



CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY
THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY, WALSINGHAM
Walsingham - "England's Nazareth"

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

ASSUMPTIONTIDE 2018



DIVINE RESTORATION FOR THE NATION

The harvest of the Dowry of Mary is rich but the labourers are few. Divine restoration to re-evangelise this nation will require a selfless offering of vocation, fully focused on service to the Blessed Virgin Mary under her gaze as mother and teacher.

Divine restoration for the nation requires one will as a unified nation, a United Kingdom. A nation with an aspiration for holiness to do, live, breathe and be in God's will, that his Kingdom come, his will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

If we are serious about the Conversion of England we must be serious about the conversion of our own hearts first, asking Our Blessed Mother to lead us ever more fully to be conformed to the

fullness of God's plan for our lives in the divine will. As this divine restoration in our own heart deepens, it will deepen in all our relationships in family and community life, which inevitably will have a transformative impact in our parishes up and down the country.

The Angelus Promise

This is not a work of the flesh by our will but a work of the holy spirit in the divine will. We are invited to unite our Yes, our FIAT to the first disciple of Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Walsingham, England's Nazareth, England's hearth and household of Our Lady of Walsingham is the centre piece of God's mercy for the restoration of this nation. The ever-familiar prophecy by Pope Leo XIII "**When England returns to Walsingham, Our Lady will return to England**" must be the echo of our heartfelt prayer for divine restoration of this nation to manifest itself.

Return of the Greyfriars

In recent weeks part of God's divine restoration for this nation once holy and ancient in splendor became more visible - after 480 years of exile from Walsingham, the Greyfriars returned to build a new foundation. Fr James Mary McInerney is the appointed Guardian with his fraternity of friars who have come selflessly to offer their vocations in service of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Who are the Greyfriars?

The Franciscans first arrived on these shores on 10th September 1224. Blessed Agnellus of Pisa, who led this mission, had been chosen by St. Francis himself to go to England and become the first Minister Provincial. On this first voyage he was accompanied by eight Franciscan brothers; three of whom were English.

It was once said to the Holy Father "The friars minor illuminate our whole country with the bright light of their preaching and teaching. If your Holiness could see with what devotion the people run to hear from them the words of life..." Indeed, the friars survived through the generosity of those whom they ministered to, for they had no financial reserves of their own.

The friars in Great Britain & Ireland were respected by most for their observance of poverty and simplicity of life. The success of the Franciscan mission in these Isles is ably described by John of Parma, Minister General of the Order, in the year 1250 when he wrote, "How I wish that a province such as this could be set in the Centre of the world and provide an example for the whole order."

Walsingham is the spiritual centre of this nation and the friars returning have notably began in the spirit of their forefathers in faith at the Shrine of Our Lady, where they are tasked with serving the spiritual needs of the pilgrims as of old.

Labourers that illuminate with the bright light of their preaching and teaching have been sent in this beginning way for the divine restoration of this nation through the return of the Greyfriars.

They are witnessing an upward surge in vocations of men seeking to follow in the footsteps of St Francis to once again rebuild the church.

We give thanks to Our Blessed Mother for this beautiful gift to the people of England and unite with her in prayer for the witness of their vocations and service to her for the conversion of England.

May God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Resources on the Greyfriars

Historic visit to Walsingham from the Successor of St Francis

http://www.walsingham.org.uk/uploads/article/190/article_file/Return_of_Greyfriars_to_Walsingham_Press_Release_March_2018.pdf

Return of the Greyfriars to Walsingham - EWTN Production

https://youtu.be/h_n1E_rZ3pg

Official website of the Greyfriars of Great Britain

<https://www.thegreyfriars.org/where-we-are>

National Catholic Register Article

<http://www.ncregister.com/blog/kturley/after-centuries-of-exile-a-grey-friar-returns-to-walsingham>

Greyfriars returning to Walsingham

<http://catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2018/07/13/the-greyfriars-are-returning-to-walsingham-for-the-first-time-since-the-reformation/>

History on Friar Ruins Walsingham

<http://hbsmrgateway2.esdm.co.uk/norfolk/DataFiles/Docs/AssocDoc62095.pdf>