remember saying to Fr Shortis at the interview that I didn't want to work school holidays and I felt for sure that would count me out of any contention of being offered the position. To my amazement he rang and said the job was mine. I was so stressed the weekend before taking up my new position that I cried all weekend. I had only had two hours with Judy who was leaving to learn what I needed to know. I soon learned that I had been worried for no reason as Fr Shortis was very helpful and anything I wasn't sure on he was only too willing to assist with. I have enjoyed very much my association with Fr Shortis, Fr Jerome and Fr McMahon. They are three very special men in my life and that of my family. I hope it continues for a long time to come. It is nice to work with someone who appreciates what you do.



Mary and the Carmelites

Who is Mary? Why do we have so many titles for her: *Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mary, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mother of the Church, Seat of Wisdom, Health of the Sick...* and many, many more?

The sheer number of titles we give her shows that we constantly draw Mary into the experience of life. We see in her what it means to be a real disciple: one open to the Word of God, bringing Christ into life and into the world, sharing the joys and sorrows of life with faith and grace, gathered in prayer with each other. No matter what our need we always seem to draw Mary into our prayer. We feel her presence at the heart of the Church. We easily call her 'mother'.

The early Carmelites knew about her presence, too. They knew about the image given in the Acts of the Apostles (1:12-14) of Mary gathered in prayer with the followers of her Son. They named their first chapel after her; they called it simply, St Mary's. They came to think of her as a sister in the faith, showing them how to be good disciples, sharing with them the ups and downs of life and their journey of faith.

In the difficult times the early Carmelites prayed with Mary and sought her intercession.

These, too, are difficult times for our world and for the Carmelites in Australia.

At our Chapter last year we tried to respond positively to our difficult financial situation, the lack of vocations, our ageing. We realised that we needed to prayerfully plan our response. We asked three Carmelites to move into new, full-time, ministries of Vocations, Formation and Planning; ministries which generate no income, but which we felt were vital for our future. We tried to strengthen our life together by forming larger communities. Since the Chapter we have been continuing our planning process.

Towards the end of June we will gather in Melbourne for our annual Assembly of the Province. We will take stock of the result of our Chapter decisions. We will be working hard to make good decisions for the future of the Order in Australia. We hope and pray that, with God's grace, new possibilities will emerge and solutions will be found. Please join us in asking Mary to be with us in our discussions and decisions. Thank you.

*Fr David Hofman, OCarm
Director*

Nine days with Mary

Mothers' Mass Novena Intentions

July 7– for people everywhere

- protection for young people
- strength for families
- care for the elderly
- companionship for single and unpartnered people

July 8 – for our world

- justice and peace for all people
- respect for culture and religious practice
- deep regard for human rights

July 9 – for those who live with violence and abuse

- healing for those physically harmed
- strength for those emotionally hurt
- courage for those building new lives

July 10 – for the homeless and the lonely

- comfort for the lonely
- shelter for the homeless
- acceptance for refugees

July 11 – for those without work

- hope for those who cannot find work

- contentment for those who are retired
- courage for those prevented from work by illness, injury or disability

July 12 – for the sick

- healing for the physically ill
- peace for troubled minds
- mending of broken hearts

July 13 – for all Christians

- faith and commitment in marriage
- fulfillment for single people
- increase in religious vocations

July 14 – for those in need

- food for the hungry
- support for those struggling to make ends meet
- hope for those who despair

July 15 – for those deprived of freedom

- justice for the oppressed
- friends for the housebound
- peace for the anxious

The intentions for this year's Mothers' Mass Novena are as universal as we can make them: you'll find that one or some will apply to you, your family, friends, colleagues. The daily praying of the intentions mustn't become a burden: rather, see it as a time and place to tell Jesus about the needs and hopes of his – and your – sisters and brothers.

When you begin each day's novena time, choose a place and a time where you've some chance

of being uninterrupted; time could be around ten minutes.

Sit quietly, and read the day's intention.

Become aware of your sister Mary with you. She is accompanied by her Son, and the three of you begin to talk together about the people you're all praying for: how do the older people you know cope with today's frantic pace...has a homeless person asked you for help...have you ever lost your way in life...is someone

close to you seriously ill....?

As you talk, open your heart to God, loving father and mother, and know that Jesus and Mary are doing the same.

Pray in your own way and your own words for the people of this day of the novena, especially those who are known to you.

And finish your time with Mary and her son, with the Novena Prayer.

Fr Bernard Shah, OCarm

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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