

THE APOSTLE

News from the Salvatorians in Britain & Ireland

November 2020



THIS ISSUE

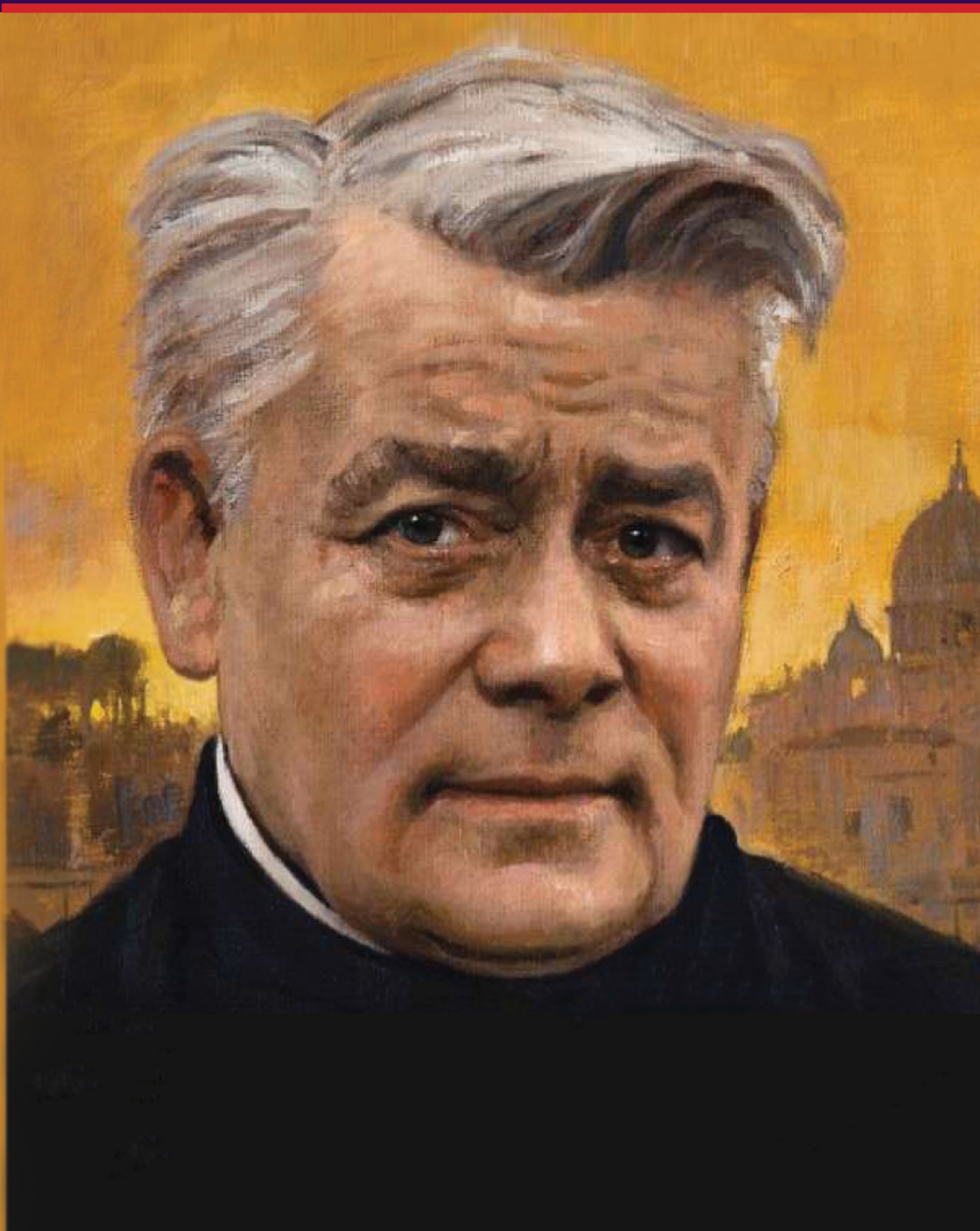
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The Salvatorians
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TOWARDS THE BEATIFICATION OF OUR VENERABLE FOUNDER FRANCIS JORDAN

Father
Richard Mway SDS
Provincial Superior



Dear Friends,

On the 19 June 2020, we all woke up within the Salvatorian “world” to the exciting news that Our Venerable Founder Father Francis Jordan (1848-1915) to be soon be beatified. Our General Superior declared: “Our hearts were filled with joy, when we were informed that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, on 19 June 2020 received Cardinal Angelo Becciu, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, in audience and authorized the same Congregation to promulgate the decree regarding the miracle, attributed to the intercession of our Founder, Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan.”

And now I'm glad to announce to you that Pope Francis has decreed that Father Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan, founder of the Salvatorians, will be beatified on May 15, 2021, at the Archbasilica of St John Lateran in Rome. Cardinal Angelo Becciu, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, will preside over the ceremony.

This news marks the conclusion of a long beatification process. Since his death on September 8, 1918 Father Francis Jordan has been always present in the minds, hearts and prayers of all generations of Salvatorians, both religious and lay, as well as in the lives of those with whom we work who considered him to be a Saintly person. Informally the work of gathering materials and testimonies began only six years after his death. But formally, the beatification process started when the Holy See officially approved the first Postulator, Fr. Dorotheus Brugger, in 1942. Eight other Postulators have succeeded him until today.

In 2011, Benedict XVI recognized Father Francis Jordan's heroic virtues, declaring him Venerable. On June 20 this year, Pope Francis approved his beatification after recognizing a miracle attributed to his intercession.

In 2014, two lay members of the Salvatorians in Jundiaí, Brazil, prayed for Jordan to intercede for their unborn child, who was believed to be suffering from an incurable bone disease known as skeletal dysplasia.

The child was born in a healthy condition on September 8, 2014, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the anniversary of Jordan's death.

Please join us in our preparations across the world. After his beatification, further celebrations will take place in his home Diocese of Freiburg in Germany, his village Gurtweil and in Tifers, Switzerland where he died and was buried.

Let this time, as we start the preparations for beatification, be for us an opportunity to deepen our reflection on the heritage of our Founder in the context of our present realities, so that we may become ever more faithful to our Salvatorian charism and identity. Let it also be an occasion to continue our prayers through the intercession of Fr. Francis Jordan and for making his message and values known.

“EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS”

Br. Salvador Peñaloza Hernandez SDS
Parroquia San Jose Obreto

Xoxocotla, Mejico



The indigenous venerated their beloved departed by preparing “altares” as an offering that involves family and friends who gather to pray for those who have died and helping support their spiritual journey; a journey that which ultimate goal is an encounter with God.

BUT WHAT IS AN “ALTAR” AND HOW IMPORTANT ARE THEY FOR US IN MEXICO?

In creating a traditional altar, the four elements of nature are represented: Earth, represented by fruits or favorite family dishes that feed the souls with rich aroma. Wind, represented by movement, using generally confetti or papel picado. Water is placed in a container for the soul's thirst after the long journey to reach the altar. Fire, a candle for each soul remembered and an extra candle for the forgotten soul.

The common format for an “altar” contains seven levels or tiers, each with a specific purpose: The topmost tier identifies the saint to whom the deceased was faithful to. The second tier represents “el purgatorio” giving a symbolic authorization for the death to leave this place and continue their journey. Salt is placed on the third tier to prevent the corruption of the body. On the fourth tier we place water and “el pan de muerto” (bread for the dead) which will serve as food for their journey and complemented with the deceased person's favorites fruits or food items placed in the next tier.

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The next tier identifies the person who is being invited to the altar, frequently with photos of the deceased. The bottom-most tier has a cross made of bright orange and yellow marigolds (cempazuchitl), an Aztec flower of the dead.

These altars are seen as the “camino al mas alla” (road to the afterlife), in which the departed be purified as he journeys through. They contained everything that was needed for the journey “al mas alla” and for the return of the dead to this world. That is why the altars had lit candles to illuminate the road for the spirits, and incense for their purification.

Today, in order to maintain this beautiful and meaningful tradition alive, many churches and schools, even the governmental offices, have a “Día de los Muertos Altar” contest, which is the Altars are judged on overall appearance, originality and creativity reference to traditions of this feast.



HOW THE ALL SOULS FEAST IS CELEBRATED IN MEXICO.

Día de los Muertos—the Day of the Dead—is a tradition that honours the dead with festivals and lively celebrations, a typically Latin American custom that combines indigenous Aztec (in Mexico) ritual with Catholicism, brought to the region by Spanish conquistadores.

The Aztec culture considered souls to continuously live and enter different realms when a body would die. This view the Aztecs held was commingled with the Christian beliefs that the soul is eternal when the two cultures were merged. The “altar” is presented in one's home in order to commemorate the souls of loved ones in the family.



CELEBRATING FUNERALS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Fr. Alex McAllister SDS
Parish Priest of St. Thomas à Becket
Wandsworth



In the wake of the Corona Pandemic it might be worth us spending some time reflecting on the meaning and purpose of our funeral liturgies. In common with most other priests I conducted quite a number of funerals during the crisis. Some of these deaths were unrelated to the Corona Virus but several of them were as a direct result of a person contracting the infection.

The various cemeteries and crematoria I visited had each introduced new regulations to prevent further spread of the virus and most these involved restricting the numbers of mourners. Actually though, depending on the borough where the funeral took place the regulations could be significantly different. In some cases the crematorium had removed all the seating and replaced them with plastic chairs two meters apart. This caused some difficulty for the mourners and I especially remember one case where a very old lady had to sit apart from her two daughters during the funeral of her beloved husband. She was quite distressed and clearly wanted to hold their hands or to hug them.

At one cremation there was only one mourner and one representative of the Care Home with the other mourners observing the liturgy through live-streaming on the internet. It was very nice that those who participated at a distance sent a beautiful card afterwards in gratitude for the ceremony which they had found comforting.

However, the most striking thing about all the funerals that took place during the Pandemic was that there could be no Requiem Mass in the Parish Church before the committal whether it be burial or cremation. I think that this was something that had quite a detrimental effect on the families of those who died during this time.



Believing Catholics take great consolation from a Requiem Mass since they know that during the mass their beloved is included in the highest act of worship that we can perform and is united with Christ in his sacrifice on the Cross which is so intimate a part of our celebration of the Eucharist.

Most Catholics would regard a funeral without a Requiem Mass as somehow second class and many of them would want a Memorial Mass for their deceased family members to be celebrated in the local Church once the Pandemic is over. I am sure that their Parish Clergy will be more than happy to fulfil this wish. What I think that has come from the difficult experience of celebrating funerals during the Pandemic is that we have arrived at a greater appreciation of the rituals surrounding death and most especially have come to value ever more deeply the Requiem Mass itself. We want to speed our loved ones on to the new life that is heaven and we want to support them with our prayers. There is no better way of doing these things than in the worthy celebration of a Requiem Mass where the whole community can gather to pray for the repose of the souls of the deceased in the wonderful context of the Eucharist.



SALVATORIAN COLLEGE IN HARROW

Mr. Alan Bryant
Headteacher



The Salvatorian College mission statement begins: "We will embrace the teachings of Christ and, in our pursuit of excellence, we will foster a greater knowledge and love of the Divine Saviour." Christ has guided us through these challenging, but exciting, times for the Salvatorian College: we have finally moved back into our brand new building and the pupils have now returned to school after an extended period of lockdown.

We are passionate about faith-based education because we are Christians, and because we believe Catholic values to be fundamental to an education which values and develops the whole human person – intellectually, morally, and spiritually. As Father Francis Jordan said: "As long as God is not everywhere glorified, you dare not allow yourself a moment's rest."

We believe regular liturgical celebration and prayer should be at the heart of school life and daily routine.

Even within the limitations of Covid -19, Voluntary Mass is celebrated weekly for students and staff, and our pupils have a Moment for Jesus every day, during which our boys have the opportunity to reflect, spiritually, on their day and recite the Angelus. Every lesson starts with a prayer. Pope Francis reminds us: "Our prayer cannot be reduced to an hour on Sundays. It is important to have a daily relationship with the Lord." We promote a culture which encourages pupils to consider their existence in the light of God's plan through charity, service and enacting Gospel values in their daily lives.

At Salvatorian College we are determined to ensure that all students have the opportunities they need to achieve and excel, whatever their background or starting point. Our high expectations and standards of exceptional behaviour mean pupils are safe, happy, and able to develop to their God given potential within a disciplined and caring learning environment.

Our boys make outstanding progress and regularly achieve GCSE grades which are well above the Harrow and National average. Those pupils who start with low prior attainment make particularly outstanding progress because we refuse to leave anyone behind. This was recognised earlier this year by the Mayor of London, who named Salvatorian College as one of his Schools for Success. Our rigorous curriculum exists to transform our pupils so that, when they leave our school, they have the skills and qualifications they need to develop aspirational careers, continue a life-long love of learning, and become effective leaders of good influence.

If you are every passing Salvatorian College, you will receive a warm welcome and I am sure one of our boys would be happy to show you around.

Mr A Bryant – Head of School



WHAT WAS YOUR FAITH LIKE IN LOCKDOWN?

Mrs Margaret Crawley
St Joseph Parish
Stevenage, Bedwell



"Reflecting on lockdown thoughts crowd my mind. All those feelings, sadness, happiness, thankfulness. I was challenged and blessed. Not being able to receive The Eucharist was the greatest sadness but the Prayer of Spiritual Communion eased my heart, as did the great variety of Masses online, my favourite being Kirkintilloch Carmelite Monastery which brought me back to my childhood and family worship in Scotland.

Having Mass at home was a delightful new experience along with more time to watch the birds bathe and drink while roses swayed in the breeze.... all confirming my God given strength with space to think about my faith. For the parish family, for contact and support, for the beauty of the world around us, all seen anew in lockdown, I thank the Lord. "

Mrs Annette Lines,
Church of the Transfiguration in Stevenage Old Town

The news of the effects of lockdown on the Church was a great shock. Even as a child I was proud of our Catholic obligation to go to Mass and now not only was the obligation to go to Mass suspended but you could not even if you wanted to, all the churches were closed! I decided along with everyone I know to turn this trial, this separation from the Sacrament that we all love, into an opportunity. Technology that is often feared and even mistrusted came to the rescue. It may seem bizarre, but this is what we did: the dining room became our Church, the computer was set up with lit candles on each side and following our missals we logged on to Masses from Walsingham and London and, our favourite, white Friar Street in Dublin.

It was lovely to see different Masses, all with identical prayers, readings and blessings. I thought how wonderful it must be for people who have come from other countries to celebrate Mass in their countries of origin. We have in Stevenage people from the Philippines Kerala and other parts of India, Poland and other European countries, various African countries and, of course, Ireland. Lockdown was a very special moment in time when we saw how we are truly one, holy, Catholic Church.

Mr Paul Byrne,
St Hilda's Catholic Church. Stevenage, Shephall



FAITH IN LOCKDOWN

When the world comes to a standstill
And the reality hits us all
I began to falter and question
How will we cope, if at all?

Then I sensed the silent feeling
A gentle hand on my shoulder - it's true
My comfort blanket in darkness
Without my faith I've nothing to cling to

It gives me confidence for the future
To believe in people who care
To hope that God's love in abundance
Will show others He truly is there

The courage of front line people
Gave me faith in the world we live
But to be parted from all of our loved ones
Is hard to accept and forgive

The on-line masses with family
However far apart we may be
This crisis that brought people together
Seemed almost surreal to me

We can all lose heart in difficult times
Taking that first step after isolation
But my faith in the Lord and the Spirit
Gives me great consolation

Whatever history will tell us
Whatever is written down
I know my faith is my breastplate
My faith got me through the lockdown



IN LOVING MEMORY

Father
Richard Mway SDS
Provincial Superior



Father Liam Talbot SDS was born on 3rd July 1937 in Phibsboro, Dublin where he attended St Peter's Primary School. He made his first profession on 11th October 1955. After ordination (29th June 1961) he was loaned to the USA Province for a year to teach in Jordan High School in 1962. In September 1962 he volunteered as a Missionary in Tanzania and served there till 1969 when he transferred to Australia to serve as Parish Priest in St Anthony's Parish, Bellevue and Superior of the Australian Region. He returned to the UK in 1976 and served in a number of parishes: St Augustine's Parish, Runcorn, St Saviour's, Abbots Langley, St Joseph's Wealdstone and Parish Priest and Rector of Scholastics in Precious Blood Parish, The Borough. In 2006 he transferred to Our Lady of Victories, Co Dublin. He retired to 70 Charlestown Park, Finglas, Dublin in 2013 where he lived until his death on 5 March 2020.



Fr. Jan Bak SDS was born on 30th March 1951 near Trzebinia, Poland. He grew up in the SDS Parish and National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Trzebinia, where he attended local schools and joined the Salvatorians. He entered the Salvatorian novitiate in Poland on 31st July 1980 after philosophy, was professed the following year on 8th September 1981. From 1982 he transferred to the Salvatorian British Province (now a Pro-province) where he completed his theological studies and eventually was ordained on 6th June 1984. From his Ordination until his death, Jan spent most of his ministry in parish works and he was one of the few members who nearly worked in all the Salvatorian parishes of the British Pro-province and local dioceses. The places he spent most of his time are: St Joseph's Wealdstone, Christ the King Thornbury, St Saviour's Abbots Langley, Our Lady Mother of the Saviour Chipperfield, Our Ladies of Victories Sallynoggin, St Michael's Pollards Hill. He died on 3 Mars 2020.



Father Terry Cantwell SDS was born in Woolwich on 5th September 1937. Two of his brothers, Desmond and Michael, became Salvatorians and his sister and one other brother were for a time member of other orders. Only one brother married and he and his sister are now the only surviving members of the family. He professed his first religious vows on 11.10.1956. After completing his studies at Christleton Hall, Chester he was ordained to the priesthood in St Joseph's Church, Wealdstone on 07.04.1962. Father Terry spent almost his whole priestly life in just two parishes, which must be some sort of record. He spent about forty-seven years in the parish of Chingulungulu in the south of Tanzania and then in semi-retirement he served the people of the parish of Our Lady Mother of the Saviour, Chipperfield. He died on 8 August 2020 in Dublin. He was buried at Clamp Hill Cemetery where he was reunited with his brothers Des and Mick.

SUPPORT OUR FUTURE SALVATORIANS IN CAMEROON

Dear Readers,

Greetings in the name of the Divine Saviour. These are challenging times for us all, and we hope that you are in good spirits and health.

Among the many priorities of our mission units, we are seeking to support the enlargement of the existing Salvatorian formation house for the candidates in Ndikinimeki, Cameroun.

The total cost of the project is €140,000.

Any contribution will help us improving not only the studying facilities in our seminary, but also to education quality.

The Salvatorian Generalate would like to thank you for all the support you have given us in the past, and would like appeal to you to kindly consider supporting this project in Cameroon.



Salvatorian Formation House in Cameroon

CLEAN WATER FOR KALAMBA

Dear friends and Benefactors,
This is just a quick update on the water project for Kalamba.

Due to Covid 19 we were unable to mount a fundraising campaign during Lent 2020. We hope to begin a new campaign from December 2020 with the hope that we should return to some sort of normality. The remaining target is £74,000.00. Be assured of our prayers,

Fr Richard

Thank you and God bless you

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We will include the names of your deceased family and friends in our Novena of Masses and assure you of continued remembrance in our community prayers

Please remember the Salvatorians in your Last Will

“Making The Saviour Known”

If you wish to enclose a donation for our work in the Missions and for the training of students for the priesthood, please include the amount in the box below.

£ / €

Return this form in the envelope provided with your offering / cheque made payable to
The Salvatorian Trustees
Registered Charity No: 231410

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS & SUPPORT

GIFT AID DECLARATION ☐ Please tick box if appropriate

I am UK taxpayer, and I want the Salvatorians, to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid Donations*

You must pay an amount of Income Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give). Please remember to inform the Salvatorians of any changes in your tax status.

Signature:..... Date:/...../.....





SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE SAVIOUR
SALVATORIAN
BRITISH PRO-PROVINCE

APPEAL IN THIS ISSUE

"Salvatorian Formation House in Cameroon"

YOUR ADDRESS

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