

PREPARING FOR PARISH CONSECRATION: Please remember to pray each day for our consecration.

Rev. Francis Kemsley, O. Carm., the prior at Aylesford Priory will be here on Thursday, 11 July 2019 at 5:00 PM to speak to us about Carmelite devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We would like to have a Bring-and-Share supper along with the talk. I have checked the weather forecast (and will add some prayers) and it appears that we will be having good weather on that day. So, the talk will be in the church and the food will be in the garden. This is going to be an edifying and enjoyable event! Bring a friend!! This event is open to the public. I hope that we can have a nice group for Fr. Francis.

Dowry Tour of Our Lady of Walsingham/Consecration of England: Our Lady of Walsingham Statue is making a tour of the dioceses and their cathedrals in England in preparation of the consecration of England to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She will be in our cathedral in Arundel from **Thursday 28th November until Saturday, 30th November**. We hope to organize a trip to the cathedral on one of those days.

14 Sept: Fr. Matt recites a prayer for his personal consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the 6:00 PM Mass.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham: We are organizing a parish trip to Walsingham as part of our preparation for parish consecration in December. Our dates are 8, 9, and 10 October. One of our parishioners has generously offered to pay for a mini-bus for us so expenses for all of us are reduced.

13-14 Oct: Individual parishioners who want to consecrate themselves at Mass may do so at the Mass that they attend that weekend.

Parish Consecration: On the weekend of 7-8th December at all the Masses.

Early Next Year: Fr. Jobe Abbass, OFM Conv., whom you know from his previous visits, will come to Rye to speak to us about the Militia Immaculatae which will be a fitting fruit of our parish consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Fr. Jobe is presently travelling to every parish in Our Lady of Angels Province promoting the MI.

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS: Each year we are given the opportunity to help our Catholic Church spread the Good News in another country. This year we will be blessed with a visit from Fr. Rozario Thyagaraj, a priest of the Society of African Missions (SMA). He will be here on the weekend of 13-14 July and will speak at all of the Masses. The second collection will be for the assistance of his community and the people they serve. I know that you will be generous as you have been in the past. Thank you ahead of time!

A Day with Mary: Arundel Cathedral, Saturday 13 July 2019 beginning with Procession of Our Lady at 10 AM. See poster on notice board.

Sea Sunday: 21 July 2019 at Rye Harbour. Sea Sunday is actually 14 July but locally we will celebrate one week later. **We will still have the second collection for the Apostleship of the Sea on 21 July because we will have a missionary speaking at all the Masses on 14 July.**

HAVE YOU GOT A GREEN THUMB? DO YOU LOVE TO SPEND TIME IN THE GARDEN SURROUNDED BY THE SMELL OF FLOWERS AND GOD'S GOOD EARTH? HAVE WE GOT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU! As you know we have a garden in the back of the church. Former gardeners have gone to that Garden of Eden up above, so now we need someone to pick up the shovel, trowel and hose to make and keep our garden a beautiful part of our piece of Heaven on earth. We have already put a lot of work in the garden, yet it still needs the loving and constant care of a dedicated person. If you are interested or know of someone who is interested, please let Fr. Matt know as soon as you can. Thank you greatly!

➤ ATTENTION BAKERS AND ALL THOSE WHO LOVE TO BAKE!

This weekend, (6-7 July) we are going to have a "BAKE SALE" for fun and for fundraising. We need your cakes, cupcakes, pies, cookies and other items you cook in the oven. Please bring them with you to church next weekend or bring them to the friary (might be good to check that I'm home). We will be serving tea (maybe coffee) so that you can enjoy

The Origins of Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Mount Carmel in our times

Mount Carmel is the biblical site where the prophet Elias battled the 450 priests of Baal in a public spiritual contest which led to their defeat and ruin as Scriptures aptly recorded. (1 Kings 18:19-40). It was also here where Elias sent his servant seven times to the mountaintop to look for rain after years of drought which ended as he proclaimed, "Behold a little cloud arose out of the sea like a man's foot." (1 Kings 18:44). Soon thereafter, torrential rains fell upon the parched land and the people of Israel were saved.

The title of Our Lady of Carmel can be traced back to the hermits who used to live in the renowned and blessed mountain at the time of the Old Testament. There, this pious and austere community prayed in expectation of the advent of a Virgin-Mother who would bring salvation to mankind much like the holy prophet Elias who ascended Mount Carmel to pray to God for the salvation of the Israel which was suffering a terrible drought at that time.

A Prefigure of Our Lady

Elias saw the cloud as a symbol of the Virgin mentioned in the prophecies of Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14). The hermits took after his example and prayed likewise for the advent of the much-awaited Virgin who would become the mother of the Messiah. It became their spiritual mission.

Theologians see in that little cloud a figure of Mary, bringing salvation in the seventh age of the world. As the clouds arise out of the sea without the weight and the salinity of the waters, so has Mary arisen out of the human race without suffering its stains.

Based on the *L'Institution Des Premières Moines*, a text most singularly representative of the spirit of Carmel and of its most ancient and quintessential mystical traditions, Elias would discern from that cloud four secrets from God concerning the birth of Our Lady:

1. **The Immaculate Conception** – because the Virgin would arise as a cloud out of the salty water of a guilty humanity, having the same nature of that water but without its bitterness.
2. **The Virginity of Mary similar to that of Elias** – because, if she "arose out of Mount Carmel" and "like a man's foot," this means she would follow the path of Elias, who ascended Carmel through voluntary virginity.
3. **The time of the Virgin's birth** – because as Elias's servant saw the cloud on his seventh try so would the world witness the advent of the Virgin in the seventh age of the world.
4. **The Virginal Maternity** – because, in that little cloud, God would come down like sweet rain, "without noise of human collaboration," that is, without violating her purity.

St. Simon Stock and the Scapular

Any account on the story of Our Lady of Mount Carmel could not fail to mention the role that St. Simon Stock played especially in relation to the brown scapular. **We could trace Simon Stock's origin to the County of Kent in England where he was born around 1165. Being of English descent, he was also known as Simon Anglus.**

In the thirteenth century, during the era of the Crusades, he joined a group of hermits on Mount Carmel who claimed to be the successors of Elias while on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. As the situation became too precarious for them due to Saracen threats, the community moved and settled in Aylesford, England. In 1247, at 82 years old, Simon was elected the sixth superior-general of the Carmelites at the first chapter held there. He instituted reforms to best suit Western conditions and the cenobitical rather than the eremitical way of life. As such, the community came to be regarded eventually as a mendicant order along with the Dominicans and the Franciscans.

However, the order had difficulty gaining general acceptance and suffered much persecution and oppression from secular clergy and other orders which prompted the monks to have recourse to the Blessed Virgin in the year 1251.

Tradition says that Our Lady responded to their call through an apparition to Simon Stock on Sunday July 16th, 1251 as he knelt in prayer. She appeared holding the Child Jesus in one arm and the brown scapular in the other hand while uttering the following words: "***Hoc erit tibi et cunctis Carmelitis privilegium, in hoc habitu moriens salvabitur***" (This shall be the privilege for you and for all the Carmelites, that anyone dying in this habit shall be saved.) On 13 January 1252 the Order received a letter of protection from Pope Innocent IV, defending them from harassment.

St. Simon Stock lived a holy life for 100 years and died in the Carmelite monastery at Bordeaux, France on May 16, 1265.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us and pray for the Carmelites!