

Community of St Mary the Virgin Oblates



As Oblates we are called to share, with the Sisters, in their response to God. We are united in finding the Community an inspiration for prayerful living in our everyday lives.

We share with each other a common rule for personal reflection and we each draw up our own rule of life, rooted in the Eucharist, which meets our individual circumstances and needs.

With God's help we aim to grow into the values of the Religious Life, making them more visible in the communities where we live and work.

*“I am the
Lord’s servant.
Let it be to me
according to
your word.”
Luke 1 v38*

Guiding Principles

Recognising that individual circumstances will vary, Oblates, in accordance with their personal Rule of Life, will undertake to share in the Community's life and spirit through:

- ❖ Regular worship at the Eucharist
- ❖ Daily prayer and Bible reading
- ❖ Regular intercession for the Community, fellow Oblates and Associates
- ❖ Setting aside time for a regular retreat or quiet day
- ❖ Concern and compassion for those in need
- ❖ Simplicity of lifestyle and reverence for God's world
- ❖ Fellowship and support for the Community, fellow Oblates and Associates



Oblates, both men and women, share a strong bond with the Community, and each other. We receive a regular letter with news, requests for prayer and a personal reflection shared by individual Oblates. Many are able to take part in local Oblate groups.

We look forward to our annual Oblates' Day at the Convent: meeting friends, discovering new relationships and worshipping together. Quiet and stillness can be explored in group and individually guided retreats organised throughout the year.

We are encouraged to form a personal relationship with the Community and are always welcome to stay on the Retreat Wing and share worship with the Sisters.

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In this busy world, are you drawn to a more contemplative way of life?

Is God calling you to serve and worship him from your office desk, amidst your family and friends, from behind your steering wheel or from wherever life takes you?

If your faith calls you to take the next step, then consider exploring what becoming an Oblate of the Community of St Mary the Virgin (CSMV) might give you and ask of you.

To discover more please contact the Oblates' Council and the Oblates' Liaison Sister at the Convent.

Email: csmvoblates@gmail.com and srstella@csmv.co.uk

The cross in St Mary Magdalene's Chapel was inspired by atomic research. An American physicist succeeded in photographing a cluster of atoms present in a single crystal of metal at the tip of a platinum needle. When magnified 750,000 times the atoms were shown to be in the form of a cross.

CSMV is one of the longest serving traditional religious communities in the Church of England. For 175 years the members of the Community have been alert to and praying for the needs and injustices of contemporary society, historically responding to acute needs in India, South Africa, Botswana, as well as in England.

While keeping those links vibrantly alive, more recently it has been expanding its work in and around Wantage with a particular emphasis on education.

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