

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF

ST. JOSEMARÍA'S

Visits to the UK



1958-1962

J

• Pocket Booklet •

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Canterbury Cathedral Pictures: Angela Prior



◀ CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Mother Church of the Anglican Communion and seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, it is part of a World Heritage Site. The Cathedral's history goes back to 597 AD when St. Augustine, sent by Pope Gregory the Great as a missionary, established his seat (or 'Cathedra') in Canterbury. In 1170 Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in the Cathedral. In 1173, Becket was canonized by Pope Alexander III. Pilgrims began to flock to Thomas's shrine in the Cathedral. St. Josemaría prayed in the Cathedral and admired many design features; he had a copy made of the painting of the Blessed Trinity above the tomb of the Black Prince. This copy now decorates a wall in the crypt of the Prelatic Church of Opus Dei in Rome.



Visitors' Guide Information

Canterbury, Kent CT1 2EH

Nearest train: Canterbury East Station or

Canterbury West Station. Admission charge.

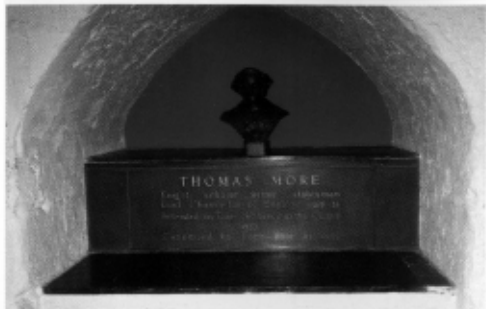
ANGLICAN CHURCH



ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

“He was the person of the greatest virtue these islands ever produced”

(Samuel Johnson). Thomas More was killed by Henry VIII for refusing to take the oath of allegiance which proclaimed the king head of the Church in England. His body is buried in the crypt of St. Peter ad Vincula, in the Tower of London like many others executed before and after him, in an unmarked grave. His head is buried in the Anglican Church of St. Dunstan, Canterbury. Pope John Paul II made Saint Thomas More the patron and inspiration for the world's politicians and statesmen in the Jubilee of 2000.



Visitors' Guide Information

80 London Road, Canterbury,
Kent, CT2 8LS

Nearest train: Canterbury West Station.

MICHELHAM PRIORY

Michelham Priory is set on a medieval moated island and surrounded by gardens: an idyllic setting where it is possible to imagine the life of the small band of Augustinian canons who first came here in 1229. The priory was 'dissolved' in 1537 and the church and most of the east cloister range were pulled down for their building materials. It boasts a medieval watermill still in full working order, producing stone ground flour

Michelham Priory Pictures: Sarah Dawson

**Visitors' Guide Information**

Michelham Priory & Gardens, Upper Dicker, nr Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 3QS Nearest train: Both Berwick & Polegate Stations are 3 miles away. Admission charge.

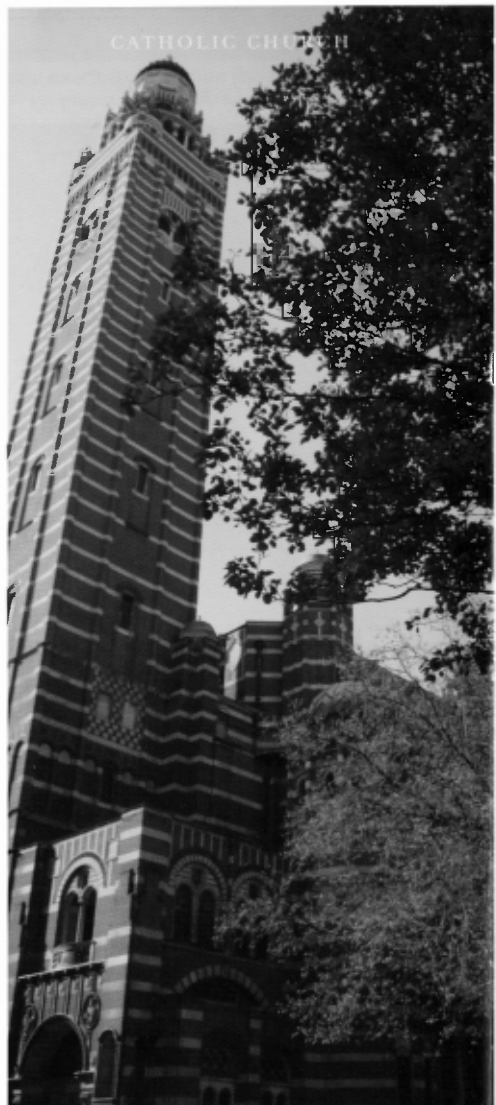
OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN

At the shrine of Our Lady of Willesden on Friday 15th August 1958, St. Josemaría consecrated Opus Dei to Our Lady in the name of everyone in Opus Dei.

“We consecrate to you our being and our life, everything that is ours: all that we love and all that we are. Our bodies, our hearts and our souls are for you; we are yours. And to make this consecration truly effective and lasting, today at your feet, O Mary, we renew the dedication that we made to God in Opus Dei. Inspire us with a deep love for the Church and the Pope, and make us live in full submission to all their teachings.”

The consecration is renewed in the same words on every 15th August in all centres of Opus Dei.

CATHOLIC CHURCH II



WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Little over a century old and still unfinished, the Roman Catholic Cathedral Church of Westminster, which is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

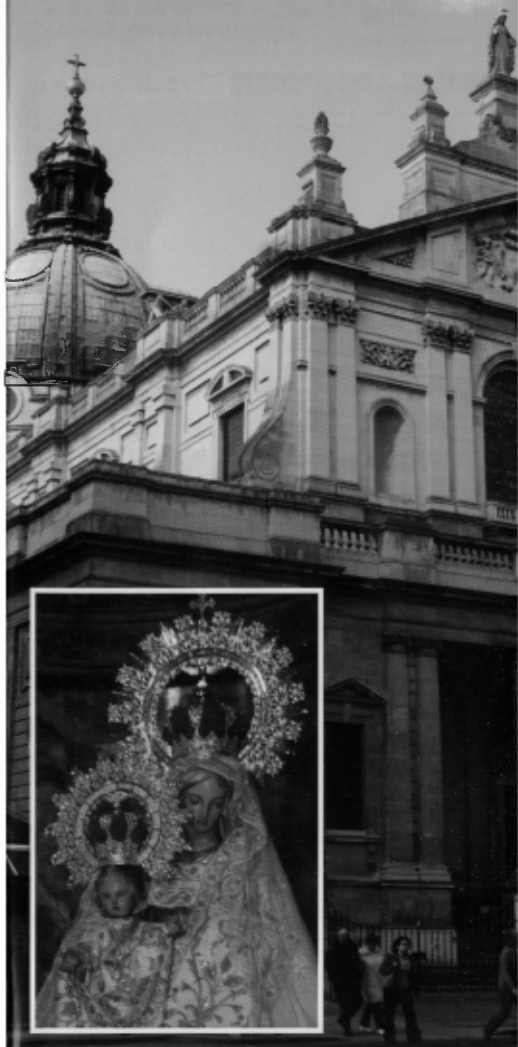


was designed in the Early Christian Byzantine style by the Victorian architect John Francis Bentley. The 1420 alabaster carved statue, which St. Thomas More knew as Our Lady of Pew, now also known as Our Lady of Westminster, is situated off the main aisle, on the right (in front of the South Transept) just before you get to the main sanctuary. St. Josemaría prayed before this image in the 20th century Cathedral.

Visitors' Guide Information

Westminster Cathedral Piazza,
Victoria Street, London SW1P 1QW
Nearest tube: Victoria Station.

CATHOLIC CHURCH



 THE LONDON ORATORY

Built between 1880 and 1884, and home to a community of priests called 'The Congregation of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri' or Oratorians. St. Philip Neri (1515-1595) founded his Congregation in Rome and it has spread throughout the world. An Oratory is first and foremost a place of prayer. St. Philip attached great importance to the beauty of divine worship and the power of sacred music to raise our hearts to God, and the Fathers of the London Oratory maintain this tradition. Like St. Josemaría, St. Philip was particularly devoted to Our Lady.

He used to say:

*“My sons, be devoted
to the Madonna.”*

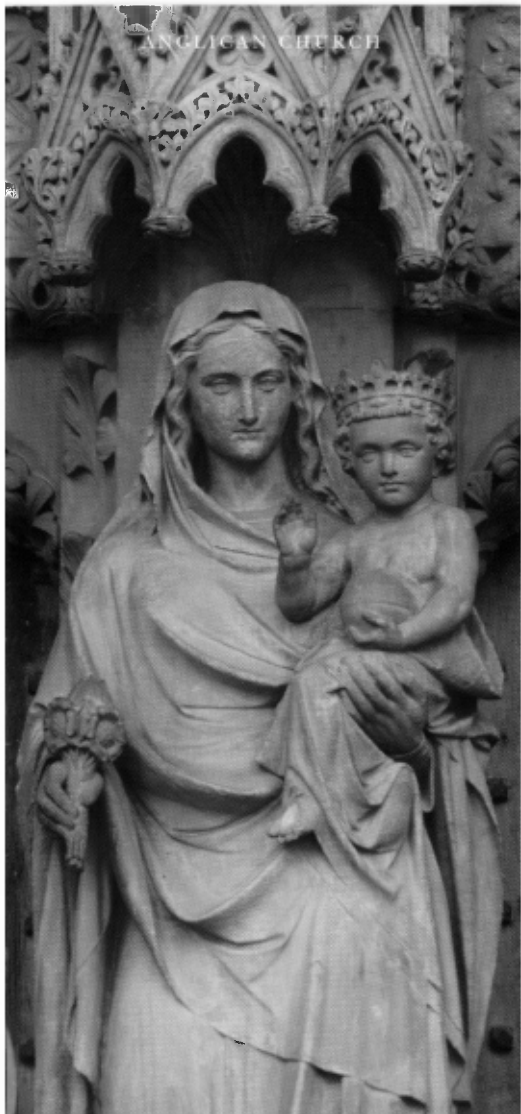
This is why the founding Fathers of the London Oratory dedicated their new church to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. St. Josemaría loved to go and pray in Brompton Oratory when he was in London, and his first sons in England heard Mass here daily and were very kindly attended to by the Oratorian Fathers.

Visitors' Guide Information

Brompton Road,
London SW7 2RP

Nearest tube: South Kensington Station.

ANGELICAN CHURCH



WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Benedictine monks first settled here in the middle of the tenth century. In the 1040s King Edward (later St. Edward the Confessor) re-endowed the small Benedictine monastery, building a large stone church in honour of St. Peter the Apostle. The church became known as the 'west minster' or monastery, to distinguish it from St. Paul's Cathedral (the east minster) in the City of London. When it was consecrated on 28 December 1065 the King was too ill to attend and died days later. The Abbey contains his shrine, the tombs of kings and queens and countless memorials to the famous and the great. It has been the setting for every Coronation since 1066. Since the Reformation, it has been an Anglican church.



Visitors' Guide Information

Broad Sanctuary, London SW1P 3PA
Nearest tube: Westminster Station.
Admission charge £10 (adult)

ANGLICAN CHURCH



 **ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL**

A Cathedral dedicated to St. Paul has overlooked the City of London since 604 AD, a constant reminder to this great commercial centre of the importance of the spiritual side of life. On Ludgate Hill, in the City of London, this is the seat of the Anglican Bishop of London.

The present Sir Christopher Wren building is reckoned to be the fifth Cathedral on this site, completed on the architect's 76th birthday in 1708, thirty-two years and three months after a spark from a bakery caused London to burst into flames. It is built of Portland stone in the late Renaissance style that is England's sober Baroque. Its impressive dome - a famous London landmark - was inspired by St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Visitors' Guide Information

Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 8AD

- Admission charge from £3.50 (child) to £10 (adult)
- Nearest tube: Mansion House and Blackfriars Stations.



◀ ST. JOSEMARÍA IN THE CITY



*“Here too we shall sow
peace and joy
in abundance.”*

This recalls a locution that Saint Josemaría had one day in August 1958 while walking through the City of London. He was feeling very weak, with the sensation that he could do nothing in the face of such great institutions reflecting human power, wealth and influence. He then heard the words:

*“You can’t, but I can.
Here too we shall
sow peace and joy
in abundance”*

CATHOLIC CHURCH



ST. ETHELDREDA'S CHURCH

St. Etheldreda's was the town chapel of the Bishops of Ely from c. 1250 to 1570, and took its name from one of England's most popular saints. Now one of only two buildings in London dating from the reign of Edward I, it is the oldest Catholic church in England. It was once one of the most influential places in London, with a palace and vast grounds. In 1666, the Great Fire of London swept through the City destroying everything in its path until it reached St. Etheldreda's. Then the wind changed and the ancient church was saved. By the time the fire had burned itself out, two-thirds of London had been destroyed. St. Etheldreda's is part of our national heritage and is used daily for the purpose for which it was built over 700 years ago.

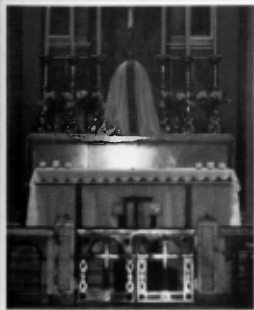


Visitors' Guide Information

14 Ely Place,
London EC1N 6RY
Nearest tube: Chancery Lane Station.

OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN

Two canonized saints who have particular relevance for the mission of the Church in the 21st century were both devotees of Our Lady of Willesden. Both trained as lawyers and both are recognized for their message about the dignity of the lay vocation. St. Thomas More's last visit to the shrine was in 1534, just before his arrest. St. Josemaría Escrivá also visited the shrine. On 15th August 1958 during a pilgrimage there he re-consecrated Opus Dei to the Most Sweet Heart of Mary. He returned on 17th August 1962, recited the Holy Rosary and bought some holy pictures of Our Lady of Willesden to distribute to members of Opus Dei in London. In 2002 the 'Guild of Our Lady



of Willesden' was set up under the Presidency of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, to revive the shrine as an active sanctuary of prayer for the needs of London.

Visitors' Guide Information

1 Nicoll Road, London NW10 9AX

Nearest tube: Harlesden Station.

NEW COLLEGE GATE

St. Josemaría visited both these famous university cities and remarked on the number of statues of the Virgin Mary on the facades of colleges. He visited New College, Oxford where there is a fine scene of the Annunciation above the entrance gate in New College Lane, twice repeated in the quadrangle inside. An image of Our Lady also appears in a niche in a pinnacle above the chapel as viewed from the Cloister. He would very probably have seen the statue over the porch of the Oxford University church of St. Mary the Virgin and another high on the tower of Brasenose College overlooking Radcliffe Square. He also visited King's College Cambridge, where he prayed a Memorare before the carved figure of the Virgin Mary in the Chapel.

**Visitors' Guide Information**

Admission charges apply on visiting colleges in Oxford & Cambridge.

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH



A jewel right in the heart of London and a spiritual oasis to many, this church reflects the richness of Catholic traditions and caters for all categories of people, especially the young and those searching for the truth. On 17th August 1958 St. Josemaría visited the church, where priests of Opus Dei heard confessions regularly. They continue to do so every weekday 12.00 - 1.00, and on Saturdays 10.30 - 12.00. The church is in George Street, near the corner with Marylebone High Street.

Visitors' Guide Information

22 George Street, London W1U 3QY

Nearest tube: Baker Street and Bond Street Stations.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

St. Josemaría enjoyed visiting the Victoria & Albert Museum in South Kensington. He admired the piety, imagination and magnificence shown in the beautiful religious objects on display. He learnt details of artistic design from items in the collection (for example, this 17th century German monstrance, which is rich in Eucharistic symbolism) and he passed on this knowledge to architects and artists who could incorporate some of

the ideas into new projects. He loved to teach people that places and objects for the worship of God should be as generous and lavish as possible, as this both helps to stimulate piety and is a sign of faith in practice.



Silver Monstrance by Johannes Zeckel, 1705

Visitors' Guide Information

Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London SW7 2RL
Nearest tube: South Kensington Station.

FOOTSTEPS OF ST. JOSEMARÍA

50 years ago St. Josemaría
consecrated Opus Dei
to The Most Sweet Heart
of Mary at The Shrine of
Our Lady of Willesden
15th August 1958



For further information on Saint Josemaría Escrivá
t: www.josemariaescriva.info or www.opusdei.org.uk