

Christus Imperat

Provincial Quarterly newsletter
of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

Dear friends of the Institute,

“[At Holy Mass], the Sacrifice is verily and indeed accomplished. God has looked upon It, and we can truly say to Him: Behold what was done on Calvary and were it not for the immortality of Thy Son, the resemblance would be complete. For the accomplishing of this Sacrifice, the Priest lends his ministry to Our Lord. [...] But who is it that here offers the Sacrifice? Is it the Priest, or is it Jesus Christ? It is Our Lord Himself, in the person of the Priest, who is but one with Him.” (Dom Prosper Guéranger, The Holy Mass).

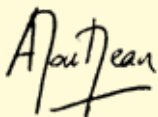
These few words of Dom Guéranger remind us of two central and unique beliefs of our Faith, the real and sacramental presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ on the Altar after the Consecration and the conformation of the priest to the Supreme Priest through the Sacred Ordination. The priest is ordained towards the Mass, this is the only and solely reason of this vocation. Every priest is indeed called to follow the Good Shepherd, caring for the spiritual good of the flock mysteriously entrusted to him during his Ordination. In times when the identity of the priest is most challenged by worldly standards and behaviours, it is highly important to visibly renew the inner relationship between Christ the Priest and his ministries, in particular in the celebration of the Mass. At the Consecration, when the priest silently says, “this is my Body”, he does not point out his own body but, since acting *in persona Christi* (and not only “on behalf”) of Jesus Christ, he entirely and deeply (in person) reidentify himself to the divine Master. This moment is certainly not “natural” in both senses that he analogically accepts to suspend temporarily his identity and also because he and the whole Church is immersed in the supernatural world of grace.

As Canons of the Institute of Christ the King, we both want to treasure and hand out these extraordinary gifts of the Church – the Mass and the Priesthood – through authentic fidelity. We therefore treasure the value of your prayers, sacrifices and generosity towards us, and ask your continuous spiritual and material support. Your canons are here to help and pray for you in return, applying the beautiful Antiphon in honour of the Incarnation of Christ in the Virginal womb of Our Lady, *O admirabile commercium*: “O admirable interchange! The Creator of the human race, assuming a living body, deigns to be born of a Virgin: and becoming man, from no human generation, hath bestowed upon us His divinity.”

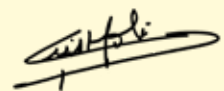
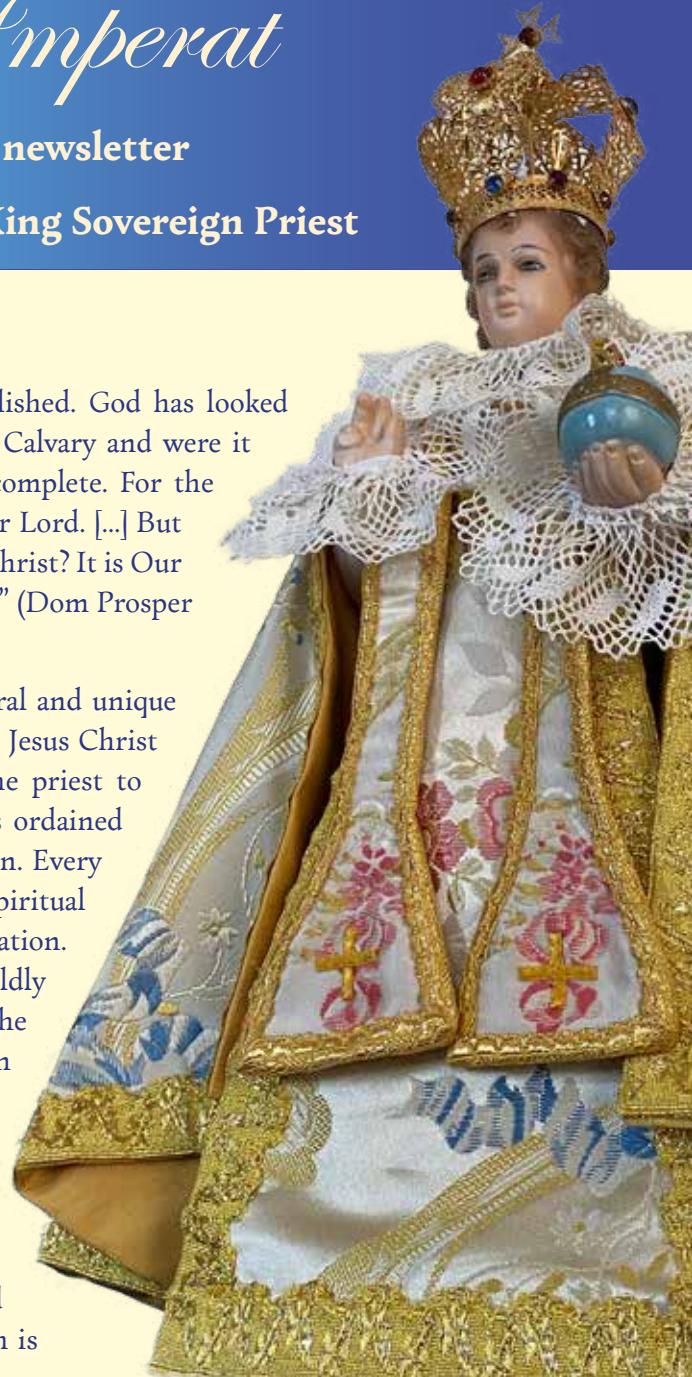
Please rest assured of the prayers of your canons in Great Britain, for you and all your families,

In Christo Rege,

Canon Amaury Montjean
Provincial in Great-Britain




Canon Gwénael Cristofoli
Vice-Provincial

THE DEVOTION TO THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

by Canon Matthew Weaver



Did you know that there have been twenty-two papal encyclicals written on the Rosary? One might ask, “How could popes have so much to say about such a simple prayer?” The answer perhaps is most cogently expressed by Pope Leo XIII, the Holy Father affectionately nicknamed “The Pope of the Rosary”, writing over half of the encyclicals on the Rosary himself! He plainly affirms, “The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life.”

Immediately, certain objections may begin to foment within us: “What about the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass?” We protest; “What about the Divine Office?” Perhaps our reaction is less objectionable and more subtly dismissive: “Surely, this is heartfelt but pious hyperbole.” However, none of these cerebral considerations can drown out the glaring question posed to our conscience: “Why don’t *I* pray the Rosary every day?”

Our excuses are numerous and often vary from business to boredom, yet we all find some reason why we can’t put down our phones to spend twenty minutes in the company and comfort of that Blessed Lady we are told is the most beautiful of all God has ever created and who loves each one of us as her own child. Is there anything such a Mother would not do for us if we would only give her the time to do it in us? Indeed, all that God has done for her, she would surely share with us, if only we would pray the Rosary.

Our Lady has made many promises to those who pray and promote her Rosary. A great many of these she spoke to Blessed Alan de la Roche, asking him to make them known to all souls. Among these powerful promises, there is one in particular which betrays the sorrow of a Mother’s Heart so often ignored: “You shall obtain all that you ask of me by praying my Rosary.”

There is so much to say about the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary because there is so much to say about the Blessed Virgin Mary! *Adeamus cum fiducia ad thronum gratiae*. Let us go with confidence to the throne of grace. By praying her Rosary, she will already prove her love to us during this life on earth; she will purify our hearts, and she will bring peace to our souls. She will wean us from our habitual sins, and she will infuse in us her own virtues.



Moreover, at the hour of death, as our final “Hail Mary” greets her one last time with life’s failing breath, she will bring us by hand to meet that blessed fruit of her womb, our Lord Jesus Christ, face to face. Then we shall know how true the “Pope of the Rosary’s” words really were. Let us make the resolution to pray the Rosary every day of our lives for whatsoever we may need to pray, and let us begin again with confidence in Mary’s love if we should ever stray away.



NEW BRIGHTON



Amid the beautiful summer months in coastal New Brighton, the Dome of Home continued to grow, welcoming new faces each week. The faithful alongside the canons continued to refresh and beautify the church as well as the surrounding gardens to put the finishing touches on the extensive restoration works begun nearly ten years ago. In June, we celebrated the completion of the final project with a festive Te Deum in the presence

of the Most Blessed Sacrament, thanking almighty God for His innumerable blessings and heavenly assistance in the restoration of Ss. Peter & Paul and St. Philomena, and all in time to celebrate the church's patronal feast on 29th: what Providence!

As autumn drew near and the foliage began to turn a golden yellow, the vibrant parish life at the Dome of Home resumed as usual with choir rehearsals, youth group meetings, catechism classes, spiritual lectures, serving practices, and more, all bearing good fruit for the Kingdom of God. Most notably perhaps from such a spiritual harvest are the numerous souls who have asked to be received into the Catholic Church and have their children baptized. Deo gratias!



Such priestly consolations are not limited however just to the canons' activities but include the stability of our fraternal life together, praying the Divine Office in common, leading faithful in the Rosary, visiting the sick and the dying, hearing confessions, daily Adoration of the Eucharist, and offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the living and the dead. One of the most ordinary joys of the past months has been simply having the church open from 7 o'clock in the morning until after Compline in the evening and to see the people who stop in the church to say a prayer, to light a candle, to ask us to pray for them or to have a sacramental blessed. These "little joys" help us all to see what is truly important in these difficult times and to place our total trust in the goodness of Jesus Christ our King and Sovereign Priest.





PRESTON

The Royal Psalmist, David, once swore not to take rest until he had put a roof over the tabernacle of God. A similar desire has animated the canons of Preston over the years, and finally, a great step forward has been taken in achieving this goal. The first phase of the roof restoration of Saint Walburge's has been completed. We were thus able to celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of our church with a renewed sense of gratitude for God's material blessings.

Not only does Our Lord need a roof over his head, but also his priests and future priests! Thanks to very generous benefactors, we have also



begun work on the top of the presbytery.

As a result, we will be able to ensure that Preston continues to be able to welcome

a full house of canons and seminarians, as well as candidates discerning their vocation to the priesthood. This year we will be joined by six new young men. *Deo gratias!*



begins a new academic year and is quickly approaching the five-year anniversary of opening its doors. Furthermore, the canons seek to instil the truths of the Catholic Faith not only in children, but also in adults through catechetical formation during our "Guild Sundays" (2nd and 4th of each month) and Saturday groups for ladies and gentlemen. Finally, Providence has sent us a growing number of university students, which has stimulated the beginnings of a youth group.

We have been pleased to welcome many newcomers lately. Often, they remark what a hospitable place the apostolate is. God willing, many other new visitors will have this experience in the year to come!





SHREWSBURY



The community of faithful in Shrewsbury continued to grow over the recent months. Three children received the Eucharistic Lord for the first time in mid-September: it was a great joy for their families and friends as also for the faithful present to witness one boy and two girls as they approached the communion rail for the first time. In preparation for this important day, the children were appropriately instructed about the Eucharist and began to learn to receive forgiveness regularly in the Sacrament of Confession.

In the month of July, Canon Wiener gave a talk about the Most Precious Blood; he continues to offer spiritual talks in the parish hall of St. Winefride's church throughout the year.

Since early September, the Mass time on Wednesdays has been changed: upon request of several faithful, Holy Mass is now offered early in the morning at 7.00 am (instead of 10.00 am as before).

The generosity of the community of faithful and friends of the Institute allowed for further acquisitions of urgently needed copes and a humeral veil. We express our sincere gratitude for the support of the Institute's work in Shrewsbury.





LANHERNE

Here at Lanherne Convent, the rhythm of the liturgical year continues steadily. This summer we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady with a Solemn Mass. We were again able to have a Solemn Mass on the 7th of October for the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

We get many visitors from all over and are happy to receive them as we can. Some come for a retreat, and some stop in for an afternoon.

The restoration of St. Joseph Hall has begun. Soon we will be better equipped to receive guests for retreats and visitors to Lanherne Convent. In addition to the works on the Hall, an old bakehouse, long out of use, is in the process



of getting a new roof, in order to be transformed into two rooms, to receive those who would like to come for a peaceful retreat in the shadow of this coastal Cornish Convent of St. Mawgan.

The cider produced from the small orchard below the convent was entered and won an award at the Royal Cornwall Show, the first cider of the convent since 1949. By the time of publication, we will have had our third apple harvest which is a joyful time for all.

Many thanks to our volunteers! Because of their efforts we have been able to make improvements on the grounds,

especially the cemetery, which is easily overcome in the late spring early summer, seemingly suddenly!

The grace of Almighty God has been in plentiful harvest this year and for that we are thankful. Among those graces are your support of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. Be assured that you are remembered at our Masses on Sundays for Friends and Benefactors and in our daily Rosaries.





TORQUAY



Holy Angels has now been open for a year as a Shrine Church entrusted to our Institute. With a much-appreciated generous donation from the Latin Mass Society, we were able to move the altar back to its original position, repaint the walls and restore the timber floors. The original sanctuary lamp was discovered and renovated, and now hangs in a central position above the Sanctuary as in former years. More work is in the pipeline, but this church is already a fitting place to welcome locals and visitors alike for daily and Sunday Masses. Families predominate, so we have been blessed with a good number of altar servers and choir members.

In addition to the usual services at Holy Angels on a daily basis, there were three recent events worthy of mention.

The first was a three-day walking pilgrimage organized by one of the faithful. A group of young pilgrims walked a part of the 'Saints Way' from Lanivet to Lanherne in Cornwall, where Mass was celebrated by Canon Tanner. The other two events were outdoor processions in the local area - the first being a procession in honour of Our Lady at the end of May, when a statue of Our Lady of Fatima was carried on a flower bedecked bier, and the second was the Corpus Christi procession, with young First Communicant girls strewing rose petals, while the boys rang hand-bells - all three events being an occasion of public witness to our faith.



SUPPORT YOUR CANONS!

Dear friends and benefactors,

In March 2022 we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the opening of the first permanent apostolate of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest in Great Britain. We cannot forget here the dedication of several canons of the Institute who came to plant the seed, sometimes from far across the Channel, before the Shrine Church of Ss. Peter and Paul and St. Philomena was opened. Since then, the Institute has grown slowly and surely, answering the generous requests of diocesan bishops. From one resident priest in 2012, now nine priests serve in five different apostolates, sometimes accompanied by a seminarian, from our St. Philip Neri international seminary, in Gricigliano, Italy.

On behalf of all the canons, I would like to thank you for your spiritual and material support towards the Institute in Great Britain all along these years. The central administration of the Institute's Province in Great Britain takes care off the wages of your canons, as well as administrative costs to make lighter the financial weight upon our different houses. To secure our annual budget for this year, we are short of approximately £10,000. Your help will make a true difference to us, because it will allow your canons to give priority to their spiritual duties, pastoral commitments, prayer life and the Divine Office.

Thank you very much for your continued generosity! Be assured of the faithfull prayers of your canons, especially before the Blessed Sacrament.

In Christo Rege,

Canon Vianney Poucin de Wouilt

Provincial Bursar



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