



PROROME



**REGISTER TODAY**

The Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton Invites You

## **Literary Heroes, Saints & Martyrs**

A Pilgrimage through Merrie England with Father Spencer Howe

**August 4 - 14, 2025**

With an optional extension to Cambridge and Walsingham, August 14 - 16, 2025

A Chestertonian pilgrimage in every respect, this journey is animated by the life and work of Gilbert Keith Chesterton. His personal and intellectual gifts and his conversion to Catholicism form the lens through which he teaches us to see the whole, the universal, and the authentic meaning of things. No modern thinker has so skilfully as Chesterton interpreted history, sacred and mundane, with such comprehension and then proclaimed it so beautifully through the art of the pen.

This pilgrimage will explore the sites and stories of the life of G.K. Chesterton. From our overnight destinations of Oxford, London and Canterbury, we'll explore the sacred history of Merrie England. An optional two-night extension (minimum 20 required to operate) includes two nights in Cambridge with a day-trip to Walsingham, the greatest Marian shrine of England and the beating heart of Catholic Britain.

For more information or to register, please visit [www.prorometours.com/chesterton-society](http://www.prorometours.com/chesterton-society)

*"There is one thing which gives radiance to everything. It is the idea of something around the corner."*  
G.K. Chesterton

## THE ITINERARY



### Monday, August 4

#### Depart USA for London Heathrow (Lhr)

For those flying with the group, arrive at New York JFK no later than 5:00 PM. American Airlines flight 106 scheduled to depart for London LHR at 7:30 PM.

### Tuesday, August 5

#### Arrival, Stonor House, Overnight Oxford

Arrival at Heathrow at 7:45 AM and departure for Stonor House, a manor and famous recusant home in Oxfordshire. Fr. Edmund Campion was sheltered in the attic here, where he wrote pamphlets defending the Catholic faith. Fr. Campion was eventually found and imprisoned in the Tower of London, and later martyred at Tyburn Gallows on the edge of London. The mistress of Stonor House, Lady Cecily Stonor, bravely refused to stop offering shelter to Catholic priests. Mass in the chapel at Stonor Park. Lunch at the nearby Bull and Butcher or Chequers Inn. Depart for Oxford; arrive and check into the Hotel Mercure Oxford Hawkwell House - quintessentially British and surrounded by gardens. Dinner at Hawkwell house and overnight.

### Wednesday, August 6

#### Oxford, Overnight

The day begins with Mass at the Oxford Oratory, formerly St. Aloysius Gonzaga parish, where Cardinal Newman preached and Gerard Manley Hopkins was a priest. A walking tour through the University and town includes visits to the Bodleian Library, Radcliffe Camera and Sheldonian Theater, followed by free time for lunch. The tour of Oxford will conclude with visits to Christchurch, Oriel and

Magdalene College. C. S. Lewis was a fellow at Magdalene College when he read Chesterton's Everlasting Man which sparked his journey towards Christianity. A free evening in Oxford with optional Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral, Christ Church College. Dinner in Oxford or return to the hotel by bus.

### Thursday, August 7

#### Uffington, Overnight Oxford

Morning Mass in Blackfriars Hall, seat of the Dominican Community and a house of studies at Oxford. Travel south in Oxfordshire to the rural village of Uffington, located in the district called Vale of White Horse. The vale is named after an ancient large image of a horse inscribed on the top of a hill. Its outline was delineated by being filled with ground white chalk. The "horse" is cleaned regularly by local volunteers to keep it from being overgrown by grass. The monument is believed to be prehistoric, however, tradition holds that it was created as a monument to King Alfred's defeat of the Vikings at the Battle of Ethandune, which inspired Chesterton's poem The Ballad of the White Horse. Lunch at White Horse Inn in Woolstone/Uffington (pending availability of group accommodation). Return to Oxford for dinner at the hotel and overnight.

### Friday, August 8

#### Beaconsfield, Arrive London, Overnight London

Not far from Oxford is Beaconsfield, where Gilbert and Frances Chesterton lived from 1909 until their deaths (first at Overroads and later across the street, at Top Meadow). Mass at St. Therese of the Child Jesus parish, the first Catholic church in Beaconsfield. The Chestertons helped fund construction of the church and donated a statue of Mary holding the child Jesus. The stained glass window of St. Francis receiving the Stigmata is dedicated to the Chestertons. Lunch in Beaconsfield (at White Hart Inn which Chesterton frequented). The final stop in Beaconsfield is Shepherd's

Lane Cemetery to visit on foot the gravesite of G. K. and Frances Chesterton. Depart for London. Check in at the Wellington Hotel, in a quiet setting that belies its location in Westminster, the heart of London. St. James Park, where Gilbert proposed to Frances Blogg, is within walking distance of the Wellington. Dinner at the hotel and overnight.

### Saturday, August 9

#### Tyburn Convent, Chesterton Sites in Kensington, Overnight London

Mass at Tyburn Convent, founded in 1903 near the spot where the Tyburn martyrs, including St. Edmund Campion, were put to death in defense of the Faith during the Reformation. After Mass and the veneration of relics, a walk through the Kensington neighborhood will reveal the house where Chesterton was born, and the house where he lived from the ages of five to twenty five. Nearby are St. George's Anglican church where Chesterton was baptised, and St. Mary Abbots church where Gilbert and Frances were married. Visit historic St. Francis of Assisi Catholic church, founded as a mission of the Oblates of St. Charles Borromeo under Father (later Cardinal) Manning. Free evening in London. Consider dining at one of Chesterton's favorite haunts, Cheshire Cheese Pub - or else Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese on Fleet Street, where many famous writers have visited.

### Sunday, August 10

#### London, Free Day (Possibility of Day-trip North of London), Overnight London

Morning Mass and tour of the stunning Brompton Oratory, the second largest Catholic church in London after Westminster Cathedral. After Mass, it is worthwhile to go next door to the Victoria and Albert Museum with its fascinating collections including many of John Constable's most beautiful landscapes, or the Cast Courts which display perfect reproductions of some of the world's greatest works of sculpture. The afternoon is free to



# ITINERARY CONTINUED



enjoy London at leisure; optional bus tour includes sites such as Piccadilly Circus, the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London and the Tower Bridge. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

## Monday, August 11 Aylesford, Canterbury

Early departure for Canterbury. The first stop is West Sussex, for Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, the parish church of Hilaire Belloc and his burial place. The final stop enroute to Canterbury is the Carmelite priory at Aylesford. This is where Our Lady gave the brown scapular to St. Simon Stock in the 13th century. If available, a Carmelite father can tell the fascinating story and enroll pilgrims in brown scapular. Lunch at Chiltern Hundreds restaurant and pub. Continue to Canterbury. Arrival and check in at the Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, situated on the grounds of the great cathedral; dinner and overnight at the hotel.

## Tuesday, August 12 Canterbury

From the hotel it is a brief stroll to Mass at St. Thomas Catholic Church, where pilgrims can venerate a relic of St. Thomas Becket. Walk to Canterbury Cathedral for a tour of this hallowed place where Thomas Becket was murdered while offering Mass, and where he was buried. (Becket's remains were destroyed during the Reformation.) Free time for lunch with an afternoon tour of the city. England's Christian history begins with Canterbury. Here are the ruins of St. Augustine's Abbey, founded in 598 by St. Augustine of Canterbury, the Benedictine monk sent by Pope St. Gregory the Great to evangelize England. For centuries the abbey held an important place in English history until it was dissolved by Henry VIII. Tour of the city also includes a visit to St. Dunstan's church, where King Henry II did public penance for his role in Becket's murder. The head of St. Thomas More is at St. Dunstan's. Free evening in Canterbury

## Wednesday, August 13 Canterbury and Ramsgate

Pending feasibility, a possible visit to the nearby ruins of St. Radegund's Abbey as prelude to Ramsgate and the proper conclusion to an English pilgrimage. A short distance east of Canterbury, Ramsgate is home to the Shrine of St. Augustine of Canterbury. The shrine houses relics of St. Augustine and Pope St. Gregory. Augustus Pugin lived in Ramsgate and with his own funds built this shrine church next to his home to commemorate the "Apostle to the English." The National Pugin Centre is also located at the shrine. Afternoon free time for lunch in Ramsgate. Dinner and overnight in Canterbury

## Thursday, August 14 Flights to USA or Optional Extension

Early morning Mass followed by departure for London Heathrow. Group flights scheduled to depart London LHR at 9:45 AM, with scheduled arrival at JFK at 12:40 PM.

## Optional Extension (20 Required to Operate) Cambridge

Return eastward to the verdant trails and narrow white-brick streets of Cambridge. Check in at a comfortable hotel and enjoy free time for lunch. Lunch is followed by a walking tour of Cambridge with Dr. Victor Houlston, a Cambridge professor and leading scholar on the Jesuit mission to England during the English Reformation. Tour includes a walk along the banks of the River Cam, a stroll through the center of town and a talk on the Jesuit Mission and St. John Fisher. Reconvene at the hotel for dinner and rest.

## August 15 Walsingham

After breakfast, board a coach for an excursion to the National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham. This shrine dates to the eleventh century, when Our Lady appeared to

Richeldis de Faverches, revealing to her the house where the Annunciation occurred and instructing her to build a replica in England. While the original shrine was destroyed during the English Reformation, it was rebuilt and received papal approval at the end of the nineteenth century. Catholics (and Anglicans!) from across the English-speaking world visit Walsingham on pilgrimage every year. Interested individuals can approach the shrine on foot, removing their shoes at the Slipper Chapel and traveling the last mile barefoot. There is the opportunity to attend Mass at the shrine. Return to Cambridge in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

## August 16 Return to USA

Flights TBD.

## THE STORY OF WALSHINGHAM

*In 1061 the Virgin Mary appeared to a pious widow named Richeldis in a vision. Our Lady took Richeldis back in time to the scene of the Annunciation. She bade Richeldis to take note of the holy house in the vision and to build an exact replica in Walsingham. Following the vision Richeldis instructed craftsmen to begin work on the house. The holy project was quickly abandoned however, leaving Richeldis anxious, nonetheless confident in God's help. Richeldis spent the evening in prayer, begging the Virgin Mary's assistance, and in the morning the house was found completed. Ever since this event Walsingham has been venerated as one of the holiest places in England and countless pilgrims have visited the village to ask Mary to pray to Jesus on their behalf. By the late Middle Ages it was considered the duty of every Englishman to visit Our Lady at Walsingham at least once in his lifetime. We are going to follow in the footsteps of nearly a thousand years of pilgrims as we journey to Walsingham. English saints and kings, scholars and poets, peasants and farmers have made this trip before us, bringing their many needs to the loving arms of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*



## More Details

### ► Costs

- \$4387 - Land Only in Double Occupancy Room

### ► Optional Costs

- \$1295 - Single Occupancy Surcharge
- \$1080 - Group Airfare from JFK
- \$698 - Optional Extension to Cambridge and Walsingham

### ► Payment Schedule

- \$200 - Due at Registration
- First Installment - Due March 4, 2025
- Second Installment - Due April 2025

### ► Price Inclusions

- Three nights lodging at the four-star Hotel Mercure Oxford Hawkwell House in Oxford
- Three nights lodging at the four-star Wellington by Blue Orchid Hotels in London
- Three nights lodging at the four-star Canterbury Cathedral Lodge hotel in Canterbury
- Catholic ProRome Tour Manager throughout
- Deluxe a/c coach daily max 50 pax (note that we will still walk 4-6 miles per day)
- Professional qualified guides when required
- Tours and all entry-tickets as per itinerary
- Six three-course dinners (two Oxford, two London, two Canterbury), no choice of menus
- Daily buffet breakfast
- Audio guiding system throughout the course of the trip
- All taxes
- Donation to the Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton

### ► Optional Extension

- Two nights at lodging at a comfortable hotel in Cambridge
- Catholic ProRome Tour Manager
- Deluxe a/c coach daily max 50 pax (note that we will still walk 4-6 miles per day)
- Two three-course dinners in Cambridge, no choice of menus
- Daily buffet breakfast
- Audio guiding system throughout the course of the trip
- All taxes
- Donation to the Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton

### ► Price Exclusions

- Any personal expenses
- Three dinners and daily lunch
- Beverages at included meals
- Travel insurance (available for purchase through ProRome)
- Porterage
- Gratuities for the Tour Manager and Driver
  - Suggested \$10-\$20 per person for both the tour manager and the driver



VISIT TRIP WEBPAGE



PROROME