



Nothing Dearer than Christ

Oblate letter of the Pluscarden Benedictines, Elgin,
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Scripture:

The Prophet Isaiah 7:10-14 The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."'

Monastic Voice

VIRGIN BIRTH A SIGN.--ST. JEROME (founder of several monastic communities)-- A Virgin Shall Conceive "By no means will God speak in many and various ways, according to the apostle Paul nor according to another prophet will he be represented through the hands of the prophets, but He who previously spoke through others will Himself say "Here I am." The bride in the Song of Songs also asked in this regard: "O that you would kiss me with the kisses of your mouth!" For "The Lord of hosts is Himself the King of glory." So He will descend to a virginal womb and will enter and exit through the eastern gate that always remains closed, concerning which Gabriel said to the virgin: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the one who will be born to you is holy and will be called the Son of God". "And Proverbs writes, "Wisdom built itself a home." Thus when it is said, "The Lord himself will give you a sign," this should refer to something new and marvellous." Commentary on Isaiah 3.7.14.24

FROM THE OBLATEMASTER'S DESK:- "The Lord of hosts is Himself the King of glory." "The Lord Himself will give you a sign". The Lord Himself is the sign. Advent --the Season of prophecy and preparation. Christmas—The Lord, Emmanuel, God-With-Us, He Himself comes to address and be with His people directly. We are all called to be prophets now living with the living Word of God and in Him sons and daughters of God the Father. God comes from above and below, from without and within. He Who Is, "I AM" is now wherever I am. God is in every beyond now; there is no nothing in which to hide from God. Death and nothing and every "NOT" has been overcome and superseded. Life has filled every infinite and gone beyond every beyond, thanks be to God in Jesus Christ now made manifest. Amen.

Oblate Events

LENTEN RETREAT NEXT YEAR 2020
FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY TO MONDAY 2ND MARCH.
FR. ABBOT: SCRIPTURAL LECTIO
BOOK NOW
guestmaster.pluscarden@gmail.com

SUMMER RETREAT NEXT YEAR 2020
FRIDAY 31ST JULY TO MONDAY 3RD AUGUST
CANON LUKE SMITH (O.S.B. OBLATE) SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR OF ST
JOHN'S SEMINARY WONERSH
Book Now
guestmaster.pluscarden@gmail.com

We have received an invitation from the Oblates of the monastery of Santa Brígida (Gran Canaria – España--Canary Islands) Monasterio de la Santísima – please let me know if interested. Dates etc. not yet arranged.

Books and Media :Please me know if you want a copy of The Pluscarden Abbey Oblate handbook , hardback or paperback.

PRAYER INTENTIONS ---For the repose of the souls of Abbot Anselm's Mother, Audrey Atkinson and Brother Simon's Father, Stanislaw Piatkowski and Oblate Graham Dunbar,

secretary/treasurer of the Glasgow chapter. For Fr. Abbot's intentions, Bishop Hugh's intentions. For Oblate Bishop Richard Moth's intentions.--For our New Oblates: Albert(Francis) Paterson (and his health) and David(Duns Scotus) Paterson—not related except though Adam! For Fr. Stuart Chalmers (Oblate) spiritual director of the Scots College in Spain & Canon Luke Smith(Oblate) spiritual director of Womersley Seminary England. For Prior Bede & For Fr. Ambrose Flavell in charge of the Shetlands. For vocations to Pluscarden especially Brs. Innocent & Ben; vocations to St Mary's and St. Scholastica's, Petersham, U.S.A and Kristo Buase Priory, Ghana. For Health: Sarah Akehurst's son Jonni & Jane Coll's granddaughter Natasha Gunn through the intercession of Margaret Sinclair. Fr. Francis Wilson, Connie Reid, Mary Frances McGregor's daughter Ruth serious illness. For Eileen Grant's son Robin & grandson, Bryce. Please pray for the health of Fr. Matthew, Br. Cyprian, Br Finbar, Rev. Christopher Mayo, Rev. Angus Macleod, for Mary Bradley, for Gillian Cockwill's Mother, for Gail & Tony Schmitz. For Siobhan Gilmour's husband, for Mrs. Allie Brien, Mrs. Janet Fraile, Gitte Mackay, Martin Farrelly, Leonora Duson(80!) and her daughter, and Margaret Rawcliffe, Robert Cantafio's mother Margarita, Joe Barrett, Maureen Woodhead, Bob Barr, Brian Milne, Fiona Sellar, Johan(Joy) Baillie, Nick MaCrae. Martin MaCrae, Dr. David Paterson and his wife Angela, Jacqui Heath-Anderson and daughter Sally, Dr. Hester du Plessis, Poppy Sinclair, Ian & Frederick Brodie, for Pat Foster, Pam Woodhead, Carolyn, Marshall & Malcolm, and also for Eileen Kerr, Peter Wynne, Susan Stephen, Cindy's husband, Danielle & her son Osyp, Evelyn, Violet and Sheila, Bernadette Harris, Alistair Macdonald and all the friends of the Abbey and for all Oblates, and for ALL the sick and those who care for them--and for our 3 sponsored seminarians. For vocations and all our novice and postulant Oblates and all our Oblates living and dead. All we have omitted or forgotten, living and dead.

Our Sponsored Seminarians:- If you would like to make a financial contribution (usual amount is £10/£20 standing order per month) please contact: Campbell Murdoch, email: jcmurdoch@yahoo.co.uk

or mobile: 07810 350006 (Address: Fircroft, Knockbuckle Road, Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire, PA13 4JT).

St Mungo's Chapter, Glasgow:-We meet on the second Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. Contact can be made via Peter Aitken. Tel. 0141 427 2084.

St Margaret's Chapter, Dunfermline meetings as announced. All details contact Deacon Pat Carrigan smcb_oblates@live.co.uk
St. Monica's Chapter for far North -- Thurso. Contact Jane Coll. "Scaraben", Westside, Dunnet, Thurso, Caithness, KY14 8YD. Phone 01847 851467(informal)

St. Peter's Chapter, Aberdeen –next 11th December. 7.00-8.00 pm each second Tuesday of each month, Church Hall, St Joseph's, 2 Tanfield Walk, Aberdeen &/or contact Mr Robert Ian Johnston, 31, Tay Road, Mastrick, ABERDEEN AB16 5LA

St Mirin's Chapter Paisley meets at 2pm on the 1st Saturday of each month at: Cathedral House, St Mirin's Cathedral, Cathedral Precincts, Inle Street, Paisley, PA1 1HR. Campbell Murdoch, mobile 07810 350006 or email jcmurdoch@yahoo.co.uk (address: Fircroft, Knockbuckle Road, Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire, PA13 4JT).

"St Andrew's Chapter" Pluscarden Abbey St Andrew's Chapter 2pm – 3.30pm Saturday 8th February 2020 Theme "RCIA" St Benedict's Guest House Men's Breakfast Room (next door on left from Abbey Shop)

"St Columba's Chapter" in Dundee -- if interested please contact Mrs. Georgina Quinn 2D, Church Street, Broughty Ferry DUNDEE Fife DD5 1EZ

"Benedictine Prayer Circle"-If interested—John MacKinlay jgjm07@yahoo.co.uk

Our Lady of Pluscarden, St John the Baptist and St Andrew pray for us!

Happy Christmas!

In the love of Christ

+With a blessing, Fr. Martin --- PAX

