



The priory became a hub of modern art – and for artist Adam Kossowski, who was born in Poland and moved to Britain during the Second World War, the commissions at Aylesford provided opportunities to leave some of the most cherished parts of his legacy. His first work for the friars was a seven-panel *History of the Carmelites of Aylesford* in tempera; he then went on to create a ceramic Rosary Way – it was, he later said, the biggest ceramic commission he ever had. When he died in 1986, Kossowski was buried at Aylesford.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Another important artist whose work is showcased at the priory is Moira Forsyth, who was one of the best British stained glass artists of the twentieth century. She trained at the Royal College of Art and created one of the windows at Guildford Cathedral. For Aylesford, she gifted the *Flos Carmeli* (Flower of Carmel) window, whose name derives from the first words of a hymn sung by the Carmelites to honour the Virgin Mary.

Dom Charles Norris, a Benedictine monk based at Buckfast Abbey in Devon, best known for his stunning array of windows there, designed Aylesford's Relic Chapel windows, using a style called "dalles de verre" in which tiles of coloured glass were chipped into shape and laid in mosaic fashion. Other windows, including the spring of faith series in St Anne's Chapel, were made at Hartley Wood Glass of Sunderland.

As well as a pilgrimage centre, The Friars is a great destination for a family day out; one of its barns has been transformed into a tea room, and there's a working pottery on site. It's also a good alternative to a hotel if you're looking to have a weekend in this corner of Kent.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:7-9

PSALM Psalm 125

RESPONSE What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R.**
2. The heathens themselves said: "What marvels the Lord worked for them!" What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **R.**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R.**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. R.

SECOND READING Hebrews 5:1-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 10:46-52

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

Next Sunday's Readings:

England & Wales: Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
Scotland: Deuteronomy 6:2-6
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 12:28-34

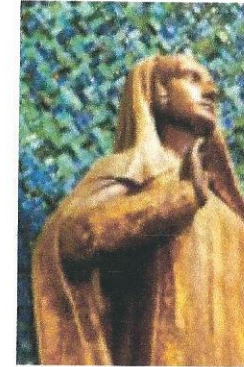


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A HUB OF MODERN ART – AYLESFORD PRIORY, KENT

During the long, dark days of the pandemic, Aylesford Priory has been one of the places to which I have been most longing to return. With its picture-postcard green and duck pond, its elegant church and its wonderful modern art, Aylesford – also called The Friars – is the kind of oasis of tranquillity and rural peace whose delights I will relish even more after a lockdown spent in a city centre.



Aylesford has a fascinating, and fractured, history: like so many monasteries and priories in Britain, the Reformation forced its closure for many years. The first Carmelites arrived in the thirteenth century and the death a few years later of the Prior General of the Order, St Simon Stock, who had a vision of Our Lady, led to the creation of a shrine to the saint that exists to this day.

In 1538 the friary was closed down, and over the next few centuries the land on which it sat changed hands from one privileged family to another, until by the turn of the twentieth century it was in the care of a family called Woolsey. However, in 1930 disaster struck: a fire caused an enormous amount of damage and a few years later the building was put on the market.

For the Carmelite community, the opportunity to buy back their original UK mother house could not be ignored. Funds were raised – and 800 years after they first moved in, and 500 years after they were ousted, the Carmelites were back. Fr Malachi Lynch, the first prior, realised its potential as a place of pilgrimage for English Catholics and he commissioned Adrian Gilbert Scott, a member of the family of renowned Catholic architects, to begin work on a large open-air shrine. Fr Malachi's motto was: "We must have courage to build anew," and he inspired many artists of the time to create work for the priory.

Houses of God



Joanna Moorhead looks at a religious house, shrine and pilgrimage centre in the heart of south-east England.



24 OCTOBER 2021

30TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II