

Prospectus:

1/5: Introducing Carmel and the Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland

What is Carmel?

Carmelite spirituality is one of the ancient traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. The ‘Carmelite Family’ developed from a community of hermits dwelling on Mount Carmel in thirteenth-century Palestine; priests and lay people living a contemplative existence and following a *Rule* given to them by Saint Albert, the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Carmelites first settled in Britain in 1242, and from there spread to Ireland, becoming an international order of friars in 1247. Enclosed nuns, active sisters, and lay people have always played a major part in the life of the Carmelite Family. Over centuries of development and reform, Carmelites and Discalced Carmelites have continued their distinctive way of living ‘in allegiance to Jesus Christ’, following the prophet Elijah and the Virgin Mary, by forming praying communities at the service of all God’s people. Contemplation, that is pondering God and God’s will in our lives, is the heart of the Carmelite vocation, which spurs Carmelites into active service of those around them.

Over the centuries ‘Carmel’ has produced significant Christian saints, poets, mystics, and philosophers, such as Teresa of Jesus (of Avila), John of the Cross, and Thérèse of Lisieux (all three of them ‘Doctors of the Church’). In the twentieth century, the Carmelite Family bore witness to the Christian Gospel in the martyrdoms of Titus Brandsma, Edith Stein, and Isidore Bakanja.

The Carmelite way of life has had a major impact on the church and the world for 800 years. This impact has been cultural and social as well as spiritual.

The Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland

The Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland (CIBI) has been established to look at the influence that the Carmelite tradition has had upon individuals and institutions over the centuries.

By offering distance-learning programmes in *Carmelite Studies*, CIBI provides a structured way of studying Carmel’s rich heritage, charism, and spirituality. These interdisciplinary courses are accredited by the Milltown Institute of Theology and Philosophy in Dublin, and open to members of the Carmelite Family and to anyone interested in the Carmelite tradition.

CIBI is a collaborative project of both the Carmelite Order (O.Carm.) and the Discalced Carmelite Order (O.C.D.). The founding provinces are:

- The British Province of Carmelites
- The Anglo-Irish Province of Discalced Carmelites
- The Irish Province of Carmelites

Other groups within the Carmelite Family are also making an active contribution to the Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland, and CIBI is part of a worldwide network of Carmelite Institutes.

CIBI is a registered charity in the Republic of Ireland (CHY 16842).

Who might benefit from Carmelite Studies?

Programmes in Carmelite Studies are open to all those who wish to explore Carmel's spirituality, heritage and culture. Carmelite Studies are naturally of special interest to members of the Carmelite Family and the programmes on offer can be a major contribution towards their initial and ongoing formation, but CIBI's programmes are open to all regardless of age, gender, or faith background.

The distance-learning and part-time nature of CIBI programmes will make them particularly suitable for those unable to study residentially or full-time. It also makes CIBI ideal for English-speaking students living in any part of the world, as well those who are resident in Ireland and Britain.

The Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland hopes to offer those who participate in its programmes and activities an opportunity to learn about Carmel's heritage in its many forms and to grow intellectually, spiritually, and professionally.

2/5: Programmes and qualifications on offer

At present, the Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland (CIBI) offers two programmes:

- **The Adult Education Diploma in Carmelite Studies (Level 5)**

The Adult Education Diploma programme is designed as an introduction to Carmelite Studies for those who have little or no experience of university-level study, or who have not done any formal learning in recent years. The programme covers a very broad range of topics.

- **The Diploma in Carmelite Studies (Level 6)**

The level of the Diploma is equivalent to the first-year of a Bachelor's Degree or first-year professional training at third level education. This programme is designed for those who have completed second level studies sufficient for entry to third level. This restriction does not apply for mature students (those aged over 23) but some evidence of being able to study at this level may be required.

It is possible for a student to change between levels depending on how challenging he or she finds the material on offer, and the CIBI Office will happily advise students on this.

As CIBI develops it is hoped that further undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in Carmelite Studies may be offered.

Which level should I follow? Some examples...

Mrs. A. left school at sixteen and has no formal qualifications. She has completed a Lay Carmelite formation programme but since she has not studied formally since leaving school she opts for the Adult Education Diploma (Level 5).

Mr. B. A nurse with an interest in Carmel. He has a professional qualification and is therefore a suitable candidate for the Diploma (Level 6) programme.

Sister C. has been a professed nun for twenty years and feels that a specifically Carmelite study programme would benefit her ongoing formation. Although she entered the convent without any third level education she has experience of Carmelite spirituality and has shown an aptitude at writing on topics for a Carmelite magazine. She thus enters the Diploma (Level 6) programme as a mature student.

Brother D. is a friar who has completed theological studies and who he wishes to supplement his studies with a CIBI programme. Since he is already engaged in third level studies he is able to apply for the Diploma (Level 6) in Carmelite Studies. However, he may opt to take the Adult Education Diploma (Level 5) as he has not been engaged in formal study for a number of years, and since he has little direct experience of Carmel he prefers to opt initially for the Adult Education Diploma (Level 5).

A student who qualifies for the Diploma (Level 6) programme, may choose to take the Adult Education Diploma (Level 5) for personal reasons, e.g., they have not been engaged in formal study for some time, and because they are retired or are not in the best of health and would like to enjoy the course, without overtaxing themselves.

Will I get a formal qualification if I complete a CIBI programme?

Yes. Those who successfully undertake either the Adult Education Diploma programme or the Diploma programme with all the relevant assessments will gain an internationally-recognised qualification at present awarded by the Milltown Institute in Dublin, a specialist college for theology, philosophy and spirituality.

The format and structure of CIBI programmes follow the standards established for universities and colleges across the European Union (known as the *Bologna system*).

Subject to availability of individual modules, the following modules will be on offer:

Adult Education Diploma in Carmelite Studies: (Level 5) Modules

- 1A Who are the Carmelites?
- 1B The Rule of Saint Albert.
- 1C Elijah in the Carmelite Tradition.
- 1D Mary in the Carmelite Tradition.
- 2A What is Spirituality?
- 2B The Carmelite School of Spirituality
- 2C Scripture in the Carmelite Tradition.
- 2D Prayer in the Carmelite Tradition.
- 3D/1 Carmel & Inter-faith Dialogue.
- 3D/2 Psychology & Carmelite Spirituality.
- 4C Saint Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church.
- 4D The Teresian Reform
- 5B Blessed John Soreth.
- 5C/1 John of Saint Samson.
- 5C/2 Saint Raphael Kalinowski.
- 5D/1 Jacques de Jésus-*Au Revoir les elfant*
- 5D/2 Blessed Lawrence of the Resurrection.
- 6A The O Carm Charism from 1950.
- 6B The OCD Charism in the 20th Century.
- 6C Elisabeth of the Trinity.
- 7A The Carmelite nuns & sisters, past & present.
- 7B Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, Doctor of the Church.
- 7C Saint Teresa of the Andes.
- 7D Edith Stein: Spirituality of the Cross & Holocaust Experience.
- 8A The Carmelite Family in the 14th Century.
- 8C Carmel in Britain & Ireland, the beginnings.

The Diploma in Carmelite Studies (Level 6)

- A1 Carmel: Development of the Tradition.
- A2 The Origins of the Carmelite Family.
- A3 Figures of Inspiration: Mary & Elijah.
- A4 Carmelite Reform & Renewal in the 16th Century.
- B1 The Carmelite Charism: Exploring the Biblical Roots.
- B5 Carmelite Devotion & Popular Piety.
- B9 What is Spirituality?
- B10 Marian Mystics.
- C1 An Introduction to Saint John of the Cross.
- C3 Titus Brandsma.

In the Diploma it is possible for independent study to be undertaken in a student's particular interest area, provided suitable tutor supervision is available.

3/5: Distance-Learning

The programmes offered by the Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland are not residential study courses. Rather, CIBI programmes are delivered through *distance-learning*. Students study at home, using materials that can be accessed through the CIBI website (www.cibi.ie) or that are sent by post. Because of printing and postal charges the cost of receiving CIBI courses by post is higher than via the internet.

Students receive individual feedback from tutors on the work submitted.

All CIBI correspondence is conducted via the Institute's office in Dublin.

Assessments

Those wishing to undertake CIBI programmes for assessment will be given priority at the time of registration. All assessments are submitted electronically, by e-mail.

For each module of the Adult Education Diploma (Level 5) students typically will be expected to complete one of the following:

- a learning journal of 1,000-1,500 words, recording the student's experience of studying this particular module, **or**
- an essay of 1,000-1,500 words, **or**
- a questionnaire based on the contents of the module

For modules of the Diploma (Level 6) students typically will be expected to complete the following:

- four questionnaires based on the contents of the module, **and**
- a final essay of c.2,000-2,500 words

Can I sign-up for a programme without having to sit assessments?

Students are able to undertake CIBI programmes without doing assessments for each module, but if places are limited on a programme priority will be given to those opting for examination. Students who have opted for examination may choose to opt out if they change their mind; likewise those who have not opted for examination may later register for examination. The registration fee is the same whether or not students sit for examination.

Resources available for distance learning

The Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland will advise students on the various resources that are available for their study. CIBI students will have access to a number of Carmelite

and other libraries across Britain and Ireland. Some core texts will also be available on the internet.

4/5: How are the programmes put together?

Modular system

The programmes offered by the Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland are modular, that is to say, both the Adult Education Diploma (Level 5) and the Diploma (Level 6) consist of stand-alone topics (modules). Although ideally all modules would be completed according to a prescribed order, the modules are all self-contained learning experiences that can theoretically be followed in any order (depending on what tutors are available to teach them). It is also possible for students to take a break from study for a semester. In order to complete either programme the necessary modules must be completed within 6 years unless special dispensation has been given. If the student chooses not to be assessed there is no limit on the duration of the programme. Most modules will be on offer every semester.

Semester system

The academic year for CIBI programmes is measured in two semesters, each being a twelve-week period, the first running from mid-September till mid-December, and the second from early-January until late-April or early-May. Modules will be available during the semester periods only.

For the Adult Education Diploma in Carmelite Studies (Level 5) 32 modules must be completed. Each module will take 6 weeks to complete (half a semester).

For the Diploma in Carmelite Studies (Level 6) 12 modules must be completed. Each module will last for one semester. It is possible to take more than one module per semester.

Each module consists of a certain number of 'units' (lessons/lectures), depending on the course offered. Each unit is the equivalent of two 45-minute lectures delivered by post or online; the student will need to dedicate about the same amount of time to private reading beyond the materials provided. For the Adult Education Diploma (Level 5) there are 5 units per module (1 unit per week), and for the Diploma (Level 6) there are 16 units per module (2 units per week).

Credits

To earn the relevant qualification in Carmelite Studies students accumulate credits by completing a module. 60 credits must be accumulated for both Level 5 and Level 6. CIBI assumes that credits will normally be accumulated by taking study modules.

5/5: Registration and Fees

Registration process

If you would like to register as a student with the Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland, please complete the registration form at the end of this prospectus. The form can also be downloaded from the CIBI website: www.cibi.ie

Fees

No payment should be sent with the registration form. As places on the courses are limited, once a student has been allocated a place on the course, they will be invoiced by the CIBI office for the modules that they will take that semester, along with any associated costs (Post, printing etc.)

These are the prices for the academic year **2009/2010**

For both the Adult Education Diploma (Level 5) and the Diploma (Level 6) there is a one-off registration fee of **€25.00 (or equivalent)**.

For the Adult Education Diploma the cost per module will be **€25.00 (or equivalent)**. The cost of completing all 32 modules (excluding registration) will therefore be **€800.00 (or equivalent)**.

For the Diploma the cost per module will be **€100.00 (or equivalent)**. The cost of completing the usual number of modules will therefore be approximately **€1200.00 (or equivalent)**.

The above prices are for those students accessing CIBI programmes online via the internet and returning their assessment by e-mail. Any student who prefers to have the modules posted to them will be charged an additional cost per module to cover printing & postage: **€15.00 (or equivalent)** per module for the Adult Education Diploma, and **€30.00 (or equivalent)** per module for the Diploma. Students who receive the modules by post must, nevertheless, submit their assessments by email.

It is hoped that some bursaries may become available for students in financial hardship, but CIBI cannot guarantee this since its programmes are already heavily subsidised by the founding provinces.

Further queries

If you have further queries, please contact the CIBI Office in Dublin (address above)

or consult the Institute's website: www.cibi.ie

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