

Pastoral Message to Carmelites and People of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

16 July 2019
Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

My dear People,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the Prior General Fr. Fernando Millán Romeral, and the Prior Provincial Fr. Kevin Alban, to the Diocese of Menevia, and especially to the Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Restoration of the British Province of Carmelites.

At the same time, I am deeply sorry that my well-laid plans to join you here in Lampeter today were confounded by unforeseen circumstances. I really wanted to be with you and to share in the celebrations, but I can only now send you all my profound apologies.

The Carmelites have been an influential presence in the Diocese in a number of places, including Aberystwyth where they had a Junior Seminary as well as having responsibility for the parish. Elsewhere, Carmelites served with devotion and dedications in parishes like Llanelli, and I and so many others are grateful to the Order for continuing to make its men and its charism available there. For Llanelli is one of the largest and busiest parishes in the Diocese. The Carmelite presence has been magnificent. And not only in Llanelli, but also in Pembroke and Pembroke Dock, as well as in Hay-on-Wye, and of course here in Lampeter. The pastoral work that so many Carmelites have carried out in so many parts of the Diocese has been outstanding and greatly appreciated.

Please have a wonderful celebration today, and be assured of my prayers and gratitude – and my congratulations on this Golden Jubilee occasion, on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and particularly in this church dedicated to her name.

With every blessing and all best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

+Tom

Rt. Rev. Tom M. Burns, S.M., B.A., B.D.
Bishop Emeritus of Menevia

Bishop Tom had been scheduled to preside at the Carmelite Province Jubilee Mass in Lampeter; however, some while before, having reached the aged of 75, he had submitted his resignation to the Holy Father. It was announced on 11th July that his resignation had been accepted and the Archbishop of Cardiff appointed apostolic administrator of Menevia Diocese. Therefore, Bishop Tom was required to meet with the Archbishop on 16th July and could not preside.