



Missionary Oblates
— Always Close to the People


Wistaston Hall

*A Holistic Spiritual Life Centre,
An oasis of peace, care, and comfort.*



Oblate Retreat & Spirituality Centre,
Crewe, England

Programme 2022 – 2023

A photograph of a brick wall with a plaque. The plaque is dark with white text that reads "89 OBLATE RETREAT CENTRE WISTASTON HALL". The wall is made of red bricks and is partially covered by a green mossy growth. In the background, there are trees and a path.

Wistaston Hall is a welcoming holistic spiritual life centre that is an oasis of peace, care, and comfort.

Welcome

At Wistaston Hall we welcome all people who are searching. We strive to offer a place where you will find peace, rest, and an opportunity for prayer away from the stresses of daily life. Coming from the Catholic tradition we sponsor a range of events throughout the year. We also host a wide variety of groups from different faith and social backgrounds.

The beautiful Cheshire plain is within a short traveling distance with its many walks and other attractions. Crewe is ideally situated, with Chester, Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham all 30 minutes to an hour away. The town is also well connected by train.

Our various events are an opportunity to move away from the routines of everyday life and reflect on your life's journey at this time. Therefore, we invite you to come and explore which of the wide range of events that we have planned that will suit your needs.

For 2023, we are delighted to welcome many contemporary speakers such as Sr Una Coogan and Archbishop Sylvain Levoie OMI to the centre. We will also provide a range of themed and seasonal events as well as days and weekends of reflection.

Wistaston Hall is also used as the venue for groups leading their own retreats and as an outstanding location for gatherings and special events.

We look forward to welcoming you to Wistaston Hall.

CONTENTS

About us.....	4	Spiritual Direction.....	19
Individual Retreats	7	Hosted Groups & Facilities.....	20
Themed Retreats	8	FAQ's.....	24

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date	Page
Advent Retreat 2022	28-30 Nov & 5 Dec	8
Icon Workshop	24-26 February	9
Individually Guided Retreat	6-10 March	7
Lent Day Retreat (Polish)	4 March	10
Lent Day Retreat	15 March	10
Lenten Weekend	17-19 March	11
Celebrate Easter	6-9 April	11
Introduction to Mindfulness	21-22 April	12
Building Bridges	5-7 May	13
Individually Guided Retreat	13-22 June	7
Celtic Spirituality Weekend	28-30 July	14
Individually Guided Retreat	23-30 August	7
Growing in Self Awareness	25-29 September	14
Walk a New Path	29 Sep – 1 Oct	15
Individually Guided Retreat	23-30 October	17
Retreat For Busy People	27-29 October	6
Film Weekend	17-19 November	16
Advent Retreat 2023	1-3 & 6 December	17

How to book

For more information or to book any of our retreats please contact Rachel by email: rachel.challoner@oblateretreatcentre.org.uk or by phone on 01270 568653.

You can also visit our website www.orc-crewe.org to download a booking form or book online.





About Us

*The story of Wistaston Hall goes back to the 12th century.
The present house was built in the early 17th Century and is one
of Cheshire's historic buildings with many local associations.
It was acquired by the Oblate Congregation in 1943.*

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate was founded in 1816 by St Eugene de Mazenod to serve the poor and marginalised of post revolutionary France. They would go the poorest people in the land to remind them of their human dignity and share the message of Jesus Christ. Today we see Wistaston Hall as a centre for Adult Faith Development. This purpose is promoted through the provision of a resource for Retreats and Conferences. As well as being a resource for the ministry of our own Congregation we are happy to share this facility with other groups, lay and religious, who seek to promote the life of faith. We also welcome groups from other denominations and faith traditions.

Peaceful gardens and scenic walks surround the house, which is conveniently situated close to the towns of Crewe, historic Nantwich, and local amenities.

Walk around the extensive gardens and become one with nature, sit for a while and listen to the birds and the sounds of the world around us. Listen to the calming sound of running water as it flows down the stream along the side of the grounds. This is a place to spend time away from our busy lives to renew and revitalize from the challenges of life. Our labyrinth serves as a wonderful meditation space. The walk to the centre can represent a letting go or 'purging' of things that interfere with our relationship with God.

In 2021 'The Grange' opened and includes a prayer space, a library, four bedrooms and self-catering kitchen. There are also additional gardens and space to enjoy the spirituality of this environment. 2021 saw the installation of a new lift in one wing of the main building. This will help increase the accessibility of the residential area.

The former stable was renovated and opened as the new Francis Morrissey OMI building, it includes a multi-purpose conference room with Wi-Fi, an art room and tea and coffee making facilities, making it ideal for day groups.



"A really lovely centre. The grounds are excellent and inviting. Staff couldn't be more welcoming and helpful."

What is a Retreat

A retreat is an invitation to take time out and leave behind the stress and anxiety of daily life and spend time praying, reflecting, and re-discovering our relationship with God. We offer different types of retreats and underpinning each of these is our wish to provide a space for people to discover their deepest desires so that they might discover the path God is showing them.

One benefit of a retreat is that it opens up new possibilities so that we see with new eyes. Though we may return to the very same situations and circumstances, the same responsibilities and relationships that we left behind to come to the place of retreat, we do so having changed inside. Coming on retreat offers an opportunity to experience God in a positive way and return home renewed, consoled and more aware of God's presence in our lives.

At Wistaston Hall we offer a wide variety of retreat experiences in order to provide as many opportunities as possible for people to have space to encounter the love of God in a personal and unique way.

Retreat for Busy People

27th-29th October suggested donation - £165.00
Led by Centre Team



There is no doubt that fast pace of life can leave us feeling frazzled. Taking time out of a busy schedule to focus on our personal wellbeing has never been more needed. Our weekend retreats offer you the time and opportunity to rest for a while. They will also give a safe space to reflect on your life, to consider the decisions you may have to make, and the priorities you want to set. In the process you will become aware of God's presence in your life.

Throughout the weekend the environment will be one of reflection and silence; the aim is to help you become aware of the movements within your own heart. Each retreatant will be offered their own guide with whom you meet each day, and who will help you to focus and reflect. This retreat is open to people of faith and no faith. All are welcome.

Individually Guided Retreats

6th-10th March, 13th-22nd June, 23rd-30th Aug, 23rd-30th Oct
suggested donation - Midweek £325, 6 day £495 & 8 day £595

An individually guided retreat gives you the time and opportunity to spend some time alone and with God. This is an opportunity for you to reflect on the “things that matter” in your life and to deepen your relationship with God. An IGR helps you to be more aware of how God works in your life and it allows you to become more aware of the many ways God is present to you.

Each retreatant has their own retreat guide/spiritual director with whom they meet each day, and who will help you focus, reflect and discern. An IGR is held in silence and there is a celebration of the Eucharist each day.

We offer several options for the length of an IGR. For those who have not done an IGR before there is the possibility of coming for a shorter period of time. In general our IGRs are either 6 or 8 days. As well as the prayerful atmosphere of the house there are also five acres of garden for the exclusive use of our retreatants. We are just beside Wistaston Park which gives plenty of space for longer walks. Be assured of a warm Oblate Welcome to Wistaston Hall for your retreat. “It is good to come away and rest awhile.”

“Excellent facility and superb staff. A really lovely friendly environment with fantastic food. We were made to feel very welcome.”

For more information about making an individually guided retreat please contact
Sr. Anne Donnelly DHS by email:
anne.donnelly@oblateretreatcentre.org.uk
or by phone on 01270 568653.

You can also visit our website www.orc-crewe.org



Follow the Star

Day Retreats

5th & 7th December 2022 suggested donation - £25.00 (Includes lunch)

Residential Retreats

28th – 30th Nov & 2nd – 4th Dec 2022 suggested donation - £160.00

Led by Centre Team

Advent provides a sacred time in which we are invited to be present and mindful to the promptings of God in our lives as we prepare to celebrate the holy feast of Christmas. Advent invites us to cultivate and deepen our sense of remembering that we are in the holy presence of God. This year's retreat theme is "Follow the Star". As we read in the Gospel of Luke the wise men followed the star to come and see the Christ child, we too are invited to experience the life giving presence of God through reflecting together on the story of the birth of Jesus.



Icon Workshop

24th – 26th February 2023 suggested donation - £165.00
Led by Sabeesh Jacob, CMI

There is an increasing interest in the immense spiritual potential of art in our society as symbols and images unite people and enhance spiritual connectedness and communication. In the Catholic Church, as in major Christian denominations, the tradition of icons is undergoing a revival as it promotes a contemplative approach to prayer and spiritual experience. This retreat will offer reflections that inform, inspire and invite interested ‘seekers’ and faithful on a journey through the image and beauty of the icon. Besides providing biblical and historical insights on the development of the icon, the retreat will guide the participants through the processes of writing, meditating, and venerating an icon.

Sebeesh Jacob CMI is an Indian Carmelite Priest and a researcher in Christian art at KU Leuven, Belgium. His studies and reflections on Christian iconography advance an aesthetic outlook on religious spirituality and worship. He is also actively engaged in writing icons for private and public veneration at various churches in India, Belgium, and England.

“Great retreat input – stimulating and thought provoking, directing us to quiet, prayer and contemplation.”



Lenten Retreats

Rekolekcje wielkopostne

4th March suggested donation £25 (includes lunch)

Led by Fr. Dominick (in Polish)

Dzień Skupienia z ojcem Dominikiem

Serdzecznie zapraszamy Cię na nasz pierwszy polski Wielkopostny Dzień Skupienia. Patronem Dnia Skupienia będzie nam św. Józef, którego życie i przykład pomogą nam w Wielkopostnym przygotowaniu do Wielkanocy. Dzień skupienia obejmuje 3 duchowe nauki, Mszę Świętą, Sakrament Spowiedzi i cichą Adorację Najświętszego Sakramentu, jak również okazje do rozmowy.

Ojciec Dominik Domagała OMI jest kapłanem w Zgromadzeniu Misjonarzy Oblatów; aktualnie pracuje w Dublinie, a pochodzi z okolic Poznania. W Polsce pracował jako Diecezjalny Duszpasterz Młodzieży i w Ruchu Liturgicznym promującym muzykę kościelną. Obecnie mieszka w Irlandii gdzie posługuje w szkołach podstawowych i parafiach. Tam służy też jako duszpasterz Travelers'ów i jako opiekun duchowy Legionu Maryi.

Lent Day Retreats

15th March suggested donation £25 (includes lunch)

Led by Centre Team

Enrich your Lenten journey through the transformative embrace of scripture, reflection, adoration and prayer. Experience Lent through a unique process of engagement that draws you deeply into this holy season. There is much wisdom in a text from the Psalms: 'Be still, and know that I am God' (Psalm 46.10). May our God who is rich in love and mercy, bless us all as we journey towards Easter.



"Great retreat input – stimulating and thought provoking, directing us to quiet, prayer and contemplation."

Preparing for Easter

Lenten Weekend

17th – 19th March

suggested donation £165 **Led by Centre Team**

During the first centuries of Christianity, the forty days leading up to Holy Week took on a special significance. Those forty days are called Lent, a name taken from the Old English word meaning “spring.” The liturgical season of Lent is meant to be a time of spiritual spring-training, so to speak: a special time during which we prepare for Holy Week.

Our Lenten retreat is an opportunity to prepare our hearts to commemorate and celebrate the mystery of Easter. We hope you will join with us to pause and reflect on the last days and death of Jesus and we prepare our hearts to joyfully greet the Risen Christ on Easter morning. The Weekend will include reflective inputs, times for prayer and some quiet, and opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation or talk one-to-one with a trained Spiritual Director. Spend this weekend in silent retreat saying “yes” to God. As St Teresa of Avila reminds us, “Prayer is the lifting up of mind and heart to God”

Celebrate Easter

6th – 9th April suggested donation £245 **Led by Centre Team**

This is an opportunity for you to discover the Sacred “Three Days” (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) leading up to Easter. This retreat begins at 6pm on Holy Thursday with the celebration of the Lord’s Supper and the Washing of the Feet. It includes time for personal and communal prayer as well as the opportunity to fully participate in each of the services.

Introduction to Mindfulness



21st – 22nd April suggested donation £95.00
Led by Martin Zetter

Learn mindfulness tools and develop a meditation practice that will help you manage stress in all aspects of your life.

On this weekend you will learn six mindfulness tools and four meditation styles to help you find more balance in your life. You will learn:

- what mindfulness is
- how to use it in moments of stress and anxiety
- how to establish a daily practice to become more resilient and
- how to develop your concentration to stay on task and become more creative.

The course is based on scientific research carried out by some of the world's leading Universities, including Oxford and Harvard Medical School. It is taught in a relaxed, accessible style with opportunities to ask questions. Participants may book a private meeting with one of the leaders and follow-on support is available.

Helpful for those wishing to manage stress in their work and home life. If you would like to find a little more peace and calm for reflection and relaxing this retreat/course is for you.

Martin's career was in one of the world's most stressful environments. Working in financial services in the City of London and more recently running professional services businesses, he started practicing meditation and mindfulness to manage stress and to improve his work-life balance. Impressed by the effectiveness of these practices his vision is now to help busy people to use meditation and mindfulness to manage stress. He takes a scientific approach reflecting contemporary research in neuroscience. Martin is a qualified meditation teacher, registered with the British School of Meditation, the only body offering an Ofqual regulated meditation qualification in the United Kingdom.



Building Bridges

Dealing with Differences and Managing Conflict in Everyday Life

5th – 7th May 2022 suggested donation - £165.00
Led by Lorcán O'Reilly, OMI

Differences and conflicts are a normal and an inevitable part of our daily lives. They are as common as laughter, anger, love, hope, work, play and are probably no less important than any of these. When a dispute flares up the outcome can be sadly predictable: the conflict escalates, with each side blaming the other in increasingly strident terms and the relationship may be forever damaged. How we deal with difference influences whether outcomes of our conflicts are constructive or destructive. During our time together we will see how we can develop our own skills by looking at the themes of communication, active listening, and negotiation. We will also spend time to look at what our Christian tradition teaches us about conflict. All are welcome.

Fr. Lorcán O'Reilly is a member of the Oblates and was ordained in 2000. Since then he has worked on Anglesey and in London. Fr. Lorcán holds a Masters in Mission Studies from St. Paul's University, Ottawa in Canada and an Executive Masters in Non-Profit Administration from Notre Dame University, Indiana USA. While at Notre Dame University he undertook specialist studies in the area of conflict resolution and negotiation.

"Excellent venue for retreat. Catering staff first class. Considerate respectful and a credit all round. A great asset to the centre."

Celtic Spirituality

28th – 30th July

suggested donation £165.00 Led by Michael Moore



While Celtic Spirituality has its roots and origins in the past and history of Ireland and the British Isles, it still offers us a very relevant, radical and challenging message today. Through poetry, song, scripture, Celtic prayers and silence we will be reflect on what it means for us to be a pilgrims as we follow Jesus in our daily lives.

Michael Moore, a native of Dublin, has been a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate for forty years. His ministry has been as varied as school and hospital chaplaincy, parish ministry and adult faith development. While he has keen interest in storytelling, film and cinema, he is passionate about spirituality, especially Celtic spirituality and history.

Growing in Self Awareness

Myers Briggs Workshop

25th – 29th September 2023 suggested donation £295.00

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator is a personality assessment and has become one of the most popular personality assessments of our time. It provides a constructive, flexible and liberating framework for understanding individual differences and strengths.

The essence of the theory is that much seemingly random variation in the behaviour is actually quite orderly and consistent, being due to basic differences in the ways individuals prefer to use their perception and judgment.

Sr Anne Morris is a member of the community of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit. Prior to undertaking her current leadership role she worked as part of the team at St Bruno's Retreat Centre in Wales. She has led retreats and facilitated different groups in interactive reflection.



Walk a New Path

A Recovery Workshop/Retreat led by
Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie, OMI

29th September – 1st October 2023 suggested donation £165.00

Stress and isolation have rendered many of us more vulnerable, and tempted to medicate that pain with addictive activity. This workshop/retreat seeks to offer hope and help for those struggling with addictions, and those who are concerned about them. Drawing on years of ministry among the people of the Canadian First Nations, Sylvain uses the Medicine Wheel as a model. The focus will be on the reality of being fully human, the journey into addiction, the 12 Step healing journey, and the role of prayer, fellowship and self awareness in a spirituality of wellness and recovery.



It will appeal to anyone wanting to learn about recovery from addiction as well as those already in 12 Step support groups. There will be a blend of information, quiet time for reflection and prayer, and optional sharing and fellowship.

Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie OMI has ministered among the Indigenous peoples for over 35 years, and is author of Together We Heal, a 12 Step approach to the healing of sexual abuse, Walk A New Path on addictions awareness, Still Green and Growing on aging gracefully, and As We Love Ourselves on personal growth and human development.



Film Weekend

17th - 19th November 2023 suggested donation £165.00

What does the idea of community mean for you?

Is it a group of people who communicate via the internet?

A collective who share the same ideas or interests who may never meet? Or a local community who know and support each other?

During this weekend we will use film to reflect on such questions in our society and Church. There will be time for individual reflection and group sharing.

Sr Una is based in Birmingham, where she has worked as a university chaplain, in canon law and spirituality. During her experience as a retreat director she has developed an interest in the ways in which film can enrich our spiritual life.



Advent Retreat

1st – 3rd December 2023 suggested donation £165.00
6th December 2023 suggested donation £25.00 (includes lunch)
Led by Centre Team

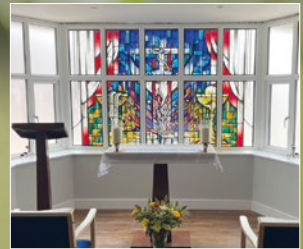
This retreat is an opportunity to pause and take some time out for some spiritual renewal in the midst of the busyness that surrounds all of us at this time of year. Pope Francis teaches us that, “Advent is the season for remembering the closeness of God who came down to dwell in our midst.”

An Advent retreat helps us to look forward to Christmas and a new year, but it’s also an opportunity to look back and ponder on how the past year has been for us. This retreat is an invitation to spend some time in the presence of a loving God who is waiting to welcome us and nurture us.

"Truly 'home from home'"



Private Retreats & Respite Time



Throughout the year people come to Wistaston Hall to make a private retreat or simply to have some time for rest and relaxation. Depending on the time of year this can be done on a full board basis. With the opening of the Grange we are delighted to be able to welcome people on a self catering basis. The Grange is fully equipped with its own kitchen, prayer room and lounge area.

We are just beside Wistaston Park which gives plenty of space for longer walks. Be assured of a warm Oblate Welcome to Wistaston Hall for your retreat. "It is good to come away and rest awhile."

How to book

For more information or to book any of our retreats please contact Rachel by email: rachel.challoner@oblateretreatcentre.org.uk or by phone on 01270 568653.

You can also visit our website www.orc-crewe.org to download a booking form or book online.



Spiritual Direction

At Wistaston Hall we offer Spiritual Direction to all those who want it. Spiritual Direction is the process of accompanying a person on their spiritual journey. It is for anyone, it is confidential, and is usually a one-on-one session with a trained Spiritual Director. During your journey, your Spiritual Director will speak with you to reflect on what is happening in your world and will help you to notice how God is at work in your life. From this point, your director will help you to develop your personal skills to better communicate with God through prayer and meditation.

Faith Formation for the Church of Today

Pope Francis made this statement on May 22, 2013, "Evangelizing is the Church's mission. It is not the mission of only a few, but it is mine, yours and ours... We must all be evangelizers, especially with our life!" This means that our role in the evangelizing mission of the church is critical. Through formation, we deepen our understanding of our faith and grow in confidence to share in this important work.

As part of the Oblate Retreat Centre's ongoing response to the mission of the Church today the centre offers a range of programmes that will support the life of local faith communities. Amongst the programme available are training for parish councils, liturgical formation, Church renewal and development. Please contact us to discuss how we might support the development of your local faith community.

Hosted Groups

In addition to our own programme Wistaston Hall also welcomes a wide range of groups each year. The information that follows details our extensive facilities, which you can avail of when booking the centre for your group.

For group bookings we ask for a deposit of £200. Deposits on group bookings are non-refundable except in exceptional circumstances. For groups with less than ten people, please contact the centre before booking to discuss your requirements.

If you would like more information or wish to make a booking for your group please contact director@oblateretreatcentre.org.uk or call 01270 568653 Alternatively a group booking form can be downloaded from our website.

Facilities

Accommodation

In our main building we have a total number of 23 bedrooms, this includes 13 twin bedrooms and 2 double bedrooms. If single occupancy of bedrooms is required, the maximum number of residents that can be accommodated is 23. If some people are willing to share rooms we can accommodate 36 people overnight. There are rooms available with disabled access. All bed linen and towels are provided.

In the Grange we have four en-suite bedrooms (two include a galley kitchen for self-catering purposes).

Catering

Our dining rooms have seating for 40 guests, we serve home-cooked and locally sourced food and are able to cater for certain dietary requirements on request. For those special events our catering team can provide a celebration meal during your stay. Please let us know if you wish further details of this menu and associated costs. Fairtrade tea, coffee and other hot drinks are available in mini kitchenettes located on all the floors and you are welcome to use them. The Grange has the capacity to welcome people on a self-catering basis as it has a fully equipped dining and kitchen area. Our staff are friendly and welcoming and will make your stay a special one.



Prayer Spaces

There is a Chapel with seating for around 30 people. There are also prayer spaces available in the main building and in the Grange, here you can take the opportunity to take time out for prayer and quiet time.

Meeting Rooms

In our main building we have two conference rooms with Wi-Fi and a computer point. There is also a streaming web-cam available. You are welcome to bring your laptop, iPad, or other electronic device.

In the Francis Morrissey OMI building, there is a multi-purpose conference room to seat 36 people, with Wi-Fi and kitchenette – ideal for day groups.

Other rooms can be used for breakout groups as needed.

Art Room

The Francis Morrissey OMI building contains an art space. This is an opportunity for people to express their creativity in a fun, gentle and relaxing way.

Other Facilities

We have a library with over 1000 books available for you to use during your stay. There is also a lounge area with a trust bar available and seating area if you should require.

We have a log burner in the main foyer for those winter nights.





Our Commitment to the Environment

Pope Francis said in *Laudato Si* “Our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us... We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.”

In keeping with our commitment to our common home Wistaston Hall strives to be as environmentally friendly as possible. We locally source as much of our food as we can to reduce the impact we have on the environment. All our tea and coffee is sourced from Fairtrade suppliers.

The entire building has been fitted with solar panels so that we can produce our own electricity to run the centre on and from 2023 we will have electrical charging sockets in our car park so that our guests can charge their cars.

We are cultivating wildflower areas in the gardens to encourage bees and other wildlife. We encourage all people to enjoy the extensive grounds we have here at the Centre.



Our Food Philosophy

An important part of any time away is the enjoyment of good food.

Working together with our catering team we are committed to providing all our retreatants with delicious food that makes us feel great. We believe in food that is cooked and prepared with love, in a warm and happy environment.

We believe in food that leaves as little carbon footprint as possible. We believe in local first, regional second and international after that. We believe in food that supports the community which is why we use a local butcher and fresh food company.

We believe that food is at the heart of our retreats, that our dining room is one of the main places where groups all meet as one, as equals and as valued guests. As the Gospel reminds us food is a leveller, food is for sharing and helps us build community.

We believe that the atmosphere in which we eat helps shape the experience. We believe in homemade, handmade, and happy. We believe in nourishing and seasonal meals.

We believe in the sacredness of all and we look forward to welcoming you.

FAQs

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions. If you need further clarification, or have an additional question, please contact us.

Why make a retreat?

We are all searching as we journey through life. Retreats are offered based on the conviction that each person is unique and unrepeatable, and each individual is called by God to a personal vocation. We all face personal struggles and issues, yet these look a lot alike and we can all confide in Jesus Christ who shares them with us.

Do I need to be a Catholic to attend a retreat or an event?

No — While the centre comes from the Catholic tradition we believe that God calls in any culture, chronological moment, faith or circumstance. There are no expectations on anyone coming to Wistaston Hall and you don't need to be a churchgoer. To make a retreat all you need is an open and generous heart. All are welcome.

Cancellation Policy - Suppose I change my mind about coming?

It is our intention to ensure the financial sustainability of the retreats and programmes we provide at Wistaston Hall. Cancellations & refunds are managed on an individual basis. Cancellations represent an expense to the Centre and a lost opportunity for others to participate in the retreats and programs. If an individual booking is cancelled more than 14 days before the event, then there will be a refund of the total paid less the standard deposit. If the centre must cancel an event, then there will be a full refund.

Check-In & Check-Out - What are the times?

Our events start with the evening meal at 6.30pm on the first day. Our IGR's end with breakfast on the last day, while weekend and other events end with lunch. Bedrooms are available from 4pm on your arrival day, and we ask you to please vacate your room by 10am on the day of your departure. We are happy to store your luggage if you wish to stay longer to enjoy the grounds.



Deposit - Is one required?

Yes – All bookings must be confirmed with a deposit and completed booking form. For individual retreats we ask for a deposit of £50.00.

Diets - Do you cater for vegetarians and special diets?

Our kitchen staff are trained and will be happy to meet any special dietary requirements (gluten free/allergies) that you may have. Please clearly indicate this at the time of booking, either on the booking form itself, or by phoning the Centre if you feel it requires further discussion.

En Suite - Do all bedrooms have their own bathroom?

All bedrooms are en suite with the exception of two twin rooms on the second floor. In each case, the shared bathroom is across the landing.

Exclusive Use - Can we book the whole house?

Yes – exclusive use of the house is available to residential bookings. If you require exclusive use for a day conference, that is also possible, but please discuss your needs with the Centre.

Internet - Do you have internet access?

Yes – Wireless internet is available, but please note that the signal strength will vary throughout the building.

Limited Mobility - What facilities are there?

We make every effort to meet the needs of all our guests however our building and facilities do have certain limitations. The Centre offers disabled car parking spaces. There are three ground floor rooms with wet rooms designed for disabled access and a lift to the bedrooms on the New Wing. There is good access to all ground floor rooms. If you have difficulty with stairs, please tell us at the time of booking. We are unable to offer care ourselves, so we ask that you bring your own carer if you will need this attention.



Mealtimes - When do we eat?

Breakfast is usually 08:30am; Lunch 1:00pm; Supper 6:00pm. Tea and coffee times are available on request. Conference and large groups will all be seated together, and we invite individual guests to sit together around tables with other guests.

Meeting Room - Is the cost of the meeting room included in the cost per person for group/conference rooms?

Yes – one main meeting room will be allocated to your group depending on the size of the group and nature of your event. Should you require use of additional meeting rooms, these may be available to you. Additional meeting rooms must be agreed at the point of booking.

Mobile Phones - Do you have a signal?

Due to the location of the Centre the phone signal for mobile phones can be variable. In order to maintain the necessary silence during a retreat we ask that mobile phones be used a small distance from the retreat house.

Parking - Where can we leave our cars?

Our main car park is located in front of the house. We will have vehicle charge points in 2023

Payment - What does it cover & how can it be made?

The fees for all retreats include accommodations and meals, sessions with a spiritual director, daily liturgy, all required materials, and access to the grounds. The amounts given are a suggested donation which represents a contribution towards the cost of running each event.



However, arrangements can be made for individuals if necessary. Payments can be made by cash, cheque, credit card or bank transfer. Please make any cheques payable to Oblate Retreat Centre, and contact us should you wish to make a bank transfer.

Public Transport - Can we get there without a car?

The Centre is within easy reach of Crewe railway station. The station is about five minutes taxi ride from the Centre. Taxis are available outside of the station's main entrances.

What to bring with you on Retreat?

- Comfortable, clothes and walking shoes appropriate to the time of year
- Medicines and toiletries
- If you have an exercise routine, bring your gear or switch to exercise walking
- A journal or special notebook
- Bring a desire for peace and quiet with an open heart toward our loving God.
- Some individuals find it helpful to bring a covered drinking container, such as a tumbler or thermos, to have beverages outside the dining hall.



*Missionary Oblates
– Always Close to the People*

Oblate Retreat Centre,
Wistaston Hall, 89 Broughton Lane, Crewe CW2 8JS
Tel: 01270 568653
Email: director@oblateretreatcentre.org.uk

www.orc-crewe.org



printed on paper
from a sustainable
source