

'Crux Sacra Sit Mihil Lux'

May the Holy Cross be my Light

Who Are The Elston Benedictines?

The Elston Benedictines are a small community of priests and hermits living the eremitical life under the Benedictine Rule, written by Saint Benedict in the 5th century. We are under the patronage of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Nottingham according to the Code of Canon Law 603.

We are called to a life of silence, solitude, prayer and penance for the good of the whole church and the salvation of all men. We live out our solemn vows of poverty, chastity and obedience mainly in a contemplative way, although we are not cloistered and are often engaged in ministries outside the hermitage.

The foundations of our life based on our rule and constitutions are those of a life of simplicity, the Eucharist being the pivot of our daily lives, along with prayer, meditation, study and work, this way the whole person body, mind and spirit are offered in an ever growing closer to God.

OUR HISTORY

From the very early times of the church there were both cenobites and hermits amongst the various groups of Religious. The cenobites lived as monks in community, the hermits living in retirement to pray alone, therefore, hermitages were to be found in many places. The life of the hermit or anchoress, those living a life of seclusion are to be found then from earliest times and now in our own time the eremitical life continues. You will recognise us by the traditional black Benedictine habit similar to that of most Benedictine congregations.

Our Hospitality

We uphold the Benedictine ethos that 'every guest should be received as Christ'. Therefore guests receive a genuine welcome although we prefer that these be pre-arranged.

The Fathers are available for Spiritual Direction and Advice.

What do we do?

Our day begins and ends with prayer throughout the hours of the day. The Liturgy of the Hours are prayed, in fact, seven times a day. As the psalmist tells us, we are called to the formal prayer of the Church.

Whether we are engaged in prayer or work, God's love and mercy for mankind is reflected upon. Our purpose for giving continual thank is so that God's name is continually praised whatever we are doing or where ever we are to be found.

Throughout the day opportunity is given to less formal prayer such as, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary and Intercessory Prayer bringing before God all estates of

men, especially those who have commended themselves to our prayers. Although most of our day is based around the daily Horarium (timetable) and within the confines of the hermitage, often we are visible within the diocese and parishes locally when necessary.

Contact Us at benedictinebrethren@hotmail.co.uk



Fr David Bowler and Fr Richard Edey flanking their few Religious from Mt St Bernard's Abbey on their Ordination Day 11/07/2016 at St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham