



NEWS

Visitation to ENGLAND

June 2016

Sr. Monica Joseph RJM Superior General accompanied by Sr. M^a Carmen Muñoz RJM General Councillor for the Region of Europe, visited England from 15th to 30th June 2016.



England is a multicultural country with people from different parts of the world: 87.50 % of the population is of white European descent, 6% have family roots from the Indian subcontinent who migrated after 1950s. 2.90% are from the Caribbean and African countries, especially the former British colonies. There is a significant number of Chinese and British Chinese. Thus we experienced the richness of diversity.

At present, there is a very strong ecumenical identity, which is a blessing. We were present for the historic Brexit referendum to leave the European Union.

The Religious of JM came to England in 1860. Lebanon and Syria have been part of the former province of England since 1963 and 1983 respectively.

The Province of Europe was set up in November 2005, by the union of the Provinces of France and England and the Vice-Province of Italy. It is formed of communities belonging to six different countries: – France, England, Italy, Germany, Lebanon and Syria – in which five different languages are spoken; it is a richness but at the same time poses a challenge.

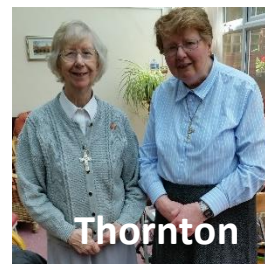
The present Provincial government began their mandate on 4th June 2016 for a period of 4 years. Our gratitude for accepting the mission entrusted to them. The members are as follows:

Provincial Superior	-	Sr. Helen Mary Haigh RJM
Councillor and Bursar	-	Sr. Agnès Maria Schwärzler RJM
Councillor	-	Sr. Josiane Mornal RJM
Councillor	-	Sr. Caterina Laconte RJM, substitute of the Provincial Superior.
Official	-	Sr. Annie Demerjian RJM

England at present has 24 sisters living in three communities:



Felixstowe



Thornton



Ipswich

We serve in the Dioceses of Northampton and East Anglia.

The visitation to England was an experience of welcome, fraternity and joy. We lived the life and mission of sisters and we enjoyed the meetings with each one as well as with the communities.

Sr. Monica Joseph RJM met with each sister and we had two meetings in each community. The Provincial Conference was held in Felixstowe on 30th June where 23 sisters participated.



We also had a meeting with the AFJM which was very enjoyable.



The Mission of our sisters:

Age is no hindrance to the apostolic vitality present and the sisters are actively engaged in various age appropriate activities.

The premises at Felixstowe are at the service of the public through classes for: nursery, art, craft, ballet, choir etc. The St. Josephs Centre for Retreat is a promising venture that has been initiated to bring many to God as Claudine would have desired.

Opportunities to learn English not only in London but in the various communities, particularly in Ipswich, is an urgent service rendered by the sisters.

Besides, they teach as volunteers in school, distribute communion, offer spiritual direction, visit the sick etc.

Sr. Helen Mary Haigh RJM is active in the ecumenical movement.

England has been providing quality education since 1860.

The school in Thornton provides a value based education to about 376 students from Pre-Primary to secondary. There is also a boarding school with 44 students. The charism is alive in the Jesus and Mary Thornton College. We were touched by the love as well as the family spirit prevalent among the staff, students, parents, trustees and governors. We experienced an atmosphere of peace and joy.



Through photos, we share with you a glimpse of our experience that we lived with the students and staff at Thornton College.



Staff meeting

While in London, we visited the schools that once belonged to us but now is run by the Diocese - Willesden and Willesden Green. The Spirit of Jesus and Mary is very alive and Claudine is present among them. The Religious continue to participate in some of the activities.



Through the years, England has sent many missionaries to various countries. Gratitude to the sisters who served as missionaries in many parts of the world to impart the charism of Claudine with zeal and dedication as well as those who stayed home to keep the mission going. All have returned home, while one continues to serve in France. May the Lord of the harvest reward you for your generosity and zeal.

It is remarkable that the communities are open to the public especially after the Mass for an agape. The sisters enjoy the presence of each other and live a life of serenity and loving acceptance. There is a spirit of adventure and youth in the hearts of all the sisters.

We take with us the spirit of prayer and communion of the sisters, the faith and passion for life, for mission, for St. Claudine and for those around.

*On behalf of the General Government,
through the intercession of Mary our Mother,
Saint Claudine and Blessed Dina,
we ask God's blessings upon England,
for each one of the religious, communities,
apostolic mission, educators, pupils and families.*

Praised forever be Jesus and Mary