



YORK CARMELITE SPIRITUALITY GROUP - a praying community serving God's people -

26 October 2017

YORK CARMELITE SPIRITUALITY GROUP TO RECONVENE: 11TH NOVEMBER



Dear friend of Carmel,

I hope this letter finds you and yours well.

It's probably a long time since you last heard from me, for which my apologies. As most of you know, in the last few years I took time off from convening the Carmelite Spirituality Groups in York and Leeds to focus on completing my doctoral thesis. I'm pleased to say that last week I successfully defended my PhD, and I feel energised to take up the reins of the York Group once more. The York Group has continued to meet informally for *Lectio Divina* meditation on God's Word at the home of the Corpus Christi Carmelite Sisters, and on behalf of us all I'd like to thank Sister Ann Parker and her community for making us feel so at home over the years. After discussion with the sisters (whose living space is now less adaptable for meetings), we've decided that the time has come to relocate the Carmelite Spirituality Group venue. We will now meet, normally on the second Saturday of the month (excepting January and August), at Our Lady's Church in Acomb. The Carmelite friars took on the pastoral care of this parish in 2015, and Father Tony Lester looks forward to welcoming us there. We hope to continue the tradition of visiting the other Carmelite communities in York at various points in the year, including the Corpus Christi Sisters, More House Chaplaincy, and the enclosed Carmelite nuns at Thicket Priory.

Convenor: Dr. Johan Bergström-Allen, T.O.C.

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Sadly, I am unable to continue convening the Carmelite Spirituality Group in Leeds. Though this became a vibrant group, no one was able to come forward as successor to me and Mary Gallivan, who died last year; may she rest in peace after decades of service to Carmel. Anyone from the Leeds Group is most welcome to come across to York whenever you like.

Relaunch meeting on 11th November

The York Carmelite Spirituality Group will relaunch in the Fr. Kelly Room at Our Lady's Church in Acomb on **11th November**. There is ample parking for drivers, and bus route 4 passes by the church. At least initially, we will follow our established timetable, namely: 09.30 Liturgical Prayer (Morning Prayer, or Mass if we have a priest); 10.00 Coffee and Welcome; 10.15 Talk on an aspect of Carmelite Spirituality; 11.45 Coffee break; 12.00 Lectio Divina; 13.00 close and social time (bring a packed lunch, or food to share, if you wish).

At the relaunch I will give a broad overview of Carmelite Spirituality which hopefully will be of interest to newcomers as well as those familiar with Carmel. On **9th December** the focus will be on Mary in the Carmelite Tradition. Enclosed with this letter is a poster which you might be able to display in your church or share with a friend.

Our library of Carmelite-related books and resources has a lovely new home at Our Lady's. As previously there will be no charge for attending meetings, but everyone is invited to donate what they can to meet our running costs. I'm hoping that regulars will also contribute as welcomers, prayer-leaders, and so on; if you have skills to offer, or suggestions to share, please do have a word with me.

Carmelite Family news, local and national

For those of you who haven't heard, a new Prior Provincial took up office in May this year, Father Kevin Alban. He has spoken to our groups in the past, and we look forward to welcoming him again in his new role sometime next year.

The Carmelite Spirituality Group is for anyone interested in exploring the rich insights of the Order's tradition, and some choose to deepen their involvement with Carmel by joining the 'Third Order'. The Third Order in Britain has been undergoing some reorganisation at Provincial level, and last month Lay Carmelites elected Rosie Bradshaw as the Third Order's first ever 'Moderator'. Again, we will invite Rosie to York next year.

The Carmelite friars in York have had a reorganisation over the summer as well. Brother Richard Green remains attached to the community, but will now be spending most of his time in Rome studying for the priesthood. Father Tony became Parish Priest of Acomb last month, replacing Father Kevin Melody who is now Catholic Chaplain at the University of York, living in More House. Over the summer Father Ged Walsh moved from York to Aylesford, where he will be involved in the ministry of the Shrine, and engagement with young people. It was recently announced that the Discalced Carmelite Friars will soon be leaving Preston.

A date to keep in your diary

Though we will normally meet on the second Saturday of the month, there will be no meeting on **12th May 2018**. This is because there will be a major 'Scripture Festival' in York that day, organised by the Northern Catholic Dioceses and the Carmelites. Details to come later.

I do hope that you will be able to join us in Acomb on 11th November, or in the months ahead. Please do keep our little community in your prayers. Ever yours, in the joy of Carmel,

FORTHCOMING EVENTS & CARMELITE FEASTS

28th October

Feast of St. Jude (the Carmelites care for his National Shrine at Faversham, Kent)

1st November

Solemnity of All Saints

11th November

York CSG relaunch at Acomb

14th November

Feast of All Carmelite Saints

15th November

Commemoration of All Carmelite Souls: let's remember in prayer deceased CSG members including Mary Gallivan, Ann Stephenson, John Cole

A FEW TOPICS TO HOLD IN PRAYER

- The new Prior Provincial, Fr. Kevin, and new Third Order Moderator, Rosie
- Syrian refugees, including the two families that the Carmelites have been able to rehouse in the north of England
- Vocations to Carmel: lay people, active sisters, enclosed nuns, and friars
- Bishop Terry Drainey of Middlesbrough, that he has an enriching sabbatical