

Carmelites of the Holy Face

St. Joseph's Carmelite Hermitage, O.Carm
Inchincurka, Dunmanway, Co. Cork, Rep. of Ireland



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“Behold I come quickly: hold fast that which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” – Apocalypse 3:11

Dear Friends & Benefactors,

The Liturgical Season of Advent is particularly rich in symbolism and brings with it a welcome message of hope. We have great need of such encouragement as society drifts further and further away from God, while prophecies indicate that a chastisement is imminent. God will not allow such wickedness to remain unpunished forever. The readings for the last few weeks of the Liturgical Year remind us of this. Moreover, it is no coincidence that November is especially dedicated to the remembrance of the faithful departed. Sooner or later we, too, must appear before the Just Judge; and it will be a terrifying thing if we are unprepared! Advent is the time to devote ourselves more earnestly than ever to such preparation. If we



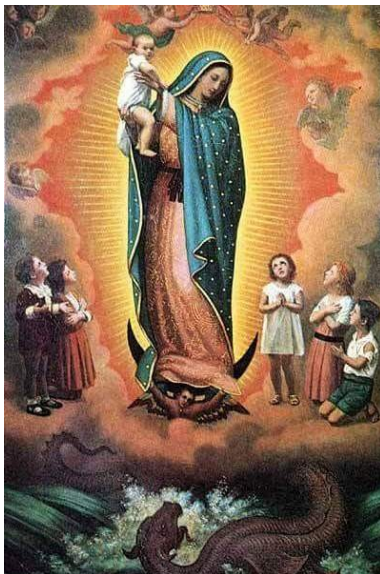
use this opportunity rightly, we shall be able to welcome Our Lord joyfully, without fear, when He comes. The prayer of Christmas Eve makes it clear that this is the whole purpose of Advent. We are preparing to celebrate at Christmas the coming of Jesus Christ and the fulfilment of God’s promise: *“That being delivered from the hand of our enemies, we may serve Him without fear.” – Luke 1:74*

The four weeks of Advent are symbolic of the four thousand years during which Adam and Eve and their descendants awaited the Promised One to set them free from the bondage of sin. For the Christian of today, Advent is a poignant reminder that we, too, are waiting. We are waiting for Christ’s second coming. We are also waiting for the fulfilment of a promise. We are

waiting for the triumph of Mary's Immaculate Heart, the great restoration of the Church, and the period of peace which she herself has foretold.

The situation in which we currently find ourselves is similar in many ways to the time when Jesus was born. Once again humanity has fallen for the deceitful snares of Satan, while the need of Divine intervention to save us from utter ruin is greater than ever. For the faithful of today there is the same temptation to despondency; to grow tired of waiting for the fulfilment of the prophecies; to believe the great restoration of the Church to be either an impossibility or something reserved for the far-distant future. Now as then, many of the chosen people are overly concerned about observing the letter of the law while neglecting to cultivate that spirit of charity which is the mark of Christ's true followers. *"Now the end of the commandment is charity, from a pure heart, and a good conscience, and an unfeigned faith."* - 1 Timothy 1:5

Just as was the case two thousand years ago, the official leaders and representatives of religion have departed for the most part from the way of truth. Enslaved by love of money and power, they are awaiting a false messiah (namely, the Antichrist) who will condone such things. Society in general has become cold-hearted and selfish, caught up with material things to the neglect of those which really matter. Nevertheless, there are still people of good will scattered here and there who are longing for the second coming of Our Lord. The Shepherds, the Magi, Simeon and Anna all have their parallels today, just as Herod, the Pharisees and the innkeepers of Bethlehem do.



There is one major difference, however. Society is no longer merely un-Christian as it was at the time of Our Lord's first coming.

Now it is definitely anti-Christian as the revolt of Lucifer is repeated on a worldwide scale. In every realm, on every level, religious, civil and personal, there are manifestations of that same pride which first brought sin into the world and which continues to promote the deification of man independently of God. To counteract this tendency to pride, which is both the cause and the consequence of original sin, God looked upon the humility of His handmaid, Mary. Through her humility He reversed the fall of Adam and opened the

gates of paradise anew. To Mary He assigned the role of crushing the head of the serpent with her heel.

God's words to the serpent immediately after the Fall are known as the Protoevangelium (or First Gospel) because they contain the first reference to the Redeemer: *"I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel."*
- Genesis 3:15



St. Louis de Montfort interprets this passage as a prophecy for these latter times, when, he says, the power of Mary over the devils will especially shine forth. As the heel is the most despised part of the body, continually trampled on and little thought of, in like manner shall Mary's children be regarded by the world. They will also be poor and little in their own eyes – a fact we must not

overlook! – yet it is through them that the great victory over Satan and his followers will take place.

"...foolish men shall not see her: for she is far from pride and deceit. Lying men shall not be mindful of her: but men that speak truth shall be found with her, and shall advance, even till they come to the sight of God." - Ecclesiasticus 15:7-8

The great chastisement is indeed coming. It has to come, for nothing less will bring society to its senses. But we must not lose heart, for it is the necessary prelude to the great triumph which is coming also. Our Lady has promised it, and it is only fitting that her triumph should prepare the way for Our Lord's second coming, even as He came to us through her the first time. What can we do to prepare ourselves, and to hasten the great victory over Satan? The answer is contained in the Gospel, and particularly in those passages which the Church has selected for the Masses of Advent. It may be summarised in three words: Prayer. Penance. Humility.

In the Mass and the Divine Office during Advent, our attention is frequently drawn to the mission of St. John the Baptist. He prepared the way for Our Lord by calling the people of Israel to repent and do penance. His message is as relevant for us today. We will not benefit from the coming of Our Lord unless we acknowledge from our hearts that we are sinners and have need of His mercy. Oftentimes people wonder why the triumph is so long in coming. Perhaps this is our answer. We are not yet sufficiently aware of our utter poverty and absolute need for God. We are not yet sufficiently humble.

“In discussing the question as to why God did not become incarnate at the beginning of the human race, immediately after the Fall, St. Thomas has this to say: “The Lord did not bestow upon the human race the remedy of the Incarnation at the beginning, lest they should despise it through pride, if they did not already recognise their disease.” Man had to feel his need of God. It had to be brought home to him by the palpable experience of his own inadequacy. If they were to be saved, men had to realise their need of salvation and their inability to save themselves. Otherwise they would receive the Saviour with contempt, saying, ‘We have no need of you.’ ”

– *Unprofitable Servants: Conferences on Humility, by Fr. Nivard Kinsella, O.C.S.O., Ch. XX, p.102-103*

It is humility which prepares the way for Christ’s coming, both in the world as a whole, and in our own hearts. Humility can be described in many ways and it has many counterfeits. It is not mere weakness, pusillanimity [literally: littleness of soul] or cowardice. It is simply a truthful opinion of oneself in relation to God; a realisation of our rightful place as His creatures. We need Him. He does not need us, but He yearns for our love nevertheless. He wants to give us the Gift of Himself; to be our All. The only obstacle is our pride, and it is this obstacle we must remove if we wish to experience joy at His coming.

In practice we show our humility — our dependence on God — by our fidelity in accomplishing His holy will in all the details of our daily lives. This demands a forgetfulness of self; a life of self-denial, and a constant renunciation of our own will, which is the greatest penance of all. It is also the source of a deep and unshakeable peace and joy. This is the message of the angels: *“Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will.”* - *Luke 2:14*

A good will is a will which is in harmony with the will of God. It is the shortcut to sanctity. It is the essence of perfection and the truest kind of humility. It is the humility of Our Lady whose *“Fiat”* brought the Redeemer to mankind. It is also the humility of her children. May this be our focus during Advent, and indeed, our whole life long, so that we may welcome Our Lord with joy when He comes again.

THE SACRED TIME OF ADVENT

Since the Promise had been uttered
After Adam's fatal fall,
His descendants had been waiting –
Forty centuries in all.
They were waiting for the Saviour,
Long expected and foretold
By the Patriarchs and Prophets
And the holy men of old.

On Mount Carmel, prophets also
Through the centuries implored
That the coming would be hastened
Of the Mother of the Lord.
They revered her future privilege
Which they pondered on in prayer;
And their longing grew much greater
As the promised time drew near.

We commemorate each Advent
The long waiting of those years,
While preparing for Christ's coming
By our penances and prayers.
For although we were not present
At the time when Christ was born,
He is born again in spirit
In our hearts on Christmas morn.

Although we have not seen Him
In His human form, instead
We are privileged to receive Him
In the outward form of Bread.
Yes, it is the same Redeemer
(God-made-Man) whom we receive;
And our merit is much greater,
For we see not, yet believe.

Since that first most happy Christmas
Twenty centuries have fled,
And the world's idea of Christmas
Is a godless feast instead.
They have done away with Advent
And ignored the Baptist's call;
They have banished Christ from
Christmas
And repeated Adam's fall.

For the faithful souls, however,
It is Advent once again,
While we wait for Heaven's triumph:
The defeat of godless men.
As in ancient times, a promise,
And the hope which it imparts,
Is a source of strength and comfort
For the Church and faithful hearts.

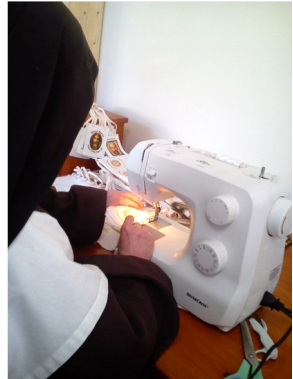
By our prayers and daily rosaries
To Our Lady we appeal;
Like the early hermits, waiting,
For the triumph of her heel.
It will be through Mary's triumph
That Our Lord will come once more
As it was by means of Mary
That salvation came before.

Let us beg that she will help us
To prepare well for Christ's Birth;
To defeat the work of Satan,
And his minions here on earth.
Let us therefore spend this Advent
In a holy Christian way,
So the Lord will find us waiting
When He comes on Christmas Day.

Hermitage News

- ✦ 9th October – The entire Community was enrolled in the Arch-Confraternity of the Holy Face in Tours. In exchange for a few minimal obligations (not binding under pain of sin) members of the Arch-Confraternity are granted special indulgences. They also share in the combined merits and prayers of all members, past present and future, including St. Therese and her family and many other saintly men and women besides. We warmly encourage you to consider joining as well. It is a wonderful way of uniting forces in this battle against the powers of darkness. There is strength in numbers. United we stand, divided we fall.
- ✦ 12th November – On this Sunday immediately following the Feast of St. Martin, we held our first monthly meeting of the League of St. Martin. Seven faithful joined us for an introductory talk on the Holy Face Devotion, prayers of reparation, and the veneration of the Holy Face of Jesus. The League of St. Martin facilitates the monthly meetings for Arch-Confraternity members, but with the additional emphasis on the importance of the Traditional Latin Mass. We highly recommend you contact Fr. Carney through the website martinians.org for more information if you are interested in joining – or beginning – a local branch of the League. Again, the requirements are minimal and it is an excellent means of uniting in the fight for the Faith.

We recently started making the Holy Face scapulars in accordance with the wish Our Lady expressed to Mother Maria Pierina de Micheli. This same Sunday we brought a quantity of these newly made scapulars to be blessed. The priest who blessed them mentioned that he also has a devotion to the Holy Face, and at his request, we gave him one of the scapulars – the very first we have distributed! Our Lord has promised to bestow special graces by means of His Holy Face when it is presented to the Eternal Father through His priests, so we are always particularly glad to hear of priests adopting this Devotion.



As always, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your ongoing generosity and support. As a Christmas gift we are having three Masses offered in honour of the Holy Face on behalf of all our friends and benefactors.

You are included in our prayers and intentions for this holy season of Advent. May God bless you all, and may our Blessed Mother help us all to prepare well for His coming.

In the love of the Holy Face of Jesus,

Mother Irene & Community

Available from our Carmelite Shop:

Holy Face (Shroud Image) A4 Prints	€1.00 each, 10 for €5.00
Hand-made Wooden Holy Face Chaplet Beads (purple/brown)	€6.00
Holy Face Prayer Booklet (36 pages)	€2.00
Holy Face Medal (Shroud Image)	€1.00
Holy Face Medal 3D (bronze/gold/silver)	€2.00
Large Holy Face Scapular (white)	€9.50
Hand-made plastic Holy Face Chaplet Beads (red/green)	€6.00
Blessed Oil of the Holy Face	Free
Hand-made plastic Rosary beads with Miraculous Medal (var. colours. avail.)	€6.00
Hand-made wooden Rosary beads with Miraculous Medal (purple)	€6.00
1 Decade Chaplet Rosary Beads	€4.00
Brown wool Scapulars of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	€3.00
Miraculous Medal, Standard Size (silver)	€1.00
Large Ornate St. Benedict Medal (silver)	€7.00
St. Christopher & St. Anthony Bronze Medal	€4.50
St. Benedict Copper- Coloured Crucifix	€2.00
St. Benedict Medal, Silver-coloured, oval, standard size	€1.00
Pardon Crucifix (gold/silver/bronze)	€7.00
Cord of St Joseph (with explanatory leaflet and holycard)	€5.00
Greeting and/or Mass Cards	€3.00 each or €10.00 for 4
Blessed 100% Beeswax Candle	offering, €1.00
Blessed Salt	Free
Christmas Cards	4 or more €2.50 each, otherwise €3.00 each

HOW TO HELP US?

- ✓ **By your prayers**, especially that Our Lord will send us good vocations, courageous “Veronicas” to wipe and honour His Adorable Face and make reparation for poor sinners.
- ✓ **By your generosity**: bank transfer made payable to
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Inchincurka, Dunmanway,
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