

OBLATE UPDATE APRIL 2019

On Sunday, March 31st, in lieu of the usual April Tuesday Monthly meeting, the Oblates had a lovely potluck brunch. We had an abundance of scrumptious foods, great conversation and community. The agenda for this gathering was an informative, entertaining slide presentation by Oblate Walt Fraser who traveled on Fr. Tim's Abbey pilgrimage to England and Wales. We heard many inspirational moments from the heart. As Benedictine Oblates we try to remember to listen with the "ear of our heart", in all our travels and daily encounters.

Walt's Reflections on the Pilgrimage to Southern England and Wales

We visited Glastonbury Abbey in Glastonbury, England and our namesake with its rich history that includes Joseph of Arimathea, the Holy Grail and King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Established in 712 CE the last of the additions was completed in 1524, Glastonbury Abbey was destroyed in 1539 when the monks refused to deny Papal authority and comply with the Acts of Supremacy which made King Henry VIII the Supreme Head of the all Church(s) in England. At the time of its destruction the Abbey was one of the largest churches outside of Rome, had their land taken, assets stolen and the monks killed or dispersed. The dramatic ruins of Glastonbury Abbey are a reminder to the importance of the separation of church and state.



A visit to Caldey Island, 4 km off the coast of Tenby, Wales is home to forty residents and a varying number of Cistercian Monks, provided both excitement and peace. While only a short boat trip it was most memorable as one climbs onto a 200 foot long ramp connected to a floating dock all pushed by a tractor through the surf where we board a small boat, navigate through the rocky coastline, did I mention the heavy seas and pea soup fog, then transfer to a vintage WWII German "duck boat" which takes us the last 100 yards to a concrete dock on Caldey. We made our way along the path to Caldey Monastery just in time to join the monks chanting Midday Prayer in a small, rustic church. After trekking two or three miles through the bird sanctuary and ocean vistas it is easy to feel the presence of God in nature and all things; and is what makes us "Pilgrims on a Journey."

