

# INDEX

Foreword: Archbishop Kelly of Liverpool .....	3
Introduction .....	5
Adoration Sisters .....	7
Canonesses Regular of St Augustine Windesheim Congregation .....	8
Discalced Nuns of the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel.....	10
Order of St Benedict (Benedictines) .....	14
Order of St Benedict (Turvey).....	16
Bernardine Cistercians of Esquermes .....	17
Cistercians Nuns of the Strict Observance .....	19
Order of St Clare .....	20
Dominican Contemplative Nuns.....	23
Contemplatives of the Good Shepherd .....	24
Religious of the Passion of Jesus Christ .....	25
Order of the Most Holy Redeemer .....	26
Order of the Visitation.....	27

## ***Anglican Orders***

Order of St Benedict .....	28
Benedictine Community of The Holy Cross .....	29
Community of St Clare (OSC) .....	31
Community of the Sisters of The Love of God (SLG) .....	32
Society of the Precious Blood (SPB) .....	33
Society of the Sacred Cross (SSC) .....	34
Order of St Benedict (Burford Priory) .....	35
Community of St Mary at the Cross Edgware (OSB).....	36

## A WORD FROM ARCHBISHOP PATRICK KELLY

One of the blessings I received recently was that of a flower festival. The members of the West Lancashire Flower club had designed and staged in the church of St Patrick in Southport what can only be described as meditations on the Mystery of the Lord and the life of the saints. Among them: Saint Therese of Lisieux. It was surely deep inspiration which led the designer to present the saint with her face away from us, hidden from us. The glory shall be to God and God alone.

This Directory is presented in that same fidelity of spirit. The contemplative life is most certainly a gift of the Spirit for the people of the Lord Jesus, and yet it presents itself, as it were, seeking to escape notice. I gladly commend this simple directory and encourage anyone who feels moved even to pick it up to be open to taking even the smallest of next steps.

+ *Patrick Kelly*

Archbishop of Liverpool

Compiled

by

Sister Mary Bernadette OSsR

# INTRODUCTION

**B**ooks on contemplation and prayer abound but information about Contemplative Orders is not that easy to obtain. There is a need for this as many people are not aware there are so many Orders and convents. The Association of British Contemplatives has therefore collected together brief accounts of the contemplative Orders who reside in the United Kingdom to produce this Directory.

The Association (ABC) developed out of a meeting of the contemplative nuns of England, Scotland and Wales in November 1992 for the purpose of responding to the *Lineamenta* for the 1994 Synod on the Consecrated Life. Representatives of the Anglican communities were also present.

At that meeting the representatives jointly drafted and signed a letter to the late Cardinal Hume, notifying their intention to build on the fruitful mutual exchange established at the meeting by forming an Association of British Contemplatives. Statutes were drawn up and in 1994 were approved by the competent authorities.

The purposes of the ABC are:

- To foster solidarity and mutual co-operation between all the women's contemplative communities
- To co-ordinate, if and when desired, initiatives and projects of mutual concern
- To strengthen contemplative vision and values
- To provide a structure for responding to current issues of concern to women Contemplatives

Two recent initiatives have been a poster campaign in 1997 and a Meeting of Contemplative monks and nuns, held at York in 1999. The poster campaign was to remind all people that the contemplative vocation is alive and well in the Church today. Quite a lot of interest was shown and requests came for

more information about the variety of Orders there are in the Church. This booklet hopefully gives a 'flavour' of the many different charisms and will help readers to come to a better understanding of this important way of life in the Church today. More information can be obtained by writing to the addresses given or by visiting web-sites.

In the document *Vita Consecrate* we read 'Monasticism and contemplative life are a constant reminder that the primacy of God gives full meaning and joy to human lives, because men and women are made for God, and their hearts are restless until they rest in him.' (No.27)

# ADORATION SISTERS

**F**ounded by Mother Mary-Therese Dubouche in Paris in 1848. Born in 1809 she was a brilliant artist but when God revealed to her his love she surrendered entirely. She was ready to enter Carmel when Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament declared his will to her: 'I want to have souls always before me to receive my life and communicate it to others.'

Immediately she foresaw the Institute she was to found; not only contemplatives dedicated to adoration but a large community of adorers closely united with the Sisters. She understood that the life that wells from the host is the salvific power of Christ's Paschal Mystery at work in the Eucharist and that the Sisters were called to unite themselves with the sacrifice of our Saviour. 'Nazareth' being the pattern of their daily life, in union with Jesus' offering during his hidden life.

Mother Mary-Therese died in 1863. Her charism is as up-to-date as ever, the Sisters' service of the Church remains the same: adoration in the name of and for the sake of the whole world, intercession in union with Christ's Eucharistic offering.

The members living in the world - brothers, sisters, priests, share in the same vocation and mission.

The Sisters welcome for private retreats people who wish to spend a few days in silence and solitude in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

## Further Information

Adoration Convent  
Ferns  
Co. Wexford  
Ireland

# **CANONESSES REGULAR OF ST. AUGUSTINE WINDESHEIM CONGREGATION (Augustinians)**

**T**his community came to England, Haywards Heath in 1886 and moved to Sayers Common in 1978. We trace our origin through Bruges, 1629, to Louvain, 1415, both houses closely associated with the English Martyrs. St Ursula's, Louvain, was one of the first women's' communities sprung from Windesheim (founded 1387).

This branch of the Canonical Order arose out of the lay movement known as the 'Devotio Moderna'. The 'Brothers and Sisters of the Common Life' responded to a strongly felt need of the time for a return to the Gospel, a close following of Christ and genuine Christian community. The first monasteries of Windesheim became houses of prayer where those looking for spiritual and material help were welcomed and received hospitality. They adopted the rule of St Augustine which stresses the importance of love, and life in common, after the manner of the first Christians (*cf Acts 2 & 4*). They also drew inspiration from the Flemish mystics, especially John Ruusbroec. One of their early members was Thomas a Kempis, author of the *'Imitation of Christ'*.

In our own time we try to live this out, in a life of prayer and work, having 'all things in common', and open to the needs of others.

## **Guests, retreat facilities**

Our work of hospitality flows from our contemplative life. A retreat programme is organised, including Priory Weekends and monthly Drop-in Days led by community members. Individuals are welcomed for retreats or just periods of space and rest within a monastic setting. The Priory Centre is also used by a variety of groups, both Christian and of other faiths, for retreats or workshops (spiritual, educational or cultural).

Centre facilities include: 18 bedrooms (35 beds), meeting rooms, sitting rooms, library, dining room, oratory, Church, garden and grounds.

## **Lay Association with the Community**

A number of people work with or alongside us in various ways, for shorter or longer periods. For those wishing to experience the life of the community more fully, a monastic live-in can be arranged by mutual agreement. There is an Association of Friends of the Priory, an informal link for the purpose of mutual contact, support and prayer.

## **Further Information**

Mother Prioress  
Priory of Our Lady  
Sayers Common  
Hassocks BN6 9HT

Tel: 01273 832901

Fax: 01273 835501

e-mail: [prioryofourlady@btinternet.com](mailto:prioryofourlady@btinternet.com)

Recently a small group has gone to Rwanda to welcome Rwandese who are interested in the Congregation.



# **DISCALCED NUNS OF THE ORDER OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL (Carmelites)**

## **The History of Carmel**

**T**he Carmelite Order takes its name from Mount Carmel in the Holy Land (Israel) and traces its origins back to the ancient hermits living on that mountain. There in the 12<sup>th</sup> century were to be found a group of hermits, mostly former crusaders and pilgrims, calling themselves the Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and striving to live, in the spirit of the prophet Elijah, a life of solitude and prayer, standing always before the Living God on behalf of His people and totally dedicated to His worship and glory. These hermits had heard the call of Jesus Christ to leave everything and to follow him.

From its very beginning the Order of Carmel always had a special love and veneration for Mary, the Mother of Jesus. She is the Mother and Patroness of all Carmelites and the scapular which they wear as part of their habit is a sign of their dedication to her and a reliance on her protection. They see in Mary one who, in her simplicity, was totally open and receptive to God's action and took her as their model and sister in their search for God.

They also took their inspiration from the prophet Elijah who was a man on fire with love of God. His basic message was 'The Lord lives in whose presence I stand.' His cry of triumph: 'I have burned with zeal for the Lord God of hosts' has been adopted as the motto for the Carmelite Order.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century St Teresa of Jesus who had entered the Carmelite Order in Avila, Spain, renewed and enriched the ancient charism, giving a strongly ecclesial and apostolic thrust to its strictly contemplative life of prayer. Her reform has now spread world wide, alongside the development of the ancient Order of Carmel.

## **Carmel in Great Britain**

There are 16 Carmels in England, 5 in Scotland and 1 in Wales. About 300 nuns live in these Carmels, dedicated to prayer in a silence and solitude tempered by a profoundly evangelical community life.

The history of the Carmelite Nuns in Great Britain follows two distinct lines. Because of persecution at home, three Carmels were founded in Belgium during the 17<sup>th</sup> century for English women. These communities came back to England in 1794, and are now represented at Darlington and St Helens. The second link is with France. The Carmels in London, Golders Green and Notting Hill, were founded from the Carmels of Lyons and Paris respectively in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Most of the other Carmels were founded from Notting Hill between 1907 and 1938. Four houses were founded from other Carmels in more recent years between 1953 and 1983.

There are Carmelite monasteries in towns and in the country, but wherever they are found they speak to the world of God and spiritual realities. The sisters value the companionship of Jesus above everything else. They are aware of sin and suffering, sadness and death throughout the world, and know that only Jesus has the answer. They are prepared to stake their lives on this. They want everyone to find the peace, love and happiness He has to give, so they choose on behalf of their fellow men and women to live out with Him the mystery of His life and death, through which all will come to His resurrection and His promise of fullness of life and joy. They unite themselves with him 'who lives ever to make intercession for the world' and their life's purpose is to love, and to bring all humanity closer to the Love of God.

## ADDRESSES OF CARMELS IN ENGLAND

Carmelite Monastery 12  
Grosvenor Place  
BIRKENHEAD  
Prenton  
CH43 1UA

Carmelite Monastery  
Nunnery Lane  
DARLINGTON  
Co. Durham  
DL3 9PN

Carmelite Monastery  
17 Honeysgreen Lane  
LIVERPOOL  
L12 9HY

Carmelite Monastery  
87 St Charles' Square  
LONDON  
W10 6EA  
Tel: 0208 969 8702

Carmelite Monastery  
119 Bridge Lane  
Golders Green  
LONDON  
NW11 9JT  
Tel: 020 8209 1252  
Fax: 020 8209 1526  
e-mail: [community@ocdbvm.org.uk](mailto:community@ocdbvm.org.uk)  
or [prioress@ocdbvm.org.uk](mailto:prioress@ocdbvm.org.uk)  
website: [www.ocdbvm.org.uk](http://www.ocdbvm.org.uk)

Carmelite Monastery  
Sclerder Abbey  
LOOE  
Cornwall  
PL13 2JD

Carmel of Our Lady of Walsingham  
Langham Holt,  
NORFOLK  
NR25 7BP  
Carmelite Monastery  
Quidenham  
NORWICH  
NR16 2PH

Tel: 01953 887 202  
Fax: 01953 888 056  
e-mail: [seb@carmelite.plus.com](mailto:seb@carmelite.plus.com)  
website: [www.carmelite.org.uk/Quidenham.html](http://www.carmelite.org.uk/Quidenham.html)

We have guest accommodation for three people and welcome those requiring the time and space to make a personal retreat.

Coach station: Attleborough  
Railway stations: Diss, Thetford

Carmelite Monastery  
St Vincent's Road  
Fulwood  
PRESTON  
Lancs  
PR2 8QA

Carmelite Monastery  
Green Lane  
Eccleston  
ST HELEN'S  
WA10 5HH

Carmelite Monastery  
Kirk Edge High  
Bradfield  
SHEFFIELD  
S6 6LJ

Carmelite Monastery  
Upholland  
SKELMERSDALE  
Lancs  
WN8 0QE

Carmelite Monastery  
Ware Park  
WARE  
Hertfordshire  
SG12 0DT

Carmelite Monastery  
Wood Hall  
Linton  
WETHERBY, W.Yorks  
LS22 4HZ

Carmelite Monastery of the Magnificat  
Poplar Road  
Penn Fields  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
WV3 7DP

Carmelite Monastery  
Thorganby  
YORK  
YO19 6DE

## **Wales**

Carmelite Monastery  
Cader Road  
DOLGELLAU  
Gwynedd  
LL40 1SH  
Tel: 01341 422 546  
Fax: 01341 423 677  
e-mail: [carmelodc@onetel.net.uk](mailto:carmelodc@onetel.net.uk)

## **Scotland**

Carmelite Monastery  
Helenslee Road  
DUMBARTON  
Scotland  
G82 4AN  
Tel: 01389 764000  
Fax: 01389 736131

Carmelite Monastery  
3 Arnothill  
FALKIRK  
Stirlingshire

Carmelite Monastery  
29 Mansionhouse Road  
Langside  
GLASGOW  
G41 3DN

Carmelite Monastery  
Waterside Road  
Kirkintilloch  
GLASGOW  
G66 3PE

Carmelite Monastery  
Dysart  
KIRKCALDY  
Fife KY1 2TF

## **ORDER OF ST BENEDICT**

### **(Benedictines)**

**T**he strength of Benedictine life lies in its simplicity and wholeness. The Rule of Benedict, founded on Scripture, establishes gospel values whose practical expression may vary from generation to generation. All are called to building up the community in the love of Christ.

Benedictines are dedicated to the service of God and the Church in the liturgy and contemplative prayer. The day is a balance of prayer, spiritual reading and manual labour - which includes monastic craftwork and household tasks. Hospitality is the principal form of apostolate, for 'guests are never lacking in a monastery' (R.B. 53:16). Most communities offer facilities for private retreats.

A Benedictine vocation comes as a call to join a particular community. Young women interested in the life are welcome to stay in the monastery guesthouse or to spend a few weeks inside the enclosure, according to the custom of the house. Full formation, leading to solemn vows, takes about six years and is a gradual introduction into full monastic observance.

# ADDRESSES OF BENEDICTINE HOUSES IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

St Mary's Convent  
Buckfast Road  
BUCKFASTLEIGH  
Devon  
TQ11 0EA  
Tel: 01364 643280

Benedictine Abbey  
10 Curzon Park South  
CHESTER  
CH4 8AB  
Tel: 01244-671323  
e-mail:  
[Curzonpark@benedictines.org.uk](mailto:Curzonpark@benedictines.org.uk)  
Website: [www.curzonpark.org.uk](http://www.curzonpark.org.uk)

St Mary's Abbey  
COLWICH  
Stafford  
ST18 0UF  
Tel: 91889-881282  
Fax: 91889-881173  
e-mail:  
[marysabbey@btopenworld.com](mailto:marysabbey@btopenworld.com)

Benedictine Monastery  
5 Mackerston Place  
LARGS  
Ayrshire, Scotland  
KA30 8BY  
Tel: 01475-687320

Tyburn Convent  
8 Hyde Park Place  
LONDON W2 2LJ  
Tel: 020 7723-7262  
Website:  
[www.tyburnconvent.org.uk](http://www.tyburnconvent.org.uk)

Minster Abbey  
MINSTER  
Nr Ramsgate  
Kent  
CT12 4HT  
Tel: 01843-821254

St Mary's Abbey  
OULTON  
Stone  
Staffs  
ST15 8UP  
Tel: 01785-812049

St Cecilia's Abbey  
RYDE  
Isle of Wight  
PO33 1LH  
Tel & Fax: 01983 562602  
e-mail:  
[sca@stceciliasabbey.org.uk](mailto:sca@stceciliasabbey.org.uk)  
Website:  
[www.stceciliasabbey.org.uk](http://www.stceciliasabbey.org.uk)

Stanbrook Abbey  
Callow End  
WORCESTER  
WR2 4TD  
Tel: 01905 830209  
Fax: 01905 831737  
e-mail:  
[secretary@stanbrookabbey.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stanbrookabbey.org.uk)  
Website:  
[www.stanbrookabbey.org.uk](http://www.stanbrookabbey.org.uk)

# **ORDER OF ST BENEDICT**

## **(Turvey)**

### **History/Charism**

**T**he Olivetans take their origin from the example of Blessed Bernard Tolomei and his companions, who established an ascetic environment near Siena, Italy, in the fourteenth century. This monastic family, which from the time of its founder followed the Rule of St Benedict, was incorporated into the Benedictine Confederation in 1960. The site of Blessed Bernard's cell at 'Monte Oliveto' remains the Congregation's principal monastery, though in modern times an international character has been added to the original Italian identity through houses in various nations, including the American continent and Korea.

### **Ministry/Service**

The early twentieth century witnessed a monastic movement seeking Christian unity in the monastic elements shared by East and West. A group of monks, nuns and lay oblates, headed by Dom Constantine Bosschaerts (a monk of Afflighem, Belgium) was accepted into the Olivetan Congregation. It had begun in Schotenhof, near Antwerp (now the nuns' motherhouse) and made foundations in England and elsewhere. This 'Vita et Pax' Foundation worked for unity, for renewed liturgy, art and symbolism, and for lay participation. In England are the monasteries of Christ the King in London and of Christ our Saviour (monks) and Our Lady of peace (nuns) in Turvey, Bedfordshire. The London house administers a parish centred on the monastery's common life; Turvey has no parish, but besides its own work and worship, offers wide hospitality.

### **Formation Programme**

A postulancy of at least six months is followed by a two year novitiate (the first year being the canonical novitiate). Vows are then taken for a minimum of three years, culminating in final profession.

### **Further Information**

The Mother Prioress  
Turvey Abbey TURVEY  
Bedfordshire MK43 8DE

# **BERNARDINE CISTERCIANS OF ESQUERMES**

## **History/Charism**

**B**ernardine Cistercians, known officially as Bernardines of Esquermes, form an Order of their own within the larger Cistercian family, following the Rule of St Benedict in a life of prayer centred around the Eucharist , Scriptures and Divine Office sung in English.

After the suppression of monastic life during the French Revolution, three Cistercian nuns who had survived the ordeal met and eventually reached a small village outside Lille (Esquermes) and there re-opened a Cistercian Monastery which received official recognition in 1827.

## **Ministry/Service**

From the beginning, in response to the needs of the time, we were involved in the work of education. Since Vatican II, the work of hospitality has also developed considerably. (Education and hospitality have always been traditional in monastic life.)

But whatever form our work takes, according to the needs of the Church, teaching, catechesis, introduction to prayer, listening, serving, sharing, it is fidelity to our basic contemplative orientation which brings unity into our lives. To seek God in order to become one with him in love gives monastic life its meaning - for us who are called to live it and for all God's people. There are Bernardines in England, France, Belgium, Japan, Democratic Republic of Congo.

## **Formation programme**

A novice is formed to seek God in monastic life and prayer, to take her part in building a warm caring community, developing her gifts in the service of the Church in today's world.



## Further Information

The Vocations Promoter,  
Monastery of Our Lady of Hyning  
Warton,  
CARNFORTH, Lancs.  
LA5 9SE  
e-mail:[hyningmonastery@hotmail.com](mailto:hyningmonastery@hotmail.com)

OR

St Bernard's Convent  
1 Langley Road  
SLOUGH  
SL3 7AF

# **CISTERCIANS NUNS OF THE STRICT OBSERVANCE**

**T**he Cistercians are a monastic contemplative Order, acknowledging the Rule of St Benedict as their fundamental source of doctrine and practice, interpreted for these days in the revised Constitutions of the Order.

The life of each autonomous community is characterised by prayer, both public and private, manual labour and meditative reading. It is lived in obedience to a superior, and conversion of life, and its stability, lifelong commitment to one community.

The Cistercian apostolate is the indirect one of praise and prayer at the heart of the Church. As the Constitutions put it, 'the Contemplative life itself is their specific way of participation in the mission of Christ and of his Church, and of being part of the local Church.'

The formation takes place in the local community and lasts through postulancy, novitiate and first years of monastic profession. The times for each stage are decided specifically in each case by the superiors and the candidates themselves.

Holy Cross Abbey was founded at Stapehill in Dorset in 1802 by a small group of refugee Cistercian nuns from France, on property given by the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundel of Wardour. The nuns moved to their present address in 1991.

## **Further Information**

Mother Abbess  
Holy Cross Abbey WHITLAND  
Dyfed  
South Wales  
Tel: 01994 240725  
Fax: 01994 241183  
e-mail: [hcawhit@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hcawhit@tiscali.co.uk)

## **ORDER OF ST CLARE (Poor Clares)**

**T**he Poor Clares began in 1212 when Clare ran away to join Francis of Assisi and to follow him in his literal living of the Gospel. To this day the desire and goal of the Poor Clares is, as Clare wrote in her Rule: To observe the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by living in obedience, without anything of one's own and in chastity'. (*Rule: Chp. 1 v.2*)

Clare's genius lies in the way she translated Francis' vision for his roving band of followers, into a way of life for enclosed women, while still retaining an insight so accurate that the Poor Clares are an essential part of the Franciscan charism.

One of Clare's deepest longings was to rely solely on God in all things, material as well as spiritual, and so Poor Clares live without capital, investments or endowments, trusting that God who called them will also care for them. From this arises a desire to offer the witness of their readiness to run real risks of improvidence, to be seen to leave a margin for miracles in their financial arrangements and at the same time to live with a joyful sense of kinship with the poor and dispossessed. There should be about a Poor Clare all the freedom and joy of those who have lost everything and have found that Christ is so marvellous that all the rest is no loss at all. To this day Poor Clares try to live 'observing Holy Unity and Most High Poverty' and by joyful penance to pray always, interceding for individuals and the world, and praising God for every flowering plant and every human being.

### **Further Information**

Further information can be obtained from the Mother Abbess of any of the following Poor Clare houses:

Convent of Poor Clares  
Cross Bush  
ARUNDEL  
West Sussex  
BN1879PJ  
e-mail:  
[poorclares@  
crossbusharundel.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:poorclares@crossbusharundel.freeseve.co.uk)  
[www.poorclaresarundel.ora](http://www.poorclaresarundel.ora)

Poor Clare Monastery  
102 Galley Lane  
Arkley  
BARNET  
Herts  
EN5 4AN

Monastery of Poor Clares  
Carmel Road North  
DARLINGTON  
Co. Durham  
DL3 8RJ

Monastery of Poor Clares  
ELLESMERE  
Shropshire  
SY12 0PA

Poor Clare Monastery  
Fallside Road  
Bothwell  
GLASGOW  
G71 8BA  
e-mail:  
[monastery@poorclares.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:monastery@poorclares.freeseve.co.uk)  
website:  
[www.poorclaresscotland.co.uk](http://www.poorclaresscotland.co.uk)

Ty Mam Duw  
Poor Clare Colettine Community  
Upper Aston Hall Lane  
HAWARDEN  
Deeside  
CH5 3EN  
Website:  
[www.poorclarestmd.org](http://www.poorclarestmd.org)

Monastery of Poor Clares  
Rising Lane  
Baddesley Clinton  
KNOWLE  
Solihull  
West Midlands  
B93 0DE

The Poor Clares  
Mount Alvernia  
2 Humble Mains  
East Lothian  
EH36 5PW  
e-mail: [Humblepcs@aol.com](mailto:Humblepcs@aol.com)

Monastery of Poor Clares  
Lee Road  
LYNTON  
North Devon  
EX35 6BX  
e-mail:  
[sisters@poorclares.co.uk](mailto:sisters@poorclares.co.uk)  
Website:  
[www.poorclares.co.uk](http://www.poorclares.co.uk)

Poor Clare Monastery  
MUCH BIRCH  
Hereford  
HR2 8PS  
e-mail: [muchbirch@aol.com](mailto:muchbirch@aol.com)

Poor Clare Monastery  
Hillside  
NEATH  
SA11 1TP

Monastery of Poor Clares  
Brooklyn Road  
Bulwell  
NOTTINGHAM  
NG6 SET  
e-mail:  
[poorclares.bulwell@btinternet.com](mailto:poorclares.bulwell@btinternet.com)

Poor Clare Monastery  
Bracken Lane  
Shirley Warren  
SOUTHAMPTON  
SO16 6UZ

Convent of Poor Clares  
WOODCHESTER  
Stroud  
Gloucestershire  
GL5 5HS

Monastery of St Joseph  
Lawrence Street  
YORK  
YO10 3EB

The Irish Poor Clares are represented at Southampton, Neath (Glamorgan) and Bothwell (Glasgow).

Our Anglican Sisters have lived the Poor Clare life at Freeland near Oxford since 1950. (see page 33)

## DOMINICAN CONTEMPLATIVE NUNS

The first nuns of the Order of Preachers were a group of women converts from Albigensianism whom St Dominic gathered in a monastery at Prouille, near Toulouse, in 1207. They formed the nucleus of the Dominican Order of which they are an integral part, sharing - then as now - the call to all Dominicans to bring God to the world and the world to God in various ways by the contemplation and preaching of divine truth.

A post-Reformation English community was founded in 1659 in Belgium - because of the penal laws. In 1794, the nuns came to England as refugees from the French Revolution, moving in 1866 to a purpose-built monastery on the Isle of Wight.

Like all nuns, the work of their lives is prayer: liturgical prayer, as when they meet in chapel for their central act of worship, the community Mass, or to sing the various 'Hours' of the Prayer of the Church that punctuate the day; but above all that inward personal 'prayer of the heart' that goes on wherever they are and whatever they are doing.

Sadly the Isle of Wight monastery had to close in 1990 but those interested in the Dominican way of life can contact

The English Dominican Nuns  
Rosary Priory  
93 Elstree Road  
BUSHEY HEATH  
Bushey, Herts  
WS23 4EE

Or write to Sister Mary John Ronayne O.P. who now lives at their monastery in Lisbon, Portugal - as follows:

Sister Mary John Ronayne O.P.  
Monjas Dominicanas  
Mosteiro De Santa Maria  
Quinta Do Frade (A.P.R.R.D. Filipa)  
P-1600-681 LISBOA  
Portugal

## CONTEMPLATIVES OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

**T**he Contemplatives of the Good Shepherd are women who fulfil their mission in the Church with the Good Shepherd Congregation, by their life of love and apostolic prayer. Identifying with Jesus, and profoundly moved by every human form of suffering, they bring before the Father in prayer, the whole burden of humanity's weakness and sin. Their vocation is summed up in one word - Reparation - repairing day by day the rifts between God and humanity, between person and person; repairing unlove with consecrated love ... at-one-ment for the world.

### Further Information

The Superior  
St Mary's  
Good Shepherd Convent  
Chain Road  
Higher Blackley  
MANCHESTER  
M9 6GN  
e-mail: [goodshep@lineone.net](mailto:goodshep@lineone.net)

# RELIGIOUS OF THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST (Passionists)

In eighteenth century Italy, the saint and mystic St Paul of the Cross was led by the Spirit to found a congregation of men and women who would keep alive and promote in the church the loving and grateful memory of the Passion of Christ. From his own experience, he believed this to be the surest way to that union of love with God in faith, which is the destiny of every human person. Passionists are called to enter profoundly, through persevering prayer, into the mystery of God's redemptive love as manifested supremely in the sufferings and death of Jesus, and then, through lives conformed to his image, to proclaim and be the presence of that love in the world.

The first monastery of contemplative Passionist nuns was established in Tanquinia (Italy) in 1771, and today there are almost 500 nuns in 34 communities throughout the world. In 1841 Blessed Dominic Barberi C.P. brought the Passionist men to England, and to celebrate his beatification in 1963, the nuns in America accepted an invitation to make their first foundation in this country, in Daventry,

Those who feel called to this way of life are invited after an initial period of contact, to 'live in' with the community for a few weeks before making a formal application. The normal period of formation is a one-year postulancy, a one-year novitiate, and three years in temporary vows. Formation takes place primarily within the community through a guided sharing in the life, adapted to the needs of the individual.

## Further Information

The Superior,  
Our Lady of the Passion Monastery,  
Badby Road West,  
DAVENTRY  
Northants  
NN11 4NH  
Tel: 01327 702569  
Fax: 01327 702965  
e-mail: [info@cpnuns.org](mailto:info@cpnuns.org)  
website: [www.cpnuns.org](http://www.cpnuns.org)



# **ORDER OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER**

## **(Redemptoristines)**

**W**e were founded in 1731 at Scala in Italy by the Venerable Sister Maria Celeste Crostarosa and Saint Alphonsus Liguori. We are an Order of contemplative nuns who follow the Redeeming Christ as closely as possible through our life of prayer and sacrifice. We strive to live fully the Gospel of Christ in every aspect of our human and religious life, desiring to be in a special way, in the Church and in the world, a visible witness and a living memorial (Viva Memoria) of the Paschal Mystery of redemption in which the Father has accomplished his plan of love through Christ and in the Spirit.

Through our apostolate of prayer, we pray in the name of the Church for all the People of God. This apostolate is sustained and strengthened by the Mass, the Divine Office, spiritual reading and private prayer. Our Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers and their apostolic works - missions, retreats, parishes and publications - have a special place in our prayer.

A candidate may spend a short while with the community before deciding if the life is for her. The training she consists of a six to twelve month postulancy followed by 2 years of novitiate and then a minimum of three years of temporary profession before final profession.

The only convent in England was founded from Dublin in 1897 at Clapham and moved to Chudleigh in Devon in 1926 and moved again in 1990 to its present address in Liverpool. In 1947 we founded a convent in Canada which has since founded 3 convents - 2 in the USA and 1 in Australia. One of the US convents has founded two convents, one in the Philippines and one in South Africa.

A convent was founded in Poland from Italy in 1989 and is now making foundations in the Czech Republic and Kazakhstan.

### **Further Information**

Sister Prioress  
Redemptoristine Convent  
Back Gillmoss Lane  
LIVERPOOL  
L11 0AY  
Tel: 0151 5464938  
e-mail: [bernie.ossr@btinternet.com](mailto:bernie.ossr@btinternet.com)

# ORDER OF THE VISITATION

**S**t Francis de Sales founded the Order of the Visitation in response to a need of the time, namely to provide a full religious life not only for young and healthy women, but also for those not strong enough for the great corporal austerities obligatory in the older Orders of the Church. He chose the title of the Visitation because that mystery was less honoured in the Church, and the joy and charity of our Blessed Lady was the spirit he desired for the Sisters.

St Francis wished to give to the Church 'daughters of prayer' and being especially devoted to Our Lady, they, in the beginning recited the Office of the Blessed Virgin. However, since Vatican II the nuns now have the Divine Office.

The Order is contemplative, and has a strong family spirit. The postulancy lasts at least 6 months, the novitiate 2 years; the novice then makes vows for a period of 3 years, at the expiration of which she makes a Solemn Profession.

As regards the Sisters' prayer life, each follows the guidance of the Holy Spirit. On-going formation is cared for by means of conferences, tapes and a good library. Genuine relaxation is provided by two daily periods of recreation.

St Francis de Sales wanted his daughters to receive into their convents, ladies wishing to make a retreat within the enclosure: the Fathers of Vatican II realised the good that this would bring to souls and encouraged it. So, today, we share our monastic silence with students and professional women, Sisters of active Orders and busy housewives.

## Further Information

Rev. Mother  
Monastery of the Visitation,  
Foxhunt Manor  
WALDRON  
Nr. Heathfield,  
East Sussex  
TN21 ORX

Tel: 01435 812619

# **ORDER OF ST BENEDICT**

## **(Anglican)**

**S**aint Benedict sees the monastery as a school of the Lord's service where a united community endeavours to grow in stability, conversion of life and obedience within the enclosure. The call of God is the essential requirement for admission to the noviciate to share in the life of prayer, study and manual work in the house and grounds. The period of training before final profession is normally five and a half years. The guesthouse offers hospitality to those wishing to share the worship and peace of Saint Mary's Abbey for a few days.

### **Guest and Retreat Facilities**

West Malling was founded in 1891. We do not offer organised retreats apart from those for the oblates. Those wishing to make a private retreat are welcome to do so at the Guesthouse.

### **Oblates**

Oblates are men and women who feel called by God to follow the Benedictine way, but outside the cloister. They affirm their baptismal commitment by a promise of conversion of life worked out in a personal rule based on St Benedict's Rule. As members of the oblate family, they are united to the community and to their fellow oblates in mutual love and fellowship.

### **Further Information**

Mother Abbess  
St Mary's Abbey  
52 Swan Street  
WEST MALLING  
Kent ME19 6JX

Tel: 01732 843309

# **BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY OF THE HOLY CROSS (Anglican)**

**T**he Community of the Holy Cross was founded in 1857 by Elizabeth Neale (sister of John Mason Neale, the hymnographer), at the invitation of Father Charles Fuge Lowder. The foundation was intended for Mission work in Father Lowder's parish of London Docks, but succeeding generations felt that the Community was being called to a life of greater withdrawal, and earlier in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Benedictine Office, and later the Rule of St Benedict, were adopted.

The Community aims to achieve the Benedictine balance of prayer, study and work. All the work, whether manual, artistic or intellectual, is done within the Enclosure. The daily celebrations of the Eucharist and the Divine Office are the centre and inspiration of all activity.

Apart from worship, prayer and intercession, and the work of maintaining the house, garden and grounds, the Community's works are: the publications and greetings cards described below; providing retreats and quiet days; and dealing with a large postal apostolate.

## **Community Publications**

The sisters write and publish two sets of leaflets of devotional and spiritual content. One concerns *Unity between Christians* and a wider ecumenism. The other is on *Prayer and faith*, reflecting the mission of the Church in the world. There is also an advent *Newsletter* published in early December.

## **Guest and Retreat Facilities**

There is limited accommodation for residential, private retreats: one small guest cottage in the grounds, main meals are taken at the Convent. The Community also provides for Quiet Days for individuals or groups up to twenty.

## **Oblates and Associates**

The Community has women Oblates who are attached to it in a union of mutual prayers. Each had a rule of life adapted to her particular circumstances. Oblates are not Religious but they seek to live their life in the world according to the spirit of the rule of St Benedict.

There are also Associates who have a much simpler rule.

## **Further Information**

Mother Superior Holy  
Cross Convent  
Rempstone Hall  
Nr LOUGHBOROUGH  
LE12 6RG

Tel: 01509 880336  
Fax: 01509 881812

## **COMMUNITY OF ST CLARE (OSC) (Anglican)**

**T**he Community of St Clare, founded in 1950, is part of the Society of St Francis. We are a group of women who live together needing each other's help to give our whole lives to the worship of God. Our service to the world is by our prayer, in which we are united with all people everywhere. We have a guest house so that others may join in our worship, and share the quiet and beauty with which we are surrounded. We try to provide for our own needs by growing much of our own food, and by our work of printing, wafer baking, writing and various crafts. This also helps us to have something material to share with those in greater need.

### **Guest and Retreat Facilities**

Men, women and children are welcome at the guest house. It is not a 'silent house' but people can make private retreats if they wish. Please write to the Guest Sister at the Convent address.

### **Further Information**

Mother Abbess

St Mary's Convent,  
178 Wroslyn Road  
FREELAND  
Witney  
Oxfordshire  
OX8 8AF

Tel: 01993 881225  
Fax: 01993 882434

# **COMMUNITY OF THE SISTERS OF THE LOVE OF GOD (SLG) (Anglican)**

**A** contemplative community, founded in 1906, whose chief work is prayer built on the offering of the Eucharist and the regular recitation of the Divine Office. Life and prayer in solitude is recognised as an important part of the Sisters' vocation, in accordance with the Carmelite spirit of the community.

## **Guest and Retreat Facilities**

There is limited accommodation for private retreats, for both men and women.

Guest Sister: e-mail: [guestssl@amserve.net](mailto:guestssl@amserve.net)

## **Oblates and associates**

The Community includes Oblate Sisters, who are called to the contemplative life in the world rather than within the monastic enclosure. There are several other groups of associates: Priest Associates, Companions, and the Fellowship of the Love of God. Information about all these may be obtained from the Rev. Mother at Fairacres.

## **Community Publication**

*Fairacres Chronicle* - write to the Sister in charge, SLG Press, Convent of the Incarnation, Fairacres, Oxford OX4 1TB.

e-mail: [editor@slgpress.co.uk](mailto:editor@slgpress.co.uk) / [orders@slgpress.co.uk](mailto:orders@slgpress.co.uk)

## **Further Information**

The Mother House  
Convent of the Incarnation  
Fairacres  
OXFORD  
OX4 1TB

# **SOCIETY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD (SPB)**

## **(Anglican)**

**W**ithin the walls of a medieval Abbey at Burnham lives the Society of the Precious Blood - a contemplative Anglican Augustinian Religious Community. Founded in 1905 their life and work is one of worship, thanksgiving and intercession. Rooted within the monastic tradition, the sisters live a life of prayer, silence, fellowship and solitude.

This life finds outward expression in caring for those who ask for their prayers and for guests who come, seeking an opportunity for quiet and reflection to deepen their own spiritual lives.

### **Guest and Retreat Facilities**

There is a small guest house for individual (unconducted) retreats.

### **Companions and Oblates**

Companions and Oblates of the Society are Christians who wish to identify themselves with the life and aims of the Society and to share in its worship and intercession as fully as possible according to the varying circumstances of their lives.

### **Further Information**

Burnham Abbey  
Lake End Road  
TAPLOW  
Maidenhead  
Berkshire  
SL6 OPW

Tel/Fax: 01628 604080  
e-mail: [burnhamabbey@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:burnhamabbey@tiscali.co.uk)



# **SOCIETY OF THE SACRED CROSS (SSC)**

## **(Anglican)**

**T**he Society was founded in 1914 at Chichester and re-established in 1923 in Wales. The community, part of the Anglican Church in Wales, lives a monastic, contemplative life of prayer based on silence, solitude and learning to live together, under vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, with a modern rule, Cistercian in spirit. At the heart of our corporate life is the Eucharist with the daily Office and other times of shared prayer spanning the day. All services are open to the public and we are often joined by members of the neighbourhood in addition to our visitors. Our common life includes study, recreation and work in the house and extensive grounds. It is possible for women and men, married or single, to experience our life of prayer by living alongside the community for periods longer than the usual guest stay. Hospitality is an important part of our life at Tymawr and guests are most welcome. We also organise and sponsor occasional lectures and programmes of study for those who wish to find or develop the life of the spirit in their own circumstances. The community is dedicated to the crucified and risen Lord as the focus of its life and the source of the power to live it.

### **Guest and Retreat Facilities**

The community offers facilities for individual guest and small groups. Please write with an s.a.e. for information.

### **Oblates and Associates**

There are thirty-eight Oblates, living in their own homes, each having a personal Rule sustaining their life of prayer. Three Companion brothers meet regularly at Tymawr under a rule appropriate to their ministries, based on the SSC Rule. There are over 100 men and women Associates with a simple commitment, who are part of the extended family.

### **Further Information**

Tymawr Convent  
Lydart  
Monmouth  
Gwent  
Wales  
NP25 4RN

# **ORDER OF ST BENEDICT**

## **Burford Priory**

### **(Anglican)**

**B**urford Priory is home to a community of Benedictine nuns and monks. By a common life of prayer, manual work and study they try to create an atmosphere of stillness and silence in which the Community and its guests are enabled to be open and receptive to the presence of God.

While the recitation of the Office and celebration of the Eucharist constitute the principal work of the community, the ministry of hospitality, the care of the grounds (which comprises a large organic kitchen garden, formal gardens and woodland), the maintenance of the historic Priory buildings, and the income generating crafts provide a variety of manual work for the members of the community and those guests who wish to share in it.

The Priory seeks to be a place of encounter and reconciliation. The early concern of the Community was to pray for Christian Unity; and the Community enjoys links with Baptist, Lutheran, Orthodox and Roman Catholic communities. This ecumenism had broadened to include dialogue with people of other faiths, particularly those with a monastic tradition, and those who are seeking a spiritual way, either within or outside an established religious tradition.

An eight-bedroomed retreat house offers facilities for retreat and quiet time.

### **Further Information**

Benedictine Community at Burford  
Burford Priory  
Priory Lane  
BURFORD  
Oxon  
OX18 4SQ  
Tel: 01993 823605  
e-mail: [information@burfordosb.org.uk](mailto:information@burfordosb.org.uk)

# **COMMUNITY OF ST MARY AT THE CROSS EDGWARE - O.S.B. (Anglican)**

**T**he Anglo-Catholic movement was at its height and the revival of Religious Life in the Church of England was in full swing, when the Community began its life in Shoreditch. 'Let the end of your being be God.', wrote Revd Henry Nihill, co-founder of the Community with Mother Monnica Skinner. Prayer and worship through the offering of the Divine Office and the Eucharist were to be the heart of its life.

Worship found expression in loving care, as the sisters responded to the desperate needs of the sick, poor and disabled around them. This work grew and continued, developing to meet the needs and demands of its time, changing from the simplicity and poverty of a shared community life to the provision today of a high-quality modern Nursing Home, Henry Nihill House, in Edgware.

The abbey at Edgware is seen as a haven of peace, which enfolds its many visitors. Guests are offered Benedictine hospitality with space for rest and renewal, and the opportunity to share in the Community's offering of the Divine Office and Eucharist, which remains central to its life. There are facilities for retreats and quiet times.

Applications are considered from women who wish to spend up to three months living alongside the Community and sharing its life and worship.

## **Further Information**

Mother Abbess OSB  
St Mary at the Cross  
Priory Field Drive  
Hale Lane  
EDGWARE, Middx  
HA8 9PZ  
Tel: 0208 958 7868  
Fax: 0208 958 1920  
e-mail: [nuns.osb.edgware@btclick.com](mailto:nuns.osb.edgware@btclick.com)