

# SISTERS ADORERS OF THE ROYAL HEART OF JESUS SOVEREIGN PRIEST



## ST AUGUSTINE'S CONVENT

SUMMER 2020

Dear friends,

We are delighted to let you know how we are doing, especially after this lockdown period which has been so painful for all of us. We have kept each one of you in our prayers and we have also been able to see how generous and kind you have been to us through your generosity, your friendly messages and prayers in these difficult times.

We offer you our heartfelt thanks.

Since it was announced that the Coronavirus was spreading rapidly, our Prior General asked us to increase the time we spend in adoration, in order to implore Heaven for graces and protection for the Church, the world, the Institute and our dear faithful. When the lockdown came into force, we had the grace to welcome one of the canons in our convent and so, we had the immense privilege of daily Mass, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day. Our religious life was not “disturbed” by the virus, but you were very much in our thoughts while you were kept away from the Sacraments and we asked the Good God to strengthen you.

Before this time of sadness, our community welcomed our Reverend Mother Madeleine-Marie of Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Royal Heart.





During her stay, our Mother saw our apostolate for the first time and was very touched. We visited the beautiful medieval city of Chester: a group performing a traditional dance (wearing a folk costume with bells on the legs), the taste of the delicious British scones and a surprise visit to the oldest house in the city were the gifts of Divine Providence to our Mother for her first visit to the UK. Mother Madelaine-Marie is eager to come back!

Saint Benedict's Academy had to close because of the lockdown, but our teaching Sisters continued giving lessons online. At the

beginning of June, school started again normally, to the joy and relief of the parents and teachers. Also, during this period of quiet, our Community was able to do some studies on the Liturgy and Holy Mass.



On 25<sup>th</sup> May, we celebrated the Feast of one of our Patron Saints, Saint Madeleine-Sophie Barat, a French nun who founded the Society of the Sacred Heart, devoted to the education of girls. Our chaplain gave us a sermon based on the Collect of the Mass, which was about conforming our hearts to the desires of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who speaks to us in our lives through Providence, in ways that can either be pleasant or crucifying, though always full of the personal Love which the Good God has for each one of us.



When the lockdown was over, we had a day out to the hill of Darwen, not far from Preston, where the "Jubilee Tower" was built in 1896 to commemorate Queen Victoria's golden Jubilee. From this spot, there is

a splendid view over the whole region. We had a picnic there, and spent some time doing spiritual reading before this wonderful panorama: *Benedicite omnia opera Domini Domino!* (*Canticle of the three children, Sunday at Lauds*)



Needlework is also part of our ongoing activities, as we are currently making veils for the ciboriums of Saint Walburge and English Martyrs and repairing some of the priestly vestments, which have been damaged over time.

finding our beautiful churches full a great joy for us to see that Our Lord is once again visited and prayed to: Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament must receive great consolation and honour after this long time of loneliness, from the singing of Holy Mass on a Sunday, the Divine Office with the Canons and the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every day in the church which is open for all those who wish to join us.

Since public worship was restored we have given thanks to God for again, including some new faces. It is



Dearest friends, we know from your messages and prayer requests that this time following the lockdown is very difficult in many respects (from an economic point of view among other things). Be assured of our humble prayers for you and for your

families as well as for the the crosses you are bearing.

We would like to tell you again how grateful we are for your continued spiritual and financial support.

May Our Lady of Walsingham, to whom this lovely country has been consecrated once again this year in a solemn way, bless and protect you.

In Corde Regis,

Your Sisters Adorers.



## **We need your help!**

For the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls, we have taken up a life of poverty as part of our vocation. Having no income from our contemplative life, we rely solely on the generosity and charity of our friends . We would be most grateful if you could help us financially.

We thank you for your aid after our previous appeal, but we still need to pay our annual heating bill (£2000 approx.), our house insurance (£1500 approx.), and council tax (£1500 approx.), car insurance, in addition to our daily needs. If you could set up a monthly donation, however small it may be, this would be a great help and would enable us to more fully dedicate ourselves to Adoration and prayer for all of you.

Thank you in advance for your support, and please be assured of our special prayers for our benefactors.