

# GK's MEEKLY

FROM THE CATHOLIC

G.K. CHESTERTON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 27th - - 2022

VOL. I.

No. 2

SIXPENCE

## THE MEEKNESS OF THE PILGRIMS

“We might put the point this way; the two ways of visiting the statue or the shrine with the way of the Traveller and the way of the Pilgrim. But the way of the Pilgrim almost always involved the way of the Pilgrimage. It was a ritual or ceremonial way; the way of a procession which had indeed come to see that shrine; But not come to see anything else. The Pilgrim does not feel, as a tourist does often quite naturally feel, that he has had his tour interrupted by something that does not happen to interest him. The pilgrimage must interest him, or he would never have been a pilgrim. He knows exactly what he wanted to do; and, what is perhaps even more valuable, he knows for certain when he has done it. He cannot be dragged on from one thing to another; from one thing that interests him mildly to another thing that bores him stiff. He has undertaken certain expedition with a certain logical end; an end both in the sense of purpose and in the sense of a termination. For a certain mystical reason of his own he wanted to visit a certain monument or shrine; and, now he has visited it, he is free to visit the nearest public-house or any other place he pleases.”

GK Chesterton. *The Matter with Sight-seeing*, The Illustrated London News, 28th February 1931.

### THE GK CHESTERTON PILGRIMAGE ONE DISASTER AFTER ANOTHER?

The 12th Annual GK Chesterton Pilgrimage was scheduled to take place on Saturday the 30th of July 2022, the 100th anniversary of the Conversion of Gilbert Keith Chesterton. The Right Reverend David Oakley, the new Bishop of Northampton, the diocese where GK Chesterton and his wife Frances lived, where they both converted to the Catholic faith, where they died and are buried, was booked to preach at the Mass at the Bridgettine Convent in Iver Heath. The Bishop was unable to attend as he had to go to Rome. But no, this was not a disaster, a disappointment yes. Father Neil Brett who had agreed to celebrate the Mass now stepped in and also agreed to preach. (Sermon on our website)

This year's Mass was held inside the Convent Chapel which we had used on previous occasions, although for the last two years we had been outside due to Covid restrictions. 'Disaster' struck as pilgrims kept flocking into the Chapel, only to fill every seat, every niche, every corner and gradually be forced to stand outside as too many people had come. Then we ran out of hymn sheets! But none of this was really a disaster as the 20 Pilgrims who had walked in the morning, some for 21 miles to get to the Mass, from Saint George's Church Notting Hill where Chesterton had been baptised, all had seats or at least somewhere to kneel. No, ninety people coming to Mass in honour of GK Chesterton is by no means a disaster, nor was running out of postcards for them to send to the Bishop.

Finding out that the pub where the Pilgrimage ends each year, The White Hart was closed for refurbishment was no doubt a real disaster. My wife having read sufficient Chesterton books to know what to do, quickly took the matter in hand. She created a pub sign, acquired a room and sufficient food and drink for the pilgrims to enjoy at the end of the day. Some may wonder why the name for the pub was The Old Ship, the answer of course is quite simple and will be found by reading *The Flying Inn* by GK Chesterton. (Which can be read free online)



The Grave of Gilbert and Frances Chesterton



Clare and Moira flying The Old Ship

We had almost 60 people walking the last six miles after Mass into Beaconsfield to pray at the Chestertons' grave. We then all took a short walk down to The Old Ship where my wife Clare and her sister Moira provided us all with plenty of drink and food for those who had walked all day.

Three cheers for both of them, as it was hard going in that very hot kitchen.

Other honorary mentions of the day should go to Nathanael and Maara aged 15 and 14, respectively who walked the full 27 miles, also Joe who served Mass after walking 21 miles and Rufus assisted with the serving.

Our pilgrimage this year started off on a sad note, just as we were about to read our usual paragraph from GK Chesterton's Autobiography and say the prayer for his Beatification, Sophie received a phone call from her father. Sophie's mother, Liberata had just had a heart attack, and later died. We all prayed for her and the Family a lot along the way. I know that Liberata had had a GK Chesterton prayer card, as I gave it to her myself one Sunday after Mass. Please remember her in your prayers.

**Please cut out, keep and say the prayer below**

God Our Father, Thou didst fill the life of Thy servant Gilbert Keith Chesterton with a sense of wonder and joy, and gave him a faith which was the foundation of his ceaseless work, a charity towards all men, particularly his opponents, and a hope which sprang from his lifelong gratitude for the gift of human life. May his innocence and his laughter, his constancy in fighting for the Christian faith in a world losing belief, his lifelong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and his love for all men, especially for the poor, bring cheerfulness to those in despair, conviction and warmth to lukewarm believers and the knowledge of God to those without faith. We beg Thee to grant the favours we ask through his intercession, the end of abortion in this Country [and especially for.....] so that his holiness may be recognized by all and the Church may proclaim him Blessed. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

**Catholicgkchestertonsociety.co.uk**  
**Goodcounselnetwork.com**

## By The Babe Unborn

by G. K. Chesterton

If all the sky were full of stars  
 And all the hills of grass,  
 And all the roofs of chimney-pots  
 How well the time would pass.

If there were streets where folk went by  
 And fields were flowers grew  
 And roads ran up against the hill  
 I know what I shall do.

I think that if they gave me leave  
 Within that world to stand  
 I would be good for all the day,  
 I spent in fairyland

They should not hear a word from me  
 Of selfishness or scorn  
 If only I could find the way,  
 If only I were born.

### Never Miss an Issue of GK's Meekly!

Send us your email address today and never miss a single issue; [CatholicGKCSociety@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:CatholicGKCSociety@yahoo.co.uk)

This second issue has been published on the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Bill in 1967.

Since that terrible day 10 million babies have been aborted in the UK. Today we reprint GK Chesterton's poem, By The Babe Unborn

### Supporting Pregnant Mothers

Sponsorship over the years, of some of those walking on the Pilgrimage has raised over £20,000 for the Pro-Life work of The Good Counsel Network. You can donate to support them here,

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gkcwalk22](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gkcwalk22)

### GK Chesterton Prayer in Other Languages

Find the GK Chesterton Prayer in over twenty languages on our website.

[CatholicGKCSociety.co.uk](http://CatholicGKCSociety.co.uk)

### Read GK Chesterton

See our website for some links and ideas of what to read and how to find Chesterton writing for free (He wrote a lot more than Father Brown!)

### Watch GK Chesterton Online or on TV

Watch GK Chesterton, The Apostle of Common Sense, at [www.ewtn.co.uk](http://www.ewtn.co.uk) or on Sky 586, at 2.30pm Monday, 7am Wednesdays or 3.30am on Saturdays.