Sisters of Jesus Way



Easter Newsletter 2025

Our dear Friends,

We begin this letter with our Community update. First of all, we'd like to say an enormous thank you to each person who has given us a gift of money or a gift in kind (a rich variety too many to name). We're often amazed at the timing of these, arriving just when we need them. Our local supermarket plays a part in this, too. Our thanks go to our Heavenly Father, who, through His children's generosity, keeps our bank balance healthy.

We're also grateful for the many people who have helped us in the last six months or so – and some who have been coming faithfully over a much longer period of time. Amongst these are our Followers of the Lamb, some of whom are able to come each week to help cook, clean, garden and do many other practical tasks. All the Followers support us in prayer.

We have a very good library, again resulting from gifts over many years. In the past, Nora, a Deaconess, kept it in order until she was 92! Nowadays we are grateful that Gill, who like us is part of St Mary's Church, has been working hard to maintain it. Anyone is welcome to come and borrow books.

Staying up to date with today's Safeguarding requirements is time-consuming but necessary. We are grateful for the help and advice we receive from Chris, our Designated Safeguarding Person, Lynn at the Diocese, and Deborah at the NST. In other areas of expertise, we have appreciated help from Lizzie, from Tim, from Simon and from Glyn S. Everyone who helps us is valued, whether or not they have been named here.

Over the years some of our helpers have come from Switzerland, and so it was a joy to receive a surprise visit from our very first helper (from 1983), Katharina. She came over in October to share in a birthday celebration for one of our Sisters. Also in October, we were pleased to have an official visit from Bishop Mark, our Bishop Guardian, and his Chaplain, Rachel. We continue to organise occasional events for the Cancer Friends Together group; we enjoyed a Christmas Dinner and a Pancake Party together, both of which finished with some singing.

In February we were invited to share some of our story at St Mary's Centre, where some of us join in worship when possible. Eight out of our Community of nine were able to take part, sharing how the Lord has led us and provided for us from 1979 until now. We also had the privilege of leading the worship.

When we moved into Abbey Road in 1985, our next door neighbours on one side were Hilary and Jeff and their family, plus their two dogs. They became close friends over the years and we're sad to write that they both died a few weeks apart, towards the end of 2024. We had the privilege of singing at Hilary's funeral service. We miss them.

Living together in Community sometimes enables us to support each other where there are family needs. At the moment, three of us have elderly mothers and one has an elderly grandmother. All four have been able to give some support to these relatives in their different circumstances.

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We have been noticing recently, even more than usual, that whenever we turn on the radio, the news seems to be dominated by the names of a handful of powerful men. These people each seem to have a finger in lots of pies and they seem to have journalists, politicians and voters all over the world hanging on their every word, as if everything they say, goes. They have been put on a pedestal both by their own self-

opinion and by public opinion, and people everywhere kowtow to them. This is exactly what they want. Even many who disagree with them also pander to them out of fear of what they could do when crossed.

It is not only powerful people that are put on pedestals in daily life, either. Most of us, from time to time, are tempted to cultivate our own image and put ourselves forward; we want the admiration of those around us… but of course, in our heart of hearts we know we will not be able to live up to it!

In stark but wonderful contrast, with Easter approaching, Philippians 2:5-11 has been coming to mind. Jesus was God the Son, part of the Holy Trinity, coequal with the Father, yet He did not clutch tightly onto His divine status and refuse to let go. Rather, out of indescribable love He agreed to step down from heavenly glory onto the earth He was instrumental in creating. Having done this, He lowered Himself further by becoming like one of the creatures He had made: a human being. Not only so, but as a human He chose to serve others and not to promote Himself. Even then, He humbled Himself yet more, by submitting to death - and then not just any death, but the cruel and shameful death of a criminal left to hang publicly on a cross. But Philippians does not stop there, just as the Easter story does not stop at Good Friday. God the Father vindicated Jesus and validated His sacrifice by raising Him from the dead and then exalting Him to the highest place. Significantly, He gave Him the 'name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.'

We are not called to put our trust in powerful people to solve the world's problems; nor should we live in fear of what such people may do. There is only one name to be revered, and only one person who can solve the world's problems: it is Jesus. This Easter, let us reaffirm our loving worship of Him, let us choose to join Him on His humble way, and let us put our trust in Him alone.

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As usual, we are enclosing a leaflet with this newsletter outlining our programme of events for the coming 6 months. Easter is nearly upon us and our rooms are fully booked, but if you live locally and would like to come to one or more of our special services, do please get in touch. In May we have our annual Praise & Walking Weekend, when we venture out into the scenery to worship our Heavenly Father and Creator. This is always an enjoyable time. On Saturday 7th June we are holding a Celebration of Heaven for the first time in a number of years. This is a beautiful and moving day when we seek to enter into Heaven with our heart, mind and spirit. The following month, on Saturday 26th July we have a Quiet Day. This is only for those who can resist talking! The Sisters will introduce some Bible passages for personal reflection. On a lighter note, in August we are again hosting a Summer Barbecue – a chance to enjoy being out in our garden and to join us in an informal time of praise. The last item on the current programme is our Harvest Weekend, when we look at some scripture together and give thanks for all the Heavenly Father has provided. To book in for any of these events, please contact us by telephone or email.

Wishing you a joy-filled Easter as you celebrate the risen Lord Jesus, Name above all Names,

With love from us all,

Sisters of Jesus Way and Brother of the Way.



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We are registered with the Charity Commissioners