

TYBURN NEWSLETTER

TYBURN MONASTERY COR JESU FONS VITAE, 74 DODS RD. NGAKURU RDI, ROTORUA 3077

CHRISTMAS 2018

Dear Friends of Tyburn Monastery,



As we approach the end of the liturgical year we are, in the readings at Mass, focusing on the last Judgement and asking ourselves if we would be ready to meet the Lord. We believe that He will come again in glory in the last times, but of course we don't know when. When we think on these matters it is naturally an incentive to try to pull up our socks and serve God more faithfully, which is what Advent is for. It is a time of penance like Lent, in order to prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas with greater joy. And with thanksgiving for the Word – Jesus, Who was made flesh and dwelt among us.

We were reminded of the last judgement this year when we were awaiting the visit of our Mother General. When the Mother General comes to New Zealand she always goes first to Bombay then to Ngakuru. So we thought we had plenty of time for the traditional clean up before her arrival. To our dismay, the day before her arrival, we learned that she would come to Ngakuru first this time. "Stay awake for you do not know at what hour the Son of man is coming". One week's cleaning was squeezed into one day and many things had to be overlooked but in the end we had a happy and encouraging visitation and all enjoyed her visit.



At that time we still had the kitchen in the craft room while the new one was being rebuilt, which took several months and longer than everyone expected. Finally in September it was completed, receiving two blessings, one when it was partially completed by R.Fr Robert our chaplain, and one later on by Bishop Denis who was here with some Diocesan priests for their annual retreat. It is a beautiful kitchen with plenty of space and best of all it has windows and doors to let in fresh air and light which makes it a much

healthier and happier place in which to work. We thank those benefactors who assisted us in this big work as well as the good architect and builders.

In August our Prioress Mother Rachel went to France for the opening of the chapel in the house of Marie Adele Garnier at Grancey-le Chateau. This was on the 15th of August, marking 180 years since Mother Foundress' birth in 1838. The Prioresses of all our monasteries attended as well as the community in France,



and many friends and benefactors. Pere Sauer, the parish priest of Grancey, celebrated the Mass with several other priests. RMother Seraphim, Prioress in France wrote that “all the locals were delighted with the developments and even more delighted to see the flurry of Nuns working briskly in and around Maison Garnier – as it brings them hope for the survival of their little village, unlike many other French villages which are dying out.”

Then there was another special event as RM. Josephine writes: “The following day there was another great grace – this time inside the beautiful new chapel in Mother Foundress’ house. The two Colombian priests, Fr Hector and Fr Manuel, became postulants in the new male branch of our Congregation in a touching ceremony with V.R.M.General, an occasion which was crowned with the Holy Mass. Although this was more private than the day before, it was equally important and memorable.”



We welcomed back Sr Cecilia who had been in Bombay and also Mother Mariana who came to help us here for some months. So they were both present for an earlier celebration of the 180th birthday of Marie Adele Garnier. This was held on the 21st of July with oblates and friends. Bishop Steve kindly celebrated a beautiful Mass and afterwards all enjoyed a BBQ. On the same day we took the opportunity to have the new steps to the bushwalk blessed, asking

God to bless those who made them and all who use them.

You may remember that we were searching for a statue of St. Bernadette last year. We had no success and our oblate Sr Bernadette had prayed many novenas before one day she saw what appeared to be the statue she was praying for in someone’s front yard, though in a dilapidated state. After talking with the owners, they were permitted to buy it. It has been done up and she is very beautiful with a prayerful, peaceful expression. Persevering prayer works miracles!



Another improvement to the Monastery was a long retainer wall to support another



gradually collapsing bank below the Sacred Heart, built by Owen Kowalewski and Bidi from Kiribati. It is certainly the longest wall they have built and reminds us of the Great Wall of China. We are relieved to have the bank made stable and are most grateful for their hard work.

With gratitude for the wonderful help and support of all our friends, we pray that you have a very happy Christmas and

receive every blessing in 2019.

The Tyburn Nuns, Ngakuru, NZ.