

Thailand: Betharramite presence in Thailand began in the early fifties after the expulsion of missionaries from China. So began the Betharramite missionary adventure in South-East Asia. In December 1951, the first Betharramites arrived in Chiang Mai, in the North of Thailand, which would be the site of the apostolic mission. We have communities in 3 different dioceses, Bangkok, Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai.



Vietnam: In 2015, we opened a residence with 2 religious, to welcome a few young people willing to discern their vocation and join our religious family. At present, we have some young religious in temporary vows who are being formed in our formation houses in Thailand and in India.



England: The Betharramite presence England arose in the context of the expulsion of religious from France.



It results from a decision of the Congregation which at the 1903 General Chapter held in Irun in Spain, opted for a foundation in a new country. Three reasons led to the foundation in England: the hope of St Michael, who according to the witness of Fr Casedepax, had expressed a desire to do something for England; the opportunity to prepare English teachers for colleges in Europe and America; the certainty of finding a safe location, with a stable government which wasn't anti-clerical, away from the dangers that threatened the Church and the Congregation in France.



Betharram Fathers and Brothers here in England may feel we are a small community of religious. As a result, we are trying to respond in a Betharramite way to the needs of the Church at the present day. We are very much integrated with our parish ministry and ministry to young people. Thanks to the Chaplaincy work of our Brothers to the local Catholic Schools. We remember the words of our Founder and we try to live them out: "Blessed be God. *En Avant*; go forward always, with patience and joy. Come what God may want."

If you are considering a vocation to Religious Brother or Priest of the Sacred Heart, speak to Fr. Wilfred Pereppadan SCJ your local priest



Societas Presbyterorum
Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

Good Shepherd Sunday Vocation Newsletter 24th April 2021



Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers of Betharram Vocation Sunday Supplement

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, especially for Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers of Betharram. This Year, we SCJ community in Nottingham would like to reflect and to share with you our General Chapter Theme of 'Going out to share our Joy' especially by promoting Vocational Animation in our Parish communities at Clifton and Meadows. We know that many of you daily are praying for the Vocations to the priesthood and religious life. St. John Paul II said that "the entire People of God is responsible for promoting vocations, and does so chiefly by persistent and humble prayer for vocations." We know that to serve the Church as a priest or a religious is indeed a humbling honour which no one merits but which Our Lord chooses for us. We ask you all therefore to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into His vineyard, and we should always pray for vocations to serve the Church in the priesthood and the religious life.



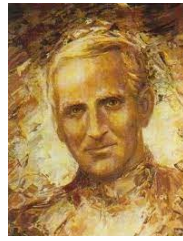
God Bless

SCJ Community Nottingham



Who are we ? Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers of Betharram?

Saint Michael Garicoits founded the Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers at Betharram in France in 1835. Gathered usually in small communities of three or four members, the Religious of Betharram exist first and foremost to try to fulfil the ideals of a fraternal life in prayer and sharing. We are "active religious", undertaking a wide range of activities to help further the mission of the Church and the Kingdom of God.



Where are we ?

South America: In 1855 a group of religious left for Buenos Aires, Argentina. St. Michael wished to go himself but the Bishop of Bayonne asked him to stay in Betharram. From Argentina our congregation spread their missionary work to Paraguay, Uruguay and in 1935 in Brazil.



Betharram and Nazareth: In 1875 Betharram religious went as Chaplains to the Carmelite Convents and St. Miriam Baouardy, an Arab Carmelite, helped to establish our community in Holy Land. Today, the religious of Betharram work not only as Chaplains but also in the parishes and villages of that area. They also have communities of welcome, where local study groups and pilgrims are able to stay and pray while visiting Holy places.



In Europe: France is the birthplace of the Betharram Congregation. According to the first biography of St Michael by Father Basilde Bourdonne, the saint of Betharram began assembling his first disciples. Once the Major Seminary had been transferred to Bayonne in 1833, he was left on his own "superior of the four walls of a huge building". The first beginnings of the future Congregation emerged in the shadow of the Marian shrine, and it was here that Father Michael Garicoits assembled the first group of volunteers "ready to go wherever obedience called them".

Italy: The presence of the religious order of Betharram was born in Italy in the context of the expulsion of religious orders from France in 1903. In Italy, Betharramites shared the charism of St. Michael with the laity, who today collaborate actively with the religious of the Italian vicariate to carry forward the common mission of the church.



Africa: The Ivory Coast welcomed the missionaries who went to train catechists in 1959. Work started in the Central Africa Republic in 1986. One of the missionaries is a priest and also a medical doctor. There are quite a few native African priests ordained in recent years.



Asia: India; Indian foundation of Betharram was concretely made with the opening of the first formation house "Shobhana Shaakha" at Bangalore on September 4, 1995. The primary mission of Betharram at that stage was to lay down a solid foundation moulding future Indian missionaries at the service of the Church and society.

