

Isle of Wight Catholic History Society

(Established 2001 - Patron: Rt. Rev. Monsignor Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton)

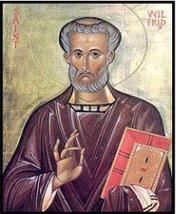
Publications by the society

Section One.

The people who inspired and promoted the Catholic Faith on the Island by their example, determination, fortitude and generosity.

St. Wilfrid – Patron of the Isle of Wight

£1-00



This booklet tells the story of Wilfrid's life and ministry and his promotion of the authority of the Papacy over local churches. He is rightly credited with the evangelization of the Isle of Wight. He is the first known saint to set foot on the Island (A.D. 686).

1350th anniversary of the First Known Missionary on the Island £1-00

The Island celebrated this anniversary in 2011 with a walking pilgrimage across the Island. This pamphlet gives the history that inspired this event.

Story of the Isle of Wight Martyrs

£2-50

Two brave martyr priests met their death here on the Island, having been caught on the ship bringing them to England. The story of their lives and martyrdom emphasizes the faith and courage of many of our English martyrs.

Elizabeth Heneage

£2-00

The Catholic church in Newport (built in 1792) is (arguably) the oldest, purpose built Catholic parish church in England. This was due almost entirely to this remarkable woman, who built the church in her garden. Her house is now the church presbytery. Read about her determination to build this church, despite Protestant opposition at the time.

Life of William Ward

£2-50

Living through the days of the Oxford Movement, this convert to the Faith (and contemporary of Newman) played a pivotal role in the growth of Catholicism in West Wight. He built a family chapel in his home at Weston Manor and it served as the parish church of West Wight until 1923.



Ryde to Rome

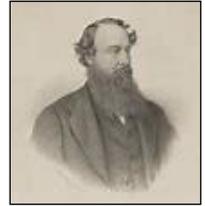
£3-00

The unique account of how a wealthy convert, Elizabeth, Countess of Clare, went on a pilgrimage to Rome and returned in 1841 enthused with a zeal to build a Catholic Church in Ryde. Twenty years later (in 1866) she also built the first (Post Reformation monastic institution on the Island – the Dominican Priory at Carisbrooke.

Sir John Simeon

£2-50

An interesting account of the life and times of this M.P. for the Isle of Wight and friend and contemporary of Newman, who converted to Catholicism in 1851. He was subsequently re-elected (in spite of his religion); thus, becoming, for a time, the only English Catholic M.P.



Life of Helen Gladstone

£2-50

The sister of the famous Victorian statesman, William Gladstone. Here is another convert to the Faith at the time of the Oxford Movement, who provided a chapel in her home here on the Island. Her life was a mix of optimism, fortitude, failure and despair.

Rev. Richard Sibthorpe

£1-00

An account of the life and times of the Anglican Vicar of St. James's, Ryde, (a contemporary of St. John Henry Newman) who caused much consternation when he converted to Catholicism in the early days of the Oxford Movement in 1841.



St. John Henry Newman and the Isle of Wight

£2-50



An interesting booklet produced at the time of his canonization. It gives a detailed account of his two visits to the Island (in 1861 and 1865), the people that he met and the places that he visited and the churches where he offered Mass.

Bishop John Baptist Cahill

£2-00

Read the account of this priest who spent over 30 years in Ryde before becoming the second Bishop of Portsmouth. His achievement in Ryde is remarkable; building the two fine side chapels dedicated to Our Lady and the Sacred Heart and establishing a convent school adjacent to the church in the High Street. Bishop Cahill is buried in Ryde cemetery.

Bishop William Cotter

£2-00



Read about the newly ordained Irish priest who came to Ryde as a young curate and followed Bishop Cahill as Rector of Ryde, Vicar-General and Bishop of Portsmouth. His thirty years as bishop were a period of growth and consolidation

Guglielmo Marconi

£2-00

This famous Italian Catholic scientist and inventor lived for a while here on the Island in the latter Victorian days, whilst undertaking telegraphic / communication experiments at West Wight.

He attended Mass at Weston Manor chapel.



Alfred Noyes – Island Catholic Writer

£2-00

The life and times of this literary figure and another convert to Catholicism, who lived for much of his life here on the Island.

Noyes (1880 – 1958) wrote many of his poems at Lislecombe in the Village of St. Lawrence, in a fine old house with a beautiful garden.



Section Two – Some of our Island churches

St. Mary's Church, Ryde

£2-00

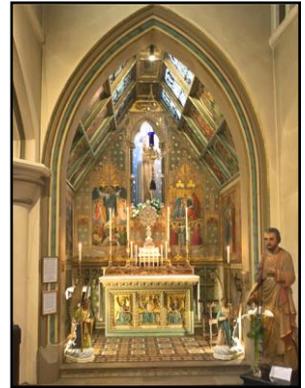
One of the foundation churches in the Diocese and steeped in Catholic history. A rare example of a Catholic church in a High Street and with a crypt and a private family chapel. This is one of the finest early Victorian Catholic churches in the south of England and the first to be dedicated to the "Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary"

The Lady Chapel of St. Mary's

£1-50

Constructed and opened in 1893 at the time of the re-dedication of England to Our Lady, this is one of the finest Lady Chapels in the Diocese, with a Pugin altar and biblical and devotional wall paintings by Nathaniel Westlake R.A. depicting some of the decades of the Rosary and ceiling panels portraying various themes from the Litany of Our Lady.

The chapel is still used occasionally for Mass.



St. Dominic's Priory, Carisbrooke

£2-50

Built in 1866, this was the first monastic institution established (Post Reformation) on the Island. Three years later Queen Victoria visited the Dominican nuns. This became the first (Post Reformation) royal visit to a Catholic abbey / priory. This booklet records the faith and generosity of the Countess of Clare, who built and endowed the priory.

St. Michael's Church, Bembridge

£2-00

Written at the time of the golden jubilee of the church in 2015, this booklet gives a unique insight into the growth of Catholicism in this coastal village and the strenuous efforts of both priests and people to build a church.

The Treasures of St. Michael's Church, Bembridge

£1-00

A record and appreciation of the vessels, vestments and artefacts donated to the church.

Holy Cross Church, Seaview

£2-00

The story of a tiny village church (one of the smallest in the diocese) built in the 1950s when most people had no means of transport to get to Sunday Mass. It inspired the growth of the Catholic community in this beautiful, coastal village for fifty four years until (sadly) it closed in 2011.



Section Three – Our Lady / Walsingham.

The Rosary – England’s Prayer

£3-00

Beautifully illustrated little booklet with a collection of modern poems, pictures old and new, and quotations from history, which show that the Rosary, despite all attempts to suppress it, remained and remains “England’s Prayer”.



Walsingham – England’s Nazareth

£2-00

Many pilgrimages have left the Isle of Wight and further afield to journey to Walsingham - England’s Nazareth. Read this booklet about the history of the shrine and its importance in English Catholic history which has been recently emphasised with the re-dedication of England to Our Lady this year.



Our Lady of Walsingham

£2-00

This is not an Island CHS booklet, nevertheless, the society is pleased to promote this well presented, beautiful little booklet outlining the history of the Walsingham shrine, and including some of the Marian prayers and devotions.

England: The Dowry of Mary – Meaning & Mission

A beautifully illustrated booklet (in A4 and A5), giving a historical survey of England as the Dowry of Mary from Medieval times to the present day and an explanation of its relevance to our times.

This booklet was produced in time for the re-dedication of England to Our Lady in March, 2020.

A4 size £5-00

A5 size £3-50



Section Four - Pilgrimages of Faith and Devotion

A Wight Reformation

£6-00

By far the largest and most comprehensive book produced the Island CHS. Just off the press (June 2020) it examines the state of the Pre-Reformation Island Church, using evidence of contemporary documents. This book is essential reading for any Church or local history enthusiast.

Praise through Poetry

£4-00

62 poems written by 18 Islanders on various aspects of the Catholic Faith; - the Bible, Sacraments, Saints, Feasts and Seasons, Life and Meditation.

Rome – Pilgrimage

£2-00

An account of a group pilgrimage from the Island to Rome in 2012, with details of visits to the Eternal City's four basilicas, the papal audience, the Colliseum and the Venerable English College.

£1-00

Durham and Holy Island Pilgrimage

An account of the pilgrimage to the shrines and historic Catholic places of the north east in 2008

Free

Poland Pilgrimage

An account of the pilgrimage to Poland in 2010; in particular, Krakow, Auschwitz and Częstochowa

Free

DVDs available from the Island CHS

Our society has the following DVDs which are available for people to borrow (at no cost) to view with their family, friends or parish groups / societies:-

St. Anne Line (one of the 40 martyrs of England & Wales) *St. Francis of Assisi*
Jerusalem – Lost treasures of the Ancient World *Rome and the Vatican*
The Extraordinary Form of the Roman Mass *Queenship in the Bible*
Inside the Vatican Mary’s “Arise once more” – Reviving Catholic Britain
“Hostia” – The Power and Presence of the Eucharist *Fire & Sword – Crusades*
Confession – The Forgotten Sacrament *Our Lady of Czestochowa*
Skellig Michael – Early Monasticism in Ireland *Our Lady of Walsingham*
Finding Fatima – Seek and you will find. *Fatima – The Great Sign*
The Dome of Home (Restoring the Past / Building for the Future)
Discovering St. Augustine’s – Pugin’s Masterpiece in Ramsgate.

Please contact the society for any booklets or to borrow any of the DVDs.

Isle of Wight Catholic History Society

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