

Ab Austro

Newsletter of
Notre Dame Priory

March/April 2024 No. 71

This issue:

- ✠ Fr Bede Mary's Ordination
- ✠ Ordination Homily
- ✠ First Mass Homily

Priory update

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

This issue of Ab Austro is dedicated to commemorating the priestly ordination of Fr Bede Mary which took place on Easter Wednesday 3 April at St Canice Church, Sandy Bay, Tasmania. The ordination was conferred by Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett, with Archbishop Julian Porteous presiding over the ceremony. Numerous clergy (roughly 30 priests) were present from around Tasmania and mainland Australia, and even from as far away as England in the person of the abbot of St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough, Dom Cuthbert Brogan. We would like for this issue to be a tribute of gratitude to Almighty God, to the Immaculate Virgin, and to all those who made it such a memorable event. Thank you for all that you have been to us over the years and please keep us in prayer as we do you each day.

Fr Pius Mary Noonan, O.S.B.



All photos taken by Mishka Gora and reproduced with her kind permission.

QUODCUMQUE DIXERIT VOBIS FACITE



†
Excerpt from the Homily
by Archbishop Julian Porteous
at the ordination Mass of Fr Bede Mary

Br Bede, today you are consecrated to God as a priest. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that a priest “is taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relation with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sin” (Heb 5:1). Thus, the priestly office directly involves a mediatorial role between the All Holy God and humanity. Every time you stand at the altar and offer the liturgy of worship as designated by the Church you are standing before God for the people. Through you their prayers are presented to the Most High God. As a priest of the New Testament you mediate the grace of the salvation won for us by Christ on Calvary. This is the power and efficacy of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It is the Sacrament of the Sacrifice. The Old Testament carried a sense of the awe and majesty of God. This same awe and majesty should inspire the way in which you celebrate every Mass. Reverence, a sense of the sacred, a mode of silence, draw those attending to a spiritual place that enables them to be conscious of the holiness of God, and assists them in offering themselves to God as a spiritual sacrifice.

[...] Br Bede, I know that you are deeply conscious of being a monk first and foremost, now called to the dignity of the priesthood. Be an example of holiness to your brothers and may your priestly presence serve them in their own path in monastic life. And may your spiritual services draw many on the path of Christian sanctity.



We happily receive the details of anyone who might be interested in receiving our newsletter
via newsletter@notredamemonastery.org

†
Excerpt from
Fr Prior's Homily
at the First Mass of Fr Bede Mary

In your priestly ministry you must always lead souls to Jesus Christ crucified. Do not ever be afraid of pointing to the crucifix, of holding up the crucifix, the symbol of ignominy that the world rejects, but which is the only path to glory. Any preaching of Christ that does not lead souls to the foot of the cross and goad them on to aspire to share in the sufferings of Christ is deficient. We can say many things – and we must – to be an encouragement to souls, especially in times of trial. But never forget that you can never make the Gospel better by trying to make it more palatable. No, the priest must challenge souls to take up their cross, manfully, generously, for it is only by losing one's life with and for Christ that one finds it. Of that, a priest, and especially a monk priest, must always be the model.

And yet, in spite of all your efforts to be a good and fervent monk, to be a solid, inspiring priest, there will be times of sorrow, of misunderstanding, of brokenness even, in your priesthood. Perhaps you will be criticised for preaching the Gospel or for being faithful to your vows, or for cleaving to our liturgical and monastic traditions. There may be days when you are like Mary Magdalene at the tomb. You will not understand, your heart will ache, you will want to see and hear and touch Jesus, but He will be absent. Or so it will seem. In those times, stay there at the tomb, don't run away. St Benedict tells us in the Rule that when the monk has reached the fourth degree of humility, no matter what trials are heaped upon him, "he should with a silent mind hold fast to patience, and enduring neither tire nor run away". And so it will be that by your patient love and persevering steadfastness, the Lord, who is never absent in the trial, will make His presence felt. He will say your name, that unique name that you have as one of his beloved lambs, that name that really only He knows, and that you will know, for only He can pronounce it, and only you can hear it. *I know mine, and mine know*

me, and I call them each by name (Jn 10). Then you will pass from sorrow to joy, from death to life "for after winter cometh summer, after night returneth day, after the tempest a great calm" (*Imitation of Christ*, Book 2, ch 8).



NOTRE DAME PRIORY IS A PUBLIC ASSOCIATION OF THE FAITHFUL FOUNDED IN 2017 IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HOBART. YOUR DONATIONS GO TOWARDS HELPING THE COMMUNITY GET ESTABLISHED AS AN AUTONOMOUS BENEDICTINE MONASTERY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.notredamemonastery.org

CONTACT US - info@notredamemonastery.org

POSTAL ADDRESS
Notre Dame Priory
PO Box 85
Colebrook TAS 7027
Australia

MAKE A DONATION
Account name: Notre Dame Priory
BSB: 067-004 - Account number: 1004 1427
Cheques payable to "Notre Dame Priory"

USD - via cheque, made payable to
"Notre Dame Priory, Inc." and sent to:
Notre Dame Priory c/o 468 Locust Grove Road
Shelbyville, Ky. 40065 USA
Credit card - notredamemonastery.org/donate



QUODCUMQUE DIXERIT VOBIS FACITE