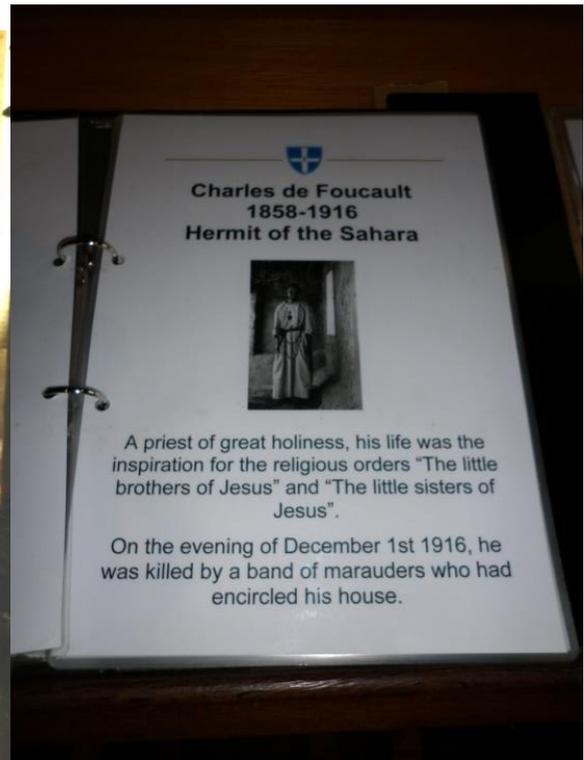




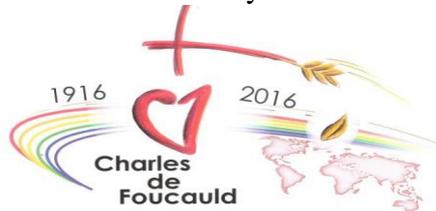
# Community of Brother Charles, Britain

## June 2016



### **Pilgrimage to Canterbury - 4th May, Feast of Martyrs of England and Wales**

Fr. Anthony Charlton of the Priests' Fraternity welcomed us to St. Thomas Church for Mass. We also prayed in the side chapel where there is a relic of St. Thomas Becket and commemorations of other martyrs. After a shared lunch in the church hall, we walked the short distance to The Cathedral where we were met by Canon Christopher Dent, who welcomed us and was our guide to visit the site of the martyrdom of St. Thomas Becket and then to view the Book of Modern-day Martyrs in which Charles de Foucauld is remembered. Canon Dent led us in prayer and we sang the Prayer of Abandonment. At Evensong, the Dean mentioned the pilgrimage of our group to mark Charles' centenary year. This was the first of the events to celebrate Charles and his spirituality. We remembered you and all in the fraternities throughout the world



### **Dates for the Diary, in celebration of Charles' centenary year:**

- **June 20th, Feast of Ss Alban, Julius & Aaron, protomartyrs of Britain, and the Irish Martyrs** - day trip to St. Albans with a tour of the Cathedral at 2:00pm.
- **23rd July, A Day with Blessed Brother Charles of Jesus** - Our Lady of Victories Church, 235a Kensington High Street, W8 6SA, London - see the attached poster.
- **27th October, date near the time of Charles' conversion and to celebrate the Six Welsh Martyrs and companions** (feast day on 25th of October) - day trip to Paris with a visit to St. Augustin's Church.
- **November 27th - 1st December, two-for-one-night accommodation at Walsingham gathering** - L'S Kathy will be leading us in reflections on Charles' spirituality.

If you want any further information concerning any of these pilgrimages, contact:  
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020 7326 0834 ([cdf-gb@jesuscaritas.info](mailto:cdf-gb@jesuscaritas.info))

## **From the European Responsibles:**

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### **Letter to Isolated Members of the Fraternity in Europe.**

Dear isolated members of our European fraternities,

How are you? We would so much prefer to address each of you by your own name! We hope that you keep well, and that the fact that you cannot attend fraternity meetings does not prove too much of a burden for you. We hope that during these years, we may be able to meet at least some of you personally during our visits to your respective countries.

#### **The importance of our isolated members**

In fact, during our last European meeting in Belgium last summer, we thought of, spoke about and prayed for you, and several delegates shared their concern for you; our wish is that you feel you still belong fully in the fraternity.

Even though you cannot attend meetings, each of you is very important. Even though your Nazareth is not the same as before, we hope you still live the fraternity fully in your circumstances, and find in it a source of strength and consolation. We would like you to know how much we appreciate your presence and your faithfulness to the Gospel spirituality of Charles de Foucauld. It is a gift we gratefully treasure.

Jesus' words: You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. apply to you even now. Though your journey has taken a new turn, your way of life has changed, maybe your health is not like it was before, or you live too far to travel to meetings, you will always be our brothers and sisters. We count on your prayer and your support in interceding for one another and for the rest of us in fraternity, as also for the Church and the world at this crucial moment in history.

#### **A special year**

For us this year is a year of contrasts; war, extremism and various forms of evil surround us from all parts; yet this is also the Year of Mercy announced by Pope Francis, and it coincides with the Charles de Foucauld centenary year.

While we urge you to join in prayers for peace through the intercession of de Foucauld, we encourage you to join in any events planned for the centenary whenever possible. If you are unable to do this, please do offer up your prayer so that all we do and are bear the desired fruit. We are writing during Lent, but you will probably get this letter after Easter. Let us renew our faith that carrying the cross with Jesus, we will also rise to new life with Him.

It is good to remember what Charles de Foucauld wrote to Marie de Bondy on the day of his assassination : 'Being reduced to nothing is the most powerful means we have of uniting ourselves to Jesus and of doing good to others'. So keep faith in the contribution you are giving every day to fraternity life and the mission of the Church!

#### **We would like to hear from you**

In order to enhance fraternity among all of us, we would love to hear from you! Firstly we would like you to send us any suggestions which would help us to achieve this sense of fraternity. We also invite you to send us any experiences or insights you would like to share. We are sure that we will all stand to gain from your wisdom. We welcome whatever you may wish to share - a few words, a longer diary, a memory... - all will be appreciated; and we will do our best to share all this with all our members.

If you cannot contact us by email, we would be happy if you could write in the form of a letter. You can send any correspondence to either Valeria or Anna.

