

Press Release

**A NEW CONTEMPLATIVE RELIGIOUS HOUSE
FOR INNER CITY PRESTON!**

Bishop of Lancaster delighted at first UK foundation of the Sisters Adorers of the Royal Heart of Jesus Christ Sovereign Priest to be established in Preston



6 October 2017

STATEMENT BEGINS:

Only two weeks after a second church (English Martyrs) in Preston was given over to the care of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, the Diocese of Lancaster and the Institute are pleased to announce that the Sisters Adorers of the Royal Heart of Jesus Christ Sovereign Priest, the female branch of the Institute, have accepted Bishop Michael Campbell's invitation to establish a House in Preston in the Diocese of Lancaster.

The arrival date for the contemplative (but not enclosed) Sisters has yet to be determined, but it is hoped that the Sisters will arrive as soon as possible to set up their first UK foundation at St Augustine's Presbytery, Avenham, Preston. The spiritual life of the Sisters will be an invigorating support to the life of the Church in Preston, and indeed the whole Diocese of Lancaster.

The Sisters' days will be centred around prayer - Holy Mass and the Divine Office in the extraordinary form, personal prayer and Eucharistic adoration in the evening, the Rosary, etc. Punctuating this rich life of prayer are periods of manual labour and intellectual training, including instruction in Gregorian Chant, Latin, Spirituality, Philosophy, and Theology, as well as the learning of crafts such as sewing, lace-making, and the care of liturgical vestments and altar linens.

The announcement today comes as yet a further ecclesial investment into central Preston and is the fruit of a close collaboration of the Bishop of Lancaster, Rt Rev Michael G Campbell OSA and the Prior General of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, Monsignor Gilles Wach, over the last three years.

Bishop Campbell upon making this announcement commented:

"It's a great joy for me to have the Sisters Adorers come into the Diocese, because I think it's a great gift, not only to have such a strong and vibrant praying presence at the heart of Preston, but especially for the young women in our Diocese to see that some young women still choose this vocation, and that it can be a joyful and beautiful way to live one's life."

Bishop Campbell said he anticipates "an exciting collaboration" between the Sisters and the Priests of the Institute as well as with Father John Millar, Parochial Administrator of St John XXIII, Preston in support of the mission of the Church in central Preston.

Bishop Campbell concluded: "We remain very grateful for the historic communities who have served us so well in the Diocese over many years, and yet we are also so grateful for the new life that the newer communities - like the Sisters Adorers - bring to our future life in God."

Monsignor Gilles Wach added:

“Following the beautiful and encouraging opening of a second Shrine in Preston, this invitation to our Sisters from the Bishop of Lancaster is another opportunity to continue the mission of the Institute of Christ the King within the Church. The daily prayer of the Sisters Adorers will be a great spiritual support towards the work of the Canons of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest in the UK, and will also benefit the Diocese of Lancaster. Their religious life, centred on Eucharistic Adoration and the Consecration to the Royal Heart of Jesus will bring more graces to Preston.”

STATEMENT ENDS

Notes to Editors:

- [**The Sisters Adorers of the Royal Heart of Jesus Christ Sovereign Priest**](#) were founded in June 2004, under the authority of Cardinal Ennio Antonelli, at that time the Archbishop of Florence.
- The Sisters are based in Gricigliano, in the Province of Florence, Italy, along with the Institute. Their way of life is that of a non-cloistered contemplative. They have as the community's three patron saints St Francis de Sales, St Benedict and St Thomas Aquinas. They derive various aspects of their spirituality from these three traditions. The community participates in Mass and the Divine Office in the extraordinary form.
- [**The Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest**](#) is based internationally in Florence, Italy. In many cases, the Institute's ministry has revitalized and allowed for the restoration of historic churches. The Institute was established canonically in 1990 by Monsignor Gilles Wach and Father Phillippe Mora. Inspired by their patron, St Francis de Sales, the Institute strives to form its people in holiness according to their motto of "teaching the truth with charity".
- At Bishop Campbell's invitation on 27 September 2014, the Institute assumed the pastoral care of [**St Walburge's Church, Preston**](#). On 24 September 2017, the Institute also assumed the care of **English Martyrs' Church, Preston**. Both are 'shrine churches'.

The Bishop's Office, Lancaster
6 October 2017