

Guild of St Clare Sewing Retreat

Further Information



About the Retreat

The mission of the Guild of St Clare is to assist priests who celebrate the Traditional Mass by repairing vestments and undertaking commissions for vestments and liturgical furnishings. The sewing retreat is an opportunity to form a community of people around the Traditional Mass who are keen to help in this work, while enjoying the benefits and graces of the devotions and spiritual conferences from our chaplain. The schedule is a fairly relaxed one, to allow plenty of time for sewing and discussion, and the weekend works best when all retreatants attend as many as possible of the sewing sessions, talks and most importantly, the Mass.

What kind of sewing we do

The greater part of our work consists of repairs to vestments: stitching trim back into place, for example, or patching holes in worn-out silks. We also make vestments from scratch to commission, sometimes first creating our own patterns when needed. The work ranges from very easy sewing indeed to an intermediate/advanced standard. No one need be put off owing to lack of experience!

About the liturgy

Our chaplain celebrates Mass each day, and we also have daily Rosary, Compline each evening, and Benediction on Saturday. Additionally, our chaplain gives three spiritual conferences over the course of the weekend.

Our chaplain

Fr Stephen Morrison OPraem has kindly undertaken the duty of Chaplain in November 2024.

Under 16s

Children are permitted to stay at St Joseph's and are very welcome on the Sewing Retreat.

The Venue

St Joseph's Centre, also known as St Joseph's House of Prayer and Retreat, is run by the Montfort Missionaries with the help of lay volunteers. It is on the edge of the New Forest in Hampshire. There are almost no single rooms at the Centre, so retreatants will be in shared rooms with one or two others. The nearest railway station is Ashurst New Forest; the closest bus stop is Whartons Lane on the Lyndhurst Road (the A35); Southampton Airport is also convenient. The full address is 8 Lyndhurst Road, Southampton SO40 7DU; the phone number is 023 8029 2337

Fees and discounts

Shared accommodation is £245. There is a 45% discount for children and students. Single accommodation may occasionally be available: please email Lucy at guildofstclare@lms.org.uk to enquire.

Late cancellations

Full refunds are possible for cancellations up to a month before the start of the retreat. After that we regret there can be no reimbursement of fees. Since these retreats tend to be oversubscribed we are concerned to make places available to those who will get the most out of them. We ask those considering booking, therefore, not to do so if they will have to arrive late or leave early, and to regard the booking as a firm commitment not to cancel less than a month before the event. While we understand that plans can be disrupted by unforeseen circumstances, we would like to keep unfilled places to a minimum, and to minimise the disruption of people arriving and leaving during the Retreat.

What you will need

Hand missal and mantilla, if you have them

Basic sewing kit

A number of sewing items will be available for purchase during the Retreat.

