



# COMPASSION QUARTERLY

of the Spiritual Association of the Compassionate Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Issue 6: EASTER 2018



## NEWS

Since our last newsletter there has been a lot of activity connected with the website:

- A sermon, written for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr.B) and concerning the compassion of Christ has been published and can be found here: <http://cchjm.org/the-compassion-of-christ-a-sermon-for-the-5th-sunday-in-ordinary-time/>
- In January a blog was written with the theme of how the Blessed Sacrament can be realised as the **incarnation of Divine Compassion**.
- In view of the growing concern for the way in which plastic is polluting our oceans a letter was sent to three major supermarkets asking what steps they are taking to lessen their use of plastic. The letter was part of an initiative called 'Plastic-less Lent' and a draft can be found here: [LETTER to SUPERMARKETS CONCERNING PLASTIC PACKAGING](#)

➤ **BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:** a new *Page* has been added which offers details of some books on the theme of compassion or books which address the subject of compassion.

In addition a number of *ARTICLES* have been published:

WHERE IS GOD? by Richard Rohr OFM posted as a Blog in December 2017

A CONTEMPLATIVE IN THE CITY: reflections by the late Fr. Bill Kirkpatrick concerning his ministry amongst those sliving on the margins of society. First published by the Thomas Merton Society in the 1980's

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## AN APPEAL BY ONE OF OUR ASSOCIATES

One of our Associates, Naomi, who is housebound writes: *'I have a habit of praying for all of God's creatures, not just for us human beings, and for giving thanks for every sparrow created. I feel that it would be nice to know the name of some other disorganised person who has similar praying experiences to mine. But this may well be an impossible thing to ask. I am a congregation of one, and have no opportunities to pray in church or chapel with other folk, but that in itself I find to be no problem. And my contact with the CHJM has given me so much more to consider and about which I meditate and pray, for which I am truly grateful.'*

If you are also a 'disorganised person' living alone who prays like Naomi she would love to hear from you. Please contact Naomi at [oldnome@icloud.com](mailto:oldnome@icloud.com)

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## LINKS

A link to the *Migrants Rights Network* (MRN), an innovative UK- based NGO working and campaigning for the rights of all migrants who organise the national protest 'One Day Without Us' was added.

## JESU, THOU ART ALL COMPASSION

A Retreat at Ascot Priory, Berks: June 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018



There was a lot of interest in this Retreat which a number of Companions and Associates are

attending and no further bookings can be accepted.

### Audio-Retreat

Peg Burns, an American friend of CCHJM, has emailed to inform us about the Centre for Christian Non-Violence and the audio-Retreat directed by Fr Emmanuel Charles McCarthy. His 'Behold the Lamb' retreat can be found [here](#). Peg writes that "he is a great speaker on Jesus' complete rejection of violence (and the implications which flow from this for Christians)....like the early Christians, like the martyrs of the first centuries, like Dorothy Day, Adin Ballou, Fr John L McKenzie...so many others". This may be an excellent resource for those who find it difficult to get to an organised retreat houses or even Weeks of Accompanied Prayer.

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## NON VIOLENT FOLLOWERS OF JESUS:

### The Golden Thread

Peg Burns has also developed a [curriculum for children](#) (pre-Kindergarten up to age 12). The introduction states that *'Through immersion in this curriculum children learn the language of Gospel nonviolence. While becoming acquainted with current and past Nonviolent Followers of Jesus the rich creativity of Gospel nonviolence is opened to children.'*

It goes on to explain that Peg and 'Greg Kerbawy merged their knowledge of Gospel nonviolence with their training in the Montessori Method. Thus, the built-in repetition of the curriculum's manipulatives fosters enjoyment and appreciation of the truth of Gospel nonviolence. Reinforcement of the content continues through the work of the child. Abundant follow-on work has been provided.'

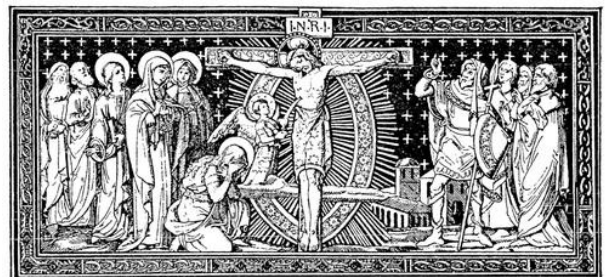
'Compassion is a mind that is motivated by cherishing other living beings and wishes to release them from their suffering.' (Buddhist saying)

## THE SON OF MAN HAS NOWHERE TO LAY HIS HEAD

As I write this edition of the *Quarterly* it's snowing quite heavily. The past few days have seen much of the UK carpeted in a blanket of snow with temperatures hovering just above or below zero and these conditions are expected to continue for some days yet. Whilst a snow-covered landscape can look very beautiful it's also a fearful situation for those who are homeless.

It seems impossible that, as one of the world's wealthiest nations, the UK seem unable to solve this crisis and the numbers of people living on our streets has grown over the past few years at an alarming rate. There must be many who are left wondering how it can be that amongst such wealth some are still homeless. Much of the work amongst such people is being done by charities and local authorities but the problem is, clearly, national and would seem to require a national approach. Why is it not possible for the government to instigate a programme of providing whatever is required to make sure no one has to sleep on our streets? The problem, of course, is not just that of inadequate supplies of affordable housing but of the support structures needed for those who find it hard, if not impossible, to cope. The fact that some in the media, sport and entertainment businesses are paid vast sums of money – far in excess of what they require (or deserve?) – whilst others still beg on our streets is, surely, an indictment of our society. Our politicians need to take this situation seriously and find ways of funding the needs of some of the most vulnerable amongst us. The words of St John of the Cross may have been addressed to us individually but, as a society, we need to hear them as well: *At the end of our days we shall be judged by our loving.* Remember – there, but for the grace of God – go I.

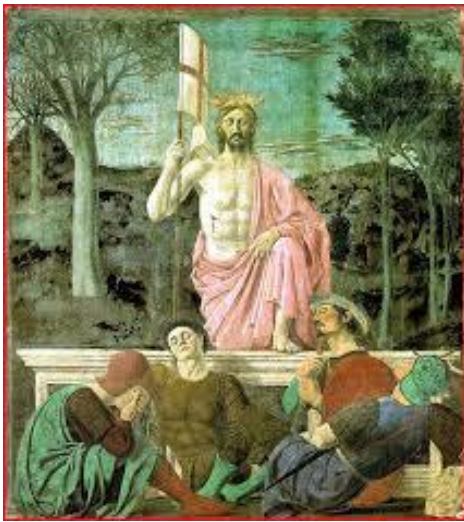
Material for the next issue (Sacred Heart) should be sent to:  
[cchjm@outlook.com](mailto:cchjm@outlook.com) before May 31st



## IMPORTANT

### GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR) 2018

From May 2018 the above new Europe-wide data protection rules take effect. These are designed to enhance the protection of citizen's rights in relation to data held about them. As a consequence I need to make sure I have your consent to send you our newsletter and other information from time to time. In relation to this I keep a record of your email address. If you do not wish to receive either this newsletter or other information or wish to have your email address removed, please let me know as soon as possible.



*Resurrection- Fra Filippo Lippi (1406-1469)*

### NAMES of ASSOCIATES AND COMPANIONS

In setting up this Association I wanted to make the process as easy as possible. My desire was to offer a supportive means for members to nurture the virtue of compassion rather than setting up a religious organisation. However from time to time I'm asked 'who belongs?' and so I want to ask about your thoughts concerning publishing the names of Companions and Associates? Maybe those who wish might consent to have their name appear on a list of Companions/ Associates as happens with some other spiritual associations. I am not suggesting that anything other than names should appear and no one should feel they had to have their name on a 'List of Companions and Associates' but if you would like to have your name on the website, please let me know. It's also offers a means of remembering each other in prayer. I have organised a page as a sub-heading, so you can see what might be published: <http://cchjm.org/companions-and-associates/>

## The Blood-Sweeten'd Beverage

*Bristol Tea Parties 1778*

So many words desperate and tumbling  
but failing to achieve any clear meaning  
in a city of slaves and of teatime protesting  
telling the horrors of of savage dogs hunting.

Rust sailed galleys and black hearts pounding,  
shackles clanking and brain shattered yearning  
for freedom ebbing away on the tide lapping  
on shingle and shell and never returning.

Gown black preacher earnestly preaching  
pleading for freedom but the wrack is turning  
its iron cold hands in the ache of an evening  
to smother the shame of a master's objecting.  
But still the tea party's challenge is thriving  
in the cold dark of a city's feigned weeping.

*This poem was written by our Associate, Naomi L. who explains that Bristol traders were at the heart of the 18<sup>th</sup>c slave-trade, as were the many fierce Bristol objectors to the hated trade. In 1778 Hannah Moore a Bristol teacher and passionate anti-slaver, a friend of both William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson, joined the organised boycott of slave-produced West Indian sugar, thus avoiding any contact with what the poet Robert Southey later described as "...the blood-sweeten'd beverage..."*

### ENABLING DIVINE COMPASSION

COMPASSION is thought to be programmed into our DNA as, apart from anything else, it enables us to reach out to each other and form relationships and it has meant that those who exercise compassion are more likely to form relationships. It can be regarded as an aspect of the nature of God which has been imprinted into us who are made in the *imago dei* – the image of God. As we give attention to this virtue we are allowing the divine to emerge into us – to 'seep' into us. It allows us to know something of the compassion of God and, as we allow our heart to be more and more open to this virtue so we realise the wonder of its creative energy.

Whilst it's not always easy to allow ourselves to be compassionate there is a real way in which we can, slowly, re-programme ourselves to develop the divine nature which is ours in our creation. Compassion is a hidden treasury from which we can enrich our lives.

