



The Friars, Aylesford

Retreats 2016

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A meeting place and centre of Christian spirituality with a Carmelite community at its heart; a space where people of all ages and all faiths and none will find a welcome, where the sacred is expressed through prayer, the arts and nature.



Year of Mercy

“With the approach of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy I would like to focus on several points which I believe require attention to enable the celebration of the Holy Year to be for all believers a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God. It is indeed my wish that the Jubilee be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective.” (Pope Francis)

Lord Jesus Christ,

*you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.*

Show us your face and we will be saved.

*Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.*

*Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan
woman: “If you knew the gift of God!”*

*You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.*

*You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.*

*Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.*

*We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.*

Amen.

Lent Talks - The loving kindness at the heart of our God (7.30pm—9pm)

*Feb 17th “How can I give you up?” (Hosea 11:8) - Mercy in the Old Testament
Prophets - Kevin Alban, O.Carm.*

Feb 24th Expressions of mercy - the Beatitudes - Sheila Grimwood

*Mar 2nd Mercy in the forgiveness of Jesus - the Prodigal Son - Francis Kemsley,
O.Carm.*

Mar 9th Mercy in the healing ministry of Jesus - Francis Kemsley, O.Carm.

Mar 16th Mercy - brokenness and hope - Kevin Alban, O.Carm.

March

12th *Mercy Day Retreat 'Mercy' can seem an unattractive word, especially when used in the context of sin, where it is associated with misery, guilt and shame. If we look closely at one of the words in the Bible that we often translate as 'mercy', however, we find something amazingly beautiful and liberating that is a necessary key to a real understanding of the Gospel. Reconciliation service in the afternoon* Bernard Hoose

24th-27th *Easter Triduum Come and celebrate all the beauty and drama of our Church's solemn liturgy and traditions as we accompany Jesus through his Passion, ponder on his Death and rejoice in his Resurrection.* Damian Cassidy, O.Carm.
£255 single, £243 senior citizen, £237 shared.

May

Days of Prayer (10am—3.30pm)

4th *Praying the Gospel - Bernard Hoose*

11th *Poets, Prophets & Dreamers - Carmelite Prayer -*
Kevin Alban, O.Carm.

21st *Prayer with poetry - Elena White*

14th *Pentecost Service - 6pm Evensong*

27-29th *Corpus Christi - Encountering Silence A weekend focused on Jesus in the Eucharist with Daily Mass and the traditional 40 hours devotion and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.* Damian Cassidy. O.Carm.
£160 single, £155 senior citizen, £146 shared.

June

11th *Quiet Day in the Gatehouse (10.30am—3pm)*
Maggie Cascioli & Paul de Groot, O.Carm.

July

15th-17th *Our Lady of Mount Carmel An opportunity to consider Mary and Carmel in the Biblical and spiritual tradition of the Order. Kevin Alban, O.Carm. & Michael Cox, O.Carm. £160 single, £155 senior citizen, £146 shared.*

August

6th *Day on Poetry Denise Levertov's poetry expresses a breadth of experience and searching which led her at last to faith. In this workshop we shall explore how over many years she honoured the often painful truth of her life and finally discovered the "sapphire..at the fountain's heart."* Sr Felicity Young OSU

Seeing God in... (10am—3.30pm)

Sept 17th *Seeing God in Art* - Michael Manning, O.Carm & team

Sept 24th *Seeing God in Music* - Sr Anne Marie & team

Oct 8th *Seeing God in Walking as a Pilgrim* - This involves actual walking. Please book through Reception - Maggie Cascioli & Paul de Groot, O.Carm.

Oct 15th *Seeing God in Poetry* - Elena White & team

October

2nd *Thérèse Retreat* The writings of St Thérèse reveal a woman of great courage, wisdom and compassion. This retreat is an opportunity to look at the ways in which she is a model of prayer, reconciliation, and mission. Michael Cox, O.Carm.

28rd-30th *Merciful Like the Father Retreat* Bp. John Arnold is the author of the book 'Quality of Mercy' and he will be reflecting on the theme 'Merciful like the father'. £160 single, £155 senior citizen, £146 shared.

December

2nd-4th *Advent Retreat* A gentle retreat reflecting upon St. John the Baptist and Our Lady. They were figures of waiting, expectation and hope. How do they speak to us today? Francis Kemsley, O.Carm. & team.

£160 single, £155 senior citizen, £146 shared.

Rachel's Vineyard A weekend residential retreat for people hurting after an abortion. An opportunity to get away from the daily pressures of work and family, to focus on a painful time in life and to begin healing through a supportive and non-judgmental process. This retreat will run three times in the year.

Cost: £200

Rachel's Vineyard Team (www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk)

For dates and to book please contact: Pam: 07851 331816

WEEKENDS normally begin with supper at 7.00 pm on Friday and end with lunch at 1.00 pm on Sunday. The EASTER TRIDUUM begins 5.30 pm on Thursday and ends with lunch on Sunday. DAYS begin at 10.00 am and end by 4pm. On Days Tea/Coffee will be provided: please bring your own lunch or use the Tea Room. EVENINGS begin at 7.30 pm and end by 9.00 pm. DAY Retreat and EVENING talks are in the Gatehouse. Day Retreats and Evening/Day talks, donation only.

For further information or to reserve a place, please contact:

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