



LIST OF REFLECTION DAYS & RETREATS 2022 (details follow)

February

- 11 – 13 February **Monastic Experience Weekend:** apply now to Fr Gabriel Wilson OSB
(E: gabriel@douaiabbey.org.uk)
- Sat 19 February Reflection Day: **All That is Good is Growing**
Barbara Priest

March & April: LENT PROGRAMME

- Sat 5 March Reflection Day: **Living Well in a Dying World: Climate Challenge**
Dr Tim Middleton & Revd. Claire Browes
- Sat 12 March Reflection Day: **Biblical Awakening to the Mystery of God**
Peter Bowe OSB
- 18 – 20 March **Lent Weekend Retreat**
Peter Bowe OSB
- Sat 2 April Reflection Day: **Walking Lightly A journey through Lent**
Barbara Priest
- Sat 9 April Reflection Day **Soul Journey with J. S. Bach for Easter**
Euan Tait
- 14 – 17 April **Holy Week & Easter Retreat**
Sr Anne Walsh OP

May

- 6 – 8 May Weekend Retreat: **Julian of Norwich**
Sr Ann Swailes OP

June

- Sat 25 June Reflection Day: **Journeying towards the End of Life**
Revd. Ann Fulton & Peter Bowe OSB

July

- Sat 2 July Reflection Day: **Soul Journey with JS Bach (2) – Holy Spirit**
Euan Tait
- Tues 5 -Fri 8 July **Lectio Divina Retreat**
Gervase Holdaway OSB
- Sat 9 July Reflection Day: **At Home in Bethany**
Barbara Priest
- 22-24 July Weekend Retreat: **Spirituality of St Bonaventure**
Revd. Douglas Dales

September – December (to be confirmed)

- 20 Sept.–9 October **Display of Retreat Association Icon in Douai Abbey Church:**
Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well
- 16-18 September **The Fourth Gospel**
Br Christopher Greener OSB
- 30 Sept- 2 October **Mindfulness Forum**
Martin Zetter & Christopher Greener OSB
- 21-23 October **Christian History III** – Renaissance to Modern Times ?
Abbot Geoffrey Scott
- 28–30 October **Holy is the True Light** - Exploring the Holy in British Music
Euan Tait
- 2-4 December **Advent Retreat**
Simon Hill OSB

Reflection Days & Retreats at Douai Abbey 2022

BOOKING - TRAVEL - ARRIVALS - CHARGES

- **All Booking Enquiries** see: www.douaiabbey.org.uk/bookings.php - or email guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk
- **Booking** is now open for all events and closes two weeks in advance of each event.
- **Travel arrangements:** see website: <https://www.douaiabbey.org.uk/contact-us.php>
- **Reflection Days:** Start on Saturdays at 10.30am (arrivals & coffee from 10am) and normally end about 4pm. Coffee & lunch provided - £25 payable on the day please.
- **Retreats:** Arrivals from 4-5.30pm on the first evening, leaving normally after lunch on last day. Weekend cost £160 (shared room £128pp) – payable during your stay please.
- For any unable to afford the suggested charges a reduction may be available.

PROGRAMME

Personal Quiet Retreats & Accompaniment

You are always very welcome to come for a private retreat, finding time & space for quiet & prayer. A monk may be available, if you wish, for listening & accompaniment each day of your stay; please request this in advance.

11 – 13 February

Monastic Experience Weekend

For men 18-40, to explore our *Alongsider Programme*

Come and join the community for a weekend! Since 2018 we have had six *Alongsiders* who have each spent 2 months with the community, experiencing monastic life by living within the enclosure and working alongside the monks in the Work of God and in our daily manual work.

The weekend would suit those who are discerning a vocation, but the programme is not exclusively for men considering a call to monastic life. More fundamentally it aims to provide an opportunity to step aside from the distractions of the world so that for a period of time participants might deepen their faith with closer attention to living in the presence of God.

This will be a chance to meet the community informally and to investigate the programme, with no obligation to apply. Participants will be able to share in the Divine Office and other elements of the monks' life. (For this weekend there is of course no charge.)

Apply now to Fr Gabriel Wilson OSB (E: gabriel@douaiabbey.org.uk)

Saturday 19 February **“All That is Good is Growing” : Embracing Spring**
Reflection Day led by Barbara Priest



After the long winter, all creation bursts into action with the coming of Spring. As we approach this most optimistic of seasons, we take some time to pause and embrace the many spiritual opportunities for new life and hope.

Barbara Priest is an Anglican lay minister in Salisbury Diocese, an oblate of Douai Abbey and a leader of Quiet Days. She specialises in contemplative ministry and loves helping people to meet God in the everyday through poetry, scripture, music, art and photography.

Charge: £25 (payable on the day)

MARCH & APRIL **LENT PROGRAMME**

Saturday 5 March ***Living Well in a Dying World:***
Navigating Hope & Despair in an Era of Climate Change

Reflection Day led by Dr Tim Middleton & Revd Claire Browes

The ecological crisis is real - not just a prediction about our future world, but for many a present reality. The earth's climate has already warmed by over 1°C; species extinction rates are higher than for 10 million years. To mitigate these changes we can make many important changes to our lifestyles & behaviours.

This day of reflection however will, however, focus less on practical tasks, more on emotional & spiritual responses. How do we feel about the ecological crisis around us? How to cope with climate grief & ecological despair? How to maintain Christian hope in the face of such catastrophe? What spiritual resources do we need or have for living well today, when much has already been lost?



Dr Tim Middleton, a scientist & a theologian with a PhD in Earth Sciences, is now working for a doctorate in Theology focussing particularly on trauma theology & eco-theology. He is based at the Faculty of Theology & Religion at Oxford University and attached to the Laudato Si' Research Institute at Campion Hall. **Revd Claire Browes** is an Anglican priest, currently a curate at Cowley St John in Oxford. She trained at Ripon College, Cuddesdon and founded the group that worked for Cuddesdon's 'Eco-College' status. Earlier she studied Biology and worked as a ministerial assistant at St Mary the Virgin, Oxford.

Charge: £25 (payable on the day)

Saturday 12 March *Biblical Awakening to the Mystery of God*

Reflection Day led by Peter Bowe OSB



During this Reflection Day we shall look at how the awareness of the Divine Mystery – of God – gradually grow and is refined over time and in the texts of the Old and the New Testaments. How might this help us to open ourselves and approach God in today's world?

Fr Peter Bowe is a monk of Douai Abbey.

Charge: £25 (payable on the day)

18 – 20 March

Great Season of Grace

Weekend Retreat led by Peter Bowe OSB

Lent is “our great season of grace” when we prepare to celebrate with joy at Easter the central mystery of our faith, of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection. During these weeks we are present with Christ on his journey towards Jerusalem,

How can we in fact be with him in the desert and walk with him on his way to cross & resurrection? How to be awake to this in all the stresses of our busy lives? In this retreat we shall look at the experiences of some of those who have done so, and reflect on how best we ourselves can use this time of preparation.



Fr Peter Bowe is a monk of Douai Abbey.

Weekend cost £160 / shared room £128pp (payable during your stay please)

Saturday 2 April “Walking Lightly” - A journey through Lent

Reflection Day led by Barbara Priest



The season of Lent can often be seen as a time of pilgrimage, as we journey through these 40 days towards Holy Week and Easter. With particular focus on the natural world around us, we walk lightly upon the earth and pay attention to what we can learn.

Barbara Priest is an Anglican lay minister in Salisbury Diocese, an oblate of Douai Abbey and a leader of Quiet Days. She specialises in contemplative ministry and loves helping people to meet God in the everyday through poetry, scripture, music, art and photography.

Charge: £25 (payable on the day)

Saturday 9 April Soul Journey with Bach (1) *Bach Cantatas for Passiontide*

Reflection Day led by Euan Tait

Passiontide allows us to deepen awareness of our humanity and tenderness, and our relationship with Christ's mercy and intention for us. Through meditating on the Passion of Christ, we explore Bach Cantatas of the season, which are powerful glimpses in the inner life of the pilgrim soul.

Euan Tait is an international librettist & experienced retreat leader who works in many UK communities, eg. Ammerdown, Minsteracres & Belmont. For many years a member of L'Arche at Bognor Regis, he now teaches at a college in western England. see <http://euantait.com>)

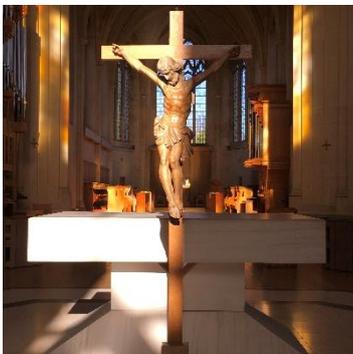
Charge: £25 (payable on the day)



14 – 17 April

Holy Week & Easter Retreat

Sr Anne Walsh & Sr Karen Marguerite OP



This Holy Week Retreat will take us through aspects of the sacred Triduum and enable us to enter more deeply, through the Offices and the Liturgies into the profound mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection and inspire us to make this passage from death to life our own in the world today.

There will be times of prayer and times of listening and times of sharing, but as we are all on our own particular journey, so each participant may freely make this retreat in a completely personal way.

Sr Anne Walsh & Sr Karen Marguerite are Dominican Sisters at Rosary Priory in Hertfordshire. Both Sisters have a background in theology & catechesis and a passion for Adult Faith Formation. Sister Anne has ministered in England, Jamaica & South Africa, where she was in leadership for the Region of her Congregation. She continues to teach Scripture & offer retreats. Sister Karen has worked in University Chaplaincy in England & Scotland, and currently runs the Niland Conference Centre at Rosary Priory.

Charge: Weekend cost £250 / shared room £175 pp (payable during your stay please)

MAY

6 – 8 May Retreat *All shall be well - A Retreat with Julian of Norwich*

Led by Sr Ann Swailes OP



Julian of Norwich, living in radical solitude yet able to understand those seeking guidance, is a fascinating figure: a daringly original theological thinker, but loyal to the Church. This visionary of the late Middle Ages is almost contemporary. For her the Cross is hideous and dreadful but also lovely and sweet, and God is not only our Father but also our most loving Mother.

This weekend explores some of these themes of Julian. We shall glimpse her forthright, tender answers to the confusion of our own world, our Church & our hearts. However unlikely, Julian assures us: *All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.*

Sr Ann Catherine Swailes is a Dominican sister & assistant Catholic chaplain at Cambridge University. She has recently completed a PhD exploring the Church and the mystery of suffering, in which Julian of Norwich has been a main focus.

Weekend cost £160/ shared room £128pp (payable during your stay please)

JUNE

Saturday 25 June *Journeying towards the End of Life*

Walking the Path & Accompanying Others

Reflection Day led by Revd Ann Fulton & Peter Bowe OSB

Come and engage with some of the spiritual questions which can arise as we ourselves or someone dear to us approaches the end of life. For some this may follow the unwelcome news of a palliative care diagnosis, for others life may be drawing to its natural close. (Palliative Care is treatment, care & support of those with a life-limiting illness & of their families.)

We shall reflect together on what “end of life” may mean, how easy (or not) it feels to talk freely about death, and what “spiritual care” can be for people today. We shall look at some practical ‘tools’ for accompanying others, the meaning of our own life & how to help others seek their own, sharing darkness and hope, and how we might talk about God. We hope you will bring questions. It will be a gentle day with room for personal space & self-care, with time for reflection & prayer; there will not be too many participants.

Revd Ann Fulton has been Spiritual Care Coordinator (chaplain) to St Margaret’s Hospice Care in Somerset for 8 years; she was previously a Church of England parish priest. Fr Peter Bowe is a monk of Douai Abbey currently running its Pastoral Programme.

Charge: £25 (payable on the day)

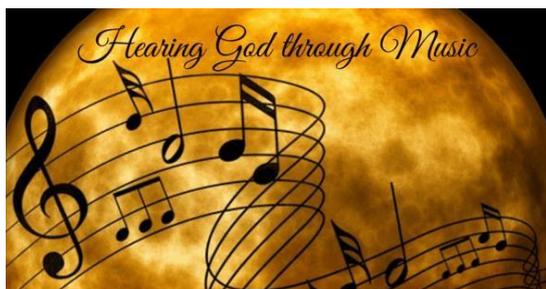


JULY

Saturday 2 July

Soul Journey with JS Bach (2) – Holy Spirit

Reflection Day led by Euan Tait



"The water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." says Jesus in John 4.13. Through Bach's great pilgrim cantatas, we explore the dance and joy of life in the Holy Spirit, and the constant source of refreshment the Holy Spirit is for us in our vocational struggles.

Euan Tait is an international librettist & experienced retreat leader who works in many UK communities, eg. Ammerdown, Minsteracres & Belmont. For many years a member of L'Arche at Bognor Regis, he now teaches at a college in western England. see <http://euantait.com>)

Charge: £25 (payable on the day)

Tuesday 5 -Friday 8 July

Lectio Divina Retreat

Led by Gervase Holdaway OSB



Experience the ancient art of praying with Scripture. Once practiced by all Christians, it is the slow, contemplative prayer which enables us to listen to God speaking through his Word and respond prayerfully. The retreat will allow time for solitude, reflection & sharing.

Fr Gervase Holdaway is oblate master, formerly parish priest and director of this pastoral programme.

Starting Tuesday evening & ending with Friday breakfast'

Charge: £200 / shared room £160pp (payable at the retreat please)

Saturday 9 July

At Home in Bethany

Reflection Day led by Barbara Priest

Lazarus, Martha and Mary provided Jesus with a place to rest and be himself, but they also shared with him their very different personalities. Together, we spend a day in Bethany and rediscover what we can learn from Jesus' friends

Barbara Priest is an Anglican lay minister in Salisbury Diocese, an oblate of Douai Abbey and a leader of Quiet Days. She specialises in contemplative ministry and loves helping people to meet God in the everyday through poetry, scripture, music, art and photography.



Charge: £25 (payable on the day)

22-24 July

Spirituality of St Bonaventure

Weekend Retreat led by Revd. Douglas Dales



St Bonaventure lived in the thirteenth century as a Franciscan teaching in the University of Paris, and then serving as Minister General of the Franciscans, until becoming a cardinal bishop at the behest of the Pope to guide the second Council of Lyons, where he died in 1274. Like his great friend & contemporary, St Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure is a Doctor of the Catholic Church, and a teacher of mystical theology is rooted in the Bible & influenced by the memory of St Francis of Assisi.

The retreat will be designed to give a full introduction to Bonaventure's life & teaching, with time set apart for private prayer in order to enter into his spiritual vision.

The Revd Douglas Dales is an Anglican parish priest and a friend of Douai Abbey working in the diocese of Oxford, who was for many years Chaplain of Marlborough College. He is married with three children and four grandchildren. He is the author of a trilogy of studies of St Bonaventure's spiritual theology that are published by James Clarke & Co, Cambridge.

Weekend cost £160/shared room £128pp (payable at the retreat please)

Planned for the rest of the year (details in June & to be confirmed):

- 20 Sept – 9 October ***Display in Douai Abbey Church of the Retreat Association Icon:***
Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well
- 16-18 September ***The Fourth Gospel***
Br Christopher Greener OSB
- 30 Sept- 2 October ***Mindfulness Forum***
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Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5TQ