

AD JESUM PER IMMACULATAM THE MARIAN FRANCISCANS



www.themarianfranciscans.org

THE MARIAN FRANCISCANS' MASS MEDIA APOSTOLATE

It has now been more than two years since the Marian Franciscans moved into St Mary's Friary in Dundee on September 29th, 2022. The size of the friary as well as their increasing number of vocations has enabled the friars to expand their horizons with regards to their mass media apostolate. This initiative, inspired by their patron, St Maximilian Kolbe, who desired to use every possible means to bring souls to Jesus through Mary, has enabled them to reach souls beyond the confines of Dundee and Portsmouth. Their apostolate is currently composed of four aspects: a YouTube channel (*Radio Immaculata*); a quarterly magazine (*Co-Redemptrix*); the friars' new publishing house (*Mary House Press*); and an annual international Mariological Symposium hosted by the friars.

Radio Immaculata: the friars' YouTube apostolate




The friars' *Radio Immaculata* YouTube channel was born in 2016, and for four years it remained relatively stagnant. It was on May 2nd, 2020, that the friars began a weekly live broadcast on Saturdays called *Tea with Mary* - a Marian (British) spin-off of *Pints with Aquinas*. This was targeted at nourishing the faithful spiritually during the challenging period of the Covid-19 lockdown where many Catholics were unfairly left without the Sacraments and regular formation.

After the lockdown, *Tea with Mary* continued. At this stage the friars' technological skills were somewhat lacking, and this was evidenced by the countless (rather amusing) mistakes which took place during most shows. Notable examples are the



Our Lady and St Maximilian M. Kolbe

Follow us

-  @marianfriars
-  Joseph House
-  Radio Immaculata

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Mass Times

St. Joseph's, Portsmouth
Sunday: 11am (TLM) at St. Colman's
Daily: 7am (TLM) in the Upper Room at St. Joseph's Hall until repairs to the Church are completed

St. Joseph's, Dundee
Sunday: 9am & 11am (TLM)
Mon-Fri: 7am (TLM)
Saturday: 7am (TLM); 1st Sat: 9.30am



Radio Immaculata broadcast with a live university student audience

collapse of a green screen, soundless catechisms which forced viewers to try and lip-read the speakers, and occasions when the show went live without the speakers being aware. So numerous were the mistakes that the friars produced a blooper reel which is available on their channel. Gradually, however, Our Lady was assisting the brothers to become more proficient YouTubers. By the time the community had moved to Dundee in late 2022, the channel had around 3,500 subscribers, and was not growing much beyond this, but Divine Providence had something else in mind.

Among the Dundee faithful, the friars discovered a professional videographer (M.Z), as well as a talented filmmaker (Maitiú). The charity of these two men was instrumental in improving the quality of the friars' YouTube content. M.Z came over regularly to advise the friars on how to make an aesthetically pleasing studio, and on what cameras, lights and audio equipment was needed to facilitate this. Gradually, the YouTube studio was transformed from a rather depressing scene to a professional set, furnished with books, statues and lighting. This was possible thanks to the generous help of benefactors and the *Friends of the Marian Franciscans* who purchased the equipment which M.Z had recommended.



Live Radio Immaculata broadcast

From that point on, the channel began to grow rapidly. At the time of writing, Radio Immaculata has 20,583 subscribers and a total of over 1.37 million views. Through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, the friars began to reach out to well-known priests, theologians and Catholic commentators who very often agreed to come on the show. Notable examples are Cardinal Gerhard Muller, Bishop Athanasius Schneider, Fr. Chad Ripperger and Dr. Gavin Ashenden. These guest appearances served to boost the channel's viewership, bringing Jesus and Mary to more souls than the friars had originally expected. Some of these interviews reached



Live Interview with His Excellency Bishop Joseph Strickland

over 100,000 views, with the most viewed episode hitting 202,000. None of this would have been possible if it were not for the grace of God and the intercession of Our Lady Who seems to have planned everything out to facilitate the channel's growth. Radio Immaculata offers a variety of content, ranging from the lives of Franciscan saints for every day of the year, to live interviews and Sunday homilies of Marian Franciscan priests. We continue to pray that Radio Immaculata will touch hearts and bring countless souls closer to Jesus through Mary. We encourage you all to please share the channel with your family and friends!

Co-redemptrix: the friars' quarterly magazine

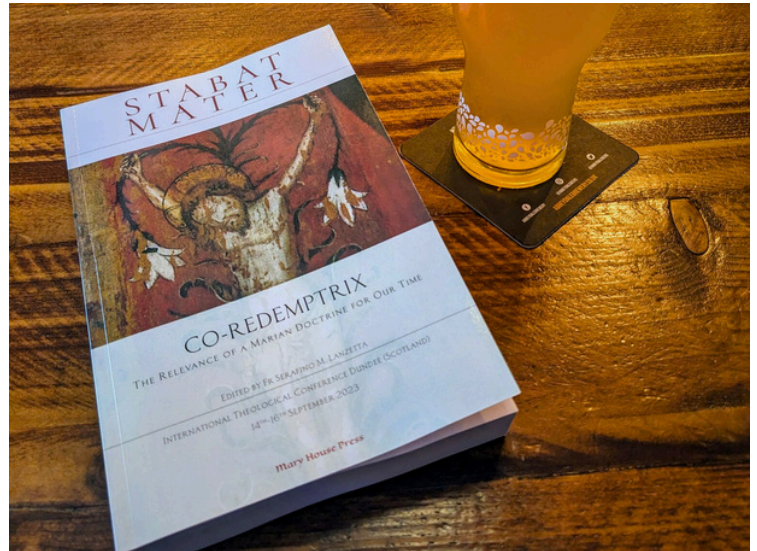
Inspired by the example of St Maximilian Kolbe and his influential magazine, *The Knight of the Immaculate*, the Marian Franciscans launched their *Co-redemptrix* magazine in September 2023 to promote the important doctrine of Our Lady's active participation in Christ's Redemption. The friars embarked on this project with the hope of hastening the definition of a fifth Marian dogma: Mary's Co-redemption. Once again, it seems that the hand of Divine Providence has been at work throughout this initiative: one member of the Portsmouth faithful (Anna) is a professional graphic designer who has worked tirelessly to design each issue of the magazine, furnishing the pages with uplifting artwork depicting Jesus, Mary and the saints, and arranging the magazine's content beautifully.

The articles are written by Marian Franciscan priests as well as by members of the friars' lay Marian group who are gifted authors and who seem to have all the skills necessary to help penetrate the mystery of Our Lady's Co-redemption from different angles. Articles cover Biblical, doctrinal, catechetical, historical, apologetical and devotional themes. *Co-redemptrix* can be purchased in PDF or hardcopy format online, or by visiting either the Dundee or Portsmouth friary.

It is also possible to purchase an annual subscription online which will ship the current issue of the magazine and the following three publications to your home address. By the grace of God, many have taken interest in the magazine. We pray that *Co-redemptrix* will continue to draw souls into a deeper understanding of Our Lady's Co-redemption.

Mary House Press: the friars' new publishing house

This September, the Marian Franciscans launched their new publishing house: Mary House Press. This initiative enables the friars to populate contemporary Catholic literature with insightful Mariological and theological contributions which aim to deepen the readers' love of Jesus and Mary. The *Co-redemptrix* magazine is now published by Mary House Press; and the first official book published by the friars contains the proceedings from the 2023 international Mariological symposium in Dundee under the title, *Stabat Mater*. There are already other books in the pipeline which will hopefully be published by *Mary House Press* soon. This new branch of the friars' mass media apostolate is once again inspired by St. Maximilian Kolbe, who developed an impressive printing press in his friary at Niepokolanow in Poland and at Mugenzai no Sono in Japan.



Mary House Press' first publication

Annual Mariological Symposium

This September, the Marian Franciscans held their second annual Marian symposium on Our Lady. The title of this year's symposium was "Our Lady as the New Eve." Theologians from various parts of the world presented their papers and provided profound insights into this mystery of Mary which stretches back all the way to Apostolic times and the Church Fathers. The speakers this year were: Fr Thomas Crean OP, Fr Settimio M. Manelli, Fr Serafino M. Lanzetta, Fr Alessandro M. Apollonio, Fr Manfred Hauke, Fr Andrej Caja, Sr Mary Gianna Klein OP, Dr Dan Schneider and Dr Mark Miravalle. The friars aim to publish the proceedings of this year's Symposium soon.

Please pray that the friars' mass-media apostolate continues to bear fruit and to draw souls closer to Our Lady under the title of Co-redemptrix. Ave Maria!

Relevant Mass Media Links

- The friars' website: themarianfranciscans.org
- The friars' YouTube channel: youtube.com/@RadioImmaculata
- *Co-redemptrix* magazine: themarianfranciscans.org/co-redemptrix
- *Stabat Mater*, published by *Mary House Press*:

- Amazon:

amazon.co.uk/Stabat-Mater-Co-Redemptrix-Relevance-Doctrine/dp/1068740604/

- The Great British Bookshop:

thegreatbritishbookshop.co.uk/products/stabat-mater

- Fr Serafino M. Lanzetta, the moderator general of the Marian Franciscans, has also written a number of books on diverse theological topics which can be found here: amazon.co.uk/Books-Serafino-Lanzetta/s?rh=n%3A266239%2Cp_27%3ASerafino+Lanzetta
- Fr Serafino also has an Italian YouTube channel where he hosts a live broadcast every Monday: youtube.com/@pSerafinoMLanzetta



His Excellency Bishop Schneider with the Co-redemptrix magazine

ST. JOSEPH'S COPNOR - BEGINNING THE FUTURE

by Neville McNally

At St Joseph's parish in Copnor, Portsmouth there is mounting excitement at the prospect of the church being reopened in time for the beginning of Advent. The anticipation is shared by the Latin Mass Catholics who were sad to have to temporarily leave St Joseph's, to which they had become very attached over the previous 3 years. Providence provided a refuge for the Latin Mass on Sundays at St Colman's Church, some 3.5 miles to the north, where a warm welcome was received from two successive parish priests and the parishioners.

By the time of St Joseph's reopening, it will have been almost 2 years since the church closed, after a small section of the nave ceiling collapsed. I was there: it fell in front of my nose! The setting was a very early morning during Advent, with a darkened church bathed only by the effulgent light of abundant candles burning in the sanctuary. The calamity occurred just as the bell rang for the start of a sung 'Rorate' Latin Mass led by the friars. Crash! Bell! Chant! The Introit chant rose up: "Rorate Caeli desuper et nubes pluant justum..." [Send down like dew, ye heavens, the Just One, the Saviour] (*Isaiah 43.8*).



A recent photograph of St Joseph's Church, Copnor

The Mass wasn't interrupted, of course! But later, with the lights on and a survey undertaken, it was decided to close the church for safety reasons.

While the Latin Mass found a temporary home at St Colman's, the parishioners of St Joseph's ensured continuity of weekly parish Masses by reconfiguring the adjacent hall for each Mass (the hall is used for other activities between Masses). The parish's dedication is testament to the Faith bequeathed by the second Bishop of Portsmouth, His Lordship John Baptist Cahill, who erected the parish in 1908, as well as the priests and parishioners who built up the parish over the intervening years. It is a remarkable legacy with an interesting beginning.

By the beginning of the 20th century Portsmouth's population, which included many Catholics, had expanded eastwards into the district of Copnor and the once-farmland around Baffins Pond. Copnor was separated from Portsmouth by the railway. At the time there was no bridge, which presented an obstacle for Catholics going to the nearest Mass at Portsmouth Cathedral. Bishop Cahill decided that the number of Catholics justified the formation of a new parish on the Copnor side of the railway and in March 1908 he bought the land on which St Joseph's is built. In remarkable speed, the presbytery, and current Marian Franciscan Friary, was built by the end of August. The Bishop said the first Mass in the presbytery and preached to the people on 27th September. Work proceeded on the church, the Lady Chapel and 'south' aisle being built first. After barely 3 months, the first Mass was celebrated in the current Lady Chapel, on Christmas Day 1908. This is where Mass continued to be held until 1914, when the church was fully completed. The bishop was anxious not to saddle the



Benediction in St Joseph's Church, Copnor in 1928

parish with debt and the rest of the church was only built when sufficient money had been raised. Bishop Cahill's successor, Bishop Cotter, performed the stone-laying ceremony for St Joseph's nave and 'north' aisle on 21st November 1913. The building was completed 9 months later and the first Mass in the church was sung, with choir and organ, on Friday 28th August 1914. Pope Pius X had just died and World War I been declared. A Requiem Mass for the late Pope was sung on the following Tuesday 1st September.

Working Party Volunteers

In preparation for the future reopening of St Joseph's Copnor, on 30th November, volunteers from both the parish and the Latin Mass communities came together for a meeting to plan the church reopening. Volunteers are needed to help put everything back in order, such as benches, Stations of the Cross and statues. Everyone decided that once the church is reopened, it would be good to have an 'official' reopening at a later stage (to allow for unexpected delays) involving both communities with the Friars. The date chosen is in the octave of the Epiphany, on Saturday 11 January 2025. There will be a Blessed Sacrament street procession followed by a sung

Novus Ordo Mass with Gregorian Chant and hymns. Invitations will be sent to the Bishop and other guests. Representatives from both communities are already enthusiastically involved in the organisation of the parish endeavour which is edifying to witness. This is an opportunity to build relationships and lay the foundations for harmonious relations between the communities stretching into the future. Everyone is invited to commit to the effort. Watch out for local notices calling for help and please volunteer if you are able. Offers of help can be sent to Heidi at the following email: mistral-999@hotmail.com. Ave Maria!



Detail from *The Immaculate Conception*, 1660-1665 by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo

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.

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

Name:
 Address:
 Email:
 Telephone:
 Age (if under 18):



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,
 Tattingsstone Close,
 Lower Bourne,
 Farnham, GU10 3QY.

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 *

* Please delete whichever is not applicable. In the event that you do not want us to store your personal data please let us know and we will remove your personal data from our systems and will not consider you further.