



THE BENEDICTINE NUNS

KYLEMORE ABBEY®

A New Beginning for an Ancient Order

Since 1920 a monastic community of Benedictine Nuns have prayed and worked at Kylemore Abbey, living according to the Rule of St. Benedict.

They have preserved the beauty and heritage of Kylemore, educated generations of young women, welcomed visitors and created employment. Now, after 100 years at Kylemore they embark on the most important and ambitious project in their 400-year history:

- a new monastery and purpose-built home for their growing community of Benedictine nuns
- residential accommodation for pilgrims and visitors to share the sacred space of their lives through short courses and retreats.



History of the Benedictine Nuns

The Benedictine nuns of Kylemore Abbey have a long history, beginning at Brussels in 1598. In the late 1500s, following religious suppression, many Catholics left England and opened monastic houses in Europe. A number of monasteries originated from one Benedictine house in Brussels, founded by Lady Mary Percy in 1598. This included one at Ypres in Belgium in 1665.

Through the centuries, Ypres Abbey attracted the daughters of Irish nobility, as students and postulants. The Abbey enjoyed the patronage of influential Irish families living in exile and was formally made over to the Irish nation in 1682. Known as The Irish Dames of Ypres, the Benedictine nuns moved to Dublin in 1688 at the request of King James II but returned to Ypres following James's defeat at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.



The Irish Nuns of Ypres

26 OCT 1917

The Irish Benedictine Dames of the Royal Abbey of the Immaculate Conception, at Ypres, have, with the cordial approval of His Lordship the BISHOP OF FRANKS, opened a Select Boarding-School, similar to that which they directed for so many years in Belgium.

It is their aim to instil into their Pupils a fervent and solid piety, without which true education cannot exist; together with a judicious notion of personal responsibility—at the same time developing the intellectual and moral qualities.

The Course of Studies comprises all the branches of a superior education, with the advantages of a continental training. The system of teaching is adapted to ensure for each Pupil thoroughness in every branch.

Careful attention is given to health, diet and recreation. The neighbourhood is well-known for its beautiful scenery, and the children enjoy a great variety of walks.

For further details and Prospectus apply to—

REV. LADY ABBESS, O.S.B.,

Ypres Benedictine Abbey,

Macmuse Castle, Co. Wexford.



After more than two centuries in Ypres, their Abbey was destroyed during World War 1, and the nuns fled as refugees first to England, later to Wexford before eventually settling in Kylemore in December 1920. At Kylemore, the nuns established an international boarding school and day school for girls. They ran a farm and guesthouse; restored the ruined Victorian Walled Gardens and the Neo-Gothic Church, and established craft and tourism enterprises. In 2010, the School closed and since then the Benedictine nuns have developed new education and retreat activities, while welcoming thousands of visitors to their shared home.

Today, Kylemore Abbey is one of Ireland's most iconic heritage sites, known for its natural beauty, rich heritage and spiritual tranquillity.





New Monastery

With the closure of the School and reconfiguration of the castle building in 2019, Kylemore's community of nuns now live, work and pray in several temporary locations across the estate – with no communal monastic home.

Now the nuns will create a new permanent monastery suitable for their mission of inviting others into their lives of prayer and work.

The new monastery places the Benedictine ethos at the heart of the estate, enabling visitors and pilgrims to see and experience the living tradition of faith and spirituality at Kylemore. In the spirit of Benedictine hospitality, it will welcome those seeking a place of reflection, solace and tranquillity, and offer spiritual retreats and courses.

The new monastery will be connected to the Monastic Church with gardens and cloister and will comprise:

- Spaces for prayer and meditation for nuns and visitors
- Chapter room – a meeting space for the Benedictine community
- Living accommodation for the growing Benedictine community
- Dedicated Novitiate space
- Library and archive accommodation
- Residential retreat centre
- Welcome area for guests and groups.



The new monastery will:
WELCOME pilgrims and visitors, offering a place of reflection and renewal
NURTURE new vocations, encouraging those with a calling to monastic life
BE HOME to the nuns whose lives of faith and spirituality inspire Kylemore visitors.



What is a Monastery?

A monastery is the home of a community of women or men committed to living a life of witness to the presence and action of God in the world. It is a place of contemplation and prayer, of work and community living, and of hospitality. In Europe, from the 4th century to the present day, monasteries have been centres of spirituality, education, sustainability, culture, and art. Times of growth, influence and prosperity are often succeeded by decades of renewal and revival.

Today, in our increasingly complex world, the need for monasteries as places of tranquillity and reflection has never been greater. Kylemore provides a beautiful setting for monastic life. With its strong tradition of education and hospitality in a majestic natural environment, the Benedictine nuns invite all to share in their spiritual life.

Join for daily Mass and Vespers from the Monastic Church in person or online trust.kylemoreabbey.com



Divine Office

The daily life of the nuns mirrors the form of life laid down by St Benedict in his Rule, written in the 6th century. A timetable in which prayer, work and rest succeed each other in a regular way gives a healthy and peaceful structure to the day. The *Horarium*, or daily programme, allows time for the sacred scriptures and for personal and community prayer.

- 07.15 Morning Prayer (Vigils and Lauds)
- 12.15 Mass / Midday Prayer
- 18.00 Evening Prayer (Vespers)
- 20.00 Night Prayer (Compline)





How you can help

Monastery construction started in September 2019 and was due for completion in December 2020 in time for the centenary of the Benedictine nuns at Kylemore. Covid-19 and global uncertainty have delayed the project, but Kylemore remains committed to delivery of this historic project: the first monastery in Ireland built for a community of Benedictine women in over 400 years.

Your support can make a real difference and all gifts, regardless of amount, are a vital help to the Benedictine nuns.

	Ireland/EU (€)		USA (\$)	
	<p>Payable to: The Kylemore Trust</p> <p>Mail to: The Kylemore Trust, Connemara, Co. Galway Ireland H91 VR90</p>		<p>All US donations to the Monastery Campaign in 2023 will be matched by a Matching Challenge Gift up to \$1,000,000. You can make a tax-deductible gift through our US partner organizations below:</p>	
Cheque/check			Irish American Partnership	The Ireland Funds America
			<p>Payable to: Irish American Partnership - Reference "<i>Kylemore Monastery</i>"</p> <p>Mail to: Irish American Partnership, 15 Broad Street, Suite 210, Boston, MA 02109</p>	<p>Payable to: The Ireland Funds America - Reference "<i>Kylemore Monastery</i>"</p> <p>Mail to: The Ireland Funds America, 345 Park Avenue, FL 17 New York, NY 10154</p>
Online	<p>trust.kylemoreabbey.com/donate</p> 		<p>www.irishap.org/kylemore-abbey</p> 	<p>www.irelandfunds.org/kylemore/</p> 
Tax-deductible charitable status	<p><i>The Kylemore Trust is a registered Irish charity, RCN 20071394 CHY 18550</i></p>		<p><i>The Irish American Partnership is a registered 501c3 organisation, EIN number 22-2801642.</i></p>	<p><i>The Ireland Funds America is a registered 501c3 organisation, EIN number 25-1306992</i></p>
Contact	<p>Development Office, Kylemore Abbey T: +353 95 52063 E: development@kylemoreabbey.ie</p>		<p>Mary Reed, US Campaign T: 914 420 3517 E: mary.reed@kylemoreabbey.com</p>	



Ora et Labora Pray and Work

Rule of St. Benedict



SCAN CODE to watch video
about Kylemore Abbey's
New Monastery project.

THANK YOU