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AD JESUM PER IMMACULATAM

THE MARIAN FRANCISCANS

A NEW FOUNDATION: THE MARIAN FRANCISCAN THIRD ORDER

by Myriam Tohill (Sr M. Francesca Romana of the Five Wounds)

Since they arrived in Gosport in 2014, the Marian Franciscan friars have worked tirelessly to increase devotion to our Blessed Mother amongst all those fortunate enough to come across them. Starting with the thirty-three day preparation for Marian Consecration, those who were interested moved on to make a Vow of Unlimited Consecration to the Immaculate. Like their role model, St. Maximilian Kolbe, the friars are ever mindful of the speed at which souls can be lost because nobody is praying and sacrificing for them. So, far from resting on their laurels at this point, they began to investigate how those of us who had attained these heights could scale greater ones.

The idea of forming a group following the Rule of the Third Order Secular of St. Francis was explored. The training for this was first suggested by Fr. Serafino in 2023 in Portsmouth. A large number of people were interested and a series of formation meetings on Zoom and in person in the parish of Cosham, which could be reinforced by Mass, adoration and prayer, were carried out.

The training revealed the strength of commitment required, particularly with the prayer schedule, and some began to feel that they could not manage to fulfil the conditions of the order. The numbers dropped, but after a year, there were still sixteen who, following the Rule during that time, felt capable of continuing to do so.

Satan loves to obstruct spiritual warriors as much as he can and difficulties arose regarding the venue and time for the investiture of the sixteen as novices. Eventually it was worked out that the investiture process would be split in two.



*Our Lady of Sorrows,
Holy Card*

Follow us

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Contact us

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St. Mary's Friary, Dundee
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Mass Times (all TLM)

St. Joseph's, Portsmouth
Sunday: 11.15am at St. Colman's Church
Daily: 7am (Upper room at St. Joseph's hall)

St. Joseph's, Dundee
Sunday: 9am & 11am
Mon-Fri: 7am & 6pm
Saturday: 7am
First Fridays: 7pm
First Saturdays: 9.30am



The Newly Invested Marian Franciscan Third Order Novices, May 25, 2024

In the morning, there would be a final meeting in which we would receive our religious names from our director, Fr. Serafino, and would choose our spiritual surnames, and the investiture itself would take place in the afternoon. Actual numbers of those who could attend were only finalised in the last week. The friars at St Joseph's worked extremely hard the night before, making the scapulars and rosaries necessary for us all.

Fortunately, Satan cannot control the weather and the 25 May, 2024 was a lovely day. We filled the long gap between the giving of our names and the Mass with a picnic in the park opposite the Cathedral. This was also a good opportunity for us all to get to know each other a little as nearly half of us came from London and had only met online. All the friars came from St Joseph's to welcome us into their community, which greatly added to the sense of fellowship with all Franciscans, past and present, generated by having our investiture on the feast day of that great Franciscan, St Padre Pio.

It is with confidence that we set out on our lives of poverty, penance and prayer, under the direction of Bishop Egan and Fr. Serafino, and with the support of each other, to carry out the only important task we have: to save souls.



Third Order Investiture Ceremony, May 25, 2024

AN UPDATE FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE MARIAN FRANCISCANS

by Neville McNally

Currently the Friends of the Marian Franciscans charity (FMF) supports the friars in two locations: Portsmouth and Dundee.



St. Joseph's, Portsmouth: Corpus Christi Procession c. 1928

Portsmouth

At St Joseph's Friary in Portsmouth the Friars offer the Latin Mass at three locations in the Portsmouth area: St Agatha's, St Colman's (temporarily until repairs are made to enable St Joseph's Church to reopen), and in the Upper Room at St Joseph's Hall. They provide room in the Friary for men discerning a vocation with the Marian Franciscans. The friars also have an apostolate at Bournemouth.

Dundee

In 2022 the friars moved into St Mary's Friary in Dundee following the ending of their parish responsibilities at St Mary's in Gosport, which resulted in an urgent need for alternative accommodation. The Franciscan Sisters, also leaving Gosport, were in similar need. As if by providence, the current property, which belongs to Dunkeld Diocese, was found for sale. The property is divided into two areas. The first is a former Diocesan centre which is currently occupied by the friars. The building is suitable for future development which includes the addition of retreat accommodation for individuals and families. The second property area contains a separate Chapel and Convent currently occupied by the sisters. In 2022 FMF, encouraged by the support of the then Bishop of Dunkeld, Bishop Robson, agreed to terms for the purchase of the Diocesan centre for use by the friars. The FMF was ready and anxious to begin the conveyancing as quickly as possible

and was attempting to coordinate a joint purchase with the separate charity supporting the sisters. However, before the joint approach could be agreed upon with the other charity, Bishop Robson retired on medical grounds and the conveyancing was halted by the Diocese pending the appointment of a new bishop.

The tragic death of the new bishop elect, Canon Martin Chambers, unexpectedly extended the delay. Thankfully a replacement bishop elect for Dunkeld Diocese, Canon Andrew McKenzie, was recently announced which might hopefully enable the conveyancing to resume. His episcopal consecration will take place on August 10 this year.

In Dundee, the friars' apostolate includes pastoral support to the Scottish faithful, as well as a novitiate for friars in formation and a studium for the training of future friar priests.



Rorate Caeli Mass at St Joseph's Chapel, Dundee

Expansion

Happily there is a healthy interest from young men in vocations with the Marian Franciscans. To be able to cope with future numbers, there is a need for more facilities to increase novitiate and studium capacity. This has led to the search for an additional property.

A number of potential properties have been investigated to date. One proposal to purchase a former Dominican Convent in Staffordshire - which would have been very suitable - was outbid by a developer which unfortunately will see an end to its religious use. Some other properties were not suitable due to either their cost, or state of (dis)repair. Currently a potential property in Cheshire is under investigation.

Prayer Intentions

It is hoped the conveyancing for the Dundee property can proceed once the new Bishop of Dunkeld is installed. It is

further hoped that the search for a new friary novitiate will be successful. Your prayers for both intentions would be greatly appreciated.

MARIAN PROCESSION ON THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

by Vincenzo Tamma

On the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Saturday 7th October 2023, the Parish of St Joseph and Corpus Christi and the Marian Franciscan community organised a Marian procession from St Joseph's Church to Corpus Christi Church in Portsmouth. The statue of Mary at the front of the procession was followed by a small statue of St Joseph carrying the Child Jesus. It felt like St Joseph was leading the procession in honour of Mary despite being hidden in the background. Few people knew that there was a small statue of St Joseph at the back of the procession with the statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the front. St Joseph was leading all of us towards his Son Who was waiting to be adored in the Holy Eucharist at the Church of Corpus Christi. In preparation for Adoration, the whole community of faithful from different backgrounds and nationalities were praying the Rosary, alternating the decades with some beautiful Gregorian Chant (Latin Marian hymns) as well as popular Marian hymns in English, thus experiencing the maternal affection of our Mother in heaven. It felt like walking as one Catholic Church united as one people with its different charisms. The procession brought together those who attend the Extraordinary form and the Ordinary form all under the same spiritual parents of Mary and Joseph in Jesus, our Brother and Head. We pray that all the people in the streets of Portsmouth who witnessed the procession may be given the grace to be open to the Truth. We hope that it was for them, in some way, a glimpse of Heaven, as they saw us surrounded by Mary and Joseph, our parents in Heaven, who lead us to their son Jesus with a longing desire to adore Him and to be in His presence.



Marian Procession, Portsmouth 2023

OUR CO-REDEMPTRIX MAGAZINE

The Marian Franciscans' *Co-redemptrix* magazine is available now in PDF and hardcopy format, and can be ordered on our website:

themarianfranciscans.org/category/co-redemptrix.

Each issue is composed of a number of theological and devotional articles written by priests and lay friends of the Marian Franciscans, who offer thought-provoking reflections upon Mary's active participation in our salvation. Some articles take on an apologetic approach, defending Mary's co-redemptive role against attacks from inside and outside the Church.

We humbly ask for your prayers so that this apostolate may, under the guidance of Our Blessed Mother, bear much fruit and so hasten the Triumph of Her Holy and Immaculate Heart. We also encourage you to keep the potential proclamation of a Fifth Marian dogma of the Co-redemption in your prayers. All it takes is a quick mention of this intention, e.g.: 'I offer this Rosary for all my other intentions but also for the proclamation of the Fifth Dogma.' God bless you all and Ave Maria!

BECOME A FRIEND

If you are not already a Friend, please consider becoming a Friend today! The Friends of the Marian Franciscans is a charity which was set up in 2021 to enable the faithful to help the friars in their ministry. This help takes two forms: spiritual help through prayer; and material help through donations which support the friars' day-to-day living requirements (e.g. food and shelter) and their ministry to a growing number of apostolates, in person and online. You can find more information on the friars and the Friends of The Marian Franciscans, the UK registered charity that we have set up to help them, at themarianfranciscans.org/help-the-friars. If you are interested in joining our network, please complete and tick the GDPR box opposite to indicate that you agree to the personal data you provide being held and processed by the friars and Friends of the Marian Franciscans for its charitable purposes.

OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

We invite you to visit the Marian Franciscans' YouTube channel, Radio Immaculata, where the friars host a weekly live show, *Tea with Mary*, every Saturday at 5pm (UK time). The channel features videos on Marian catechesis, the spiritual life, interesting interviews, and more. We would be grateful if you could support us by subscribing to our channel now: youtube.com/@RadioImmaculata



Live Radio Immaculata Interview with Fr. Chad Ripperger

Please return the following form to the email or postal address shown below:

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Please return your completed form to either email or postal address below.

Email Address info@friendsofthemarianfranciscans.org

Postal Address: Friends Of The Marian Franciscans,
Walton House,
Tattingstone Close,
Lower Bourne,
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Do you agree to your data being held for the purpose of keeping you informed about Friends' activities through periodic newsletters and direct messages connected to supporting the Friars?:

Yes / No *

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