

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY
OF THE CARMELITE ORDER

(References to Ireland are in *italics*)

TWELFTH CENTURY:

- 1187 Saladin's victory at Hattin over the Crusaders left them with only a small territory around Tyre.
- 1191 Third Crusade restored Acre. Mount Carmel was the only place where hermits could live as it was still under Frankish power. Carmel had been an important staging point for Saladin which suggests there may have been a lot of refugees here.

THIRTEENTH CENTURY:

- 1204 Election of Albert as Patriarch of Jerusalem by the Canons of the Holy Sepulchre.
- 1206 Albert's arrival in the Holy Land.
- 1214 September 12 - Albert is stabbed to death.
- 1215 Fourth Lateran Council places a ban on forming new Religious Orders.
- 1216 Jacques de Vitry (Bishop of Acre until 1228), suggests that monks had been on Carmel from the beginning of the Frankish Conquest of Palestine in the eleventh century but available evidence only goes back to the thirteenth century.
- 1226 Confirmation of the norm of living of the hermits on Mount Carmel granted by Honorius III.
- 1229 April 6 - the appeal to Gregory IX that the *Rule* had pre-dated the 1215 ban is accepted and the *Rule* recognised. Also that day, hermits no longer allowed to own land or possessions thereby making them mendicants. Gregory instructed that the prior be elected by the *majoris et sanioris partis*.
April 9 - the hermitage on Mount Carmel placed under the protection of the Holy See.
- 1238 Already to be found in Europe. Earliest foundation was at Valenciennes in 1235.
- 1247 The presence of the Order in Europe is referred to by Innocent IV. October 1 - *Rule* mitigated by Innocent IV with the help of two Dominican theologians. *Rule* further mitigated by a decision of the Aylesford General Chapter to start using Constitutions. St Simon Stock.
- 1254 Prior given the power to grant faculties.
- 1256 Carmelites had the *Rule* confirmed against those who questioned their legitimacy with regard to Lateran IV. Repeated in 1262 and 1289.
- 1261 Alexander IV granted permission to the Order to build public churches.
- 1266 Nicholas of France elected Prior General until 1271. Writes the "*Fiery Arrow*" (1270) in praise of the contemplative life over the active one.
- 1267 House founded at Avignon.
- 1271 *Carmelites arrive in Ireland and build their first house by the River Barrow at Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow.*
- 1274 Second Council of Lyons re-enforced Lateran IV and canonized the four mendicant orders which were to be allowed: Dominicans, Franciscans, Augustinians and Carmelites.
- 1281 Lay Brothers now excluded from Provincial and General Chapters.
- 1286 Honorius IV granted the Order papal patronage.

- 1287 Earliest Acts of the Chapter which still exist.
July 22 - striped mantle changed by the General Chapter for the white one after permission granted by Honorius IV. Stripped mantle had caused embarrassment and prevented entry into universities, etc.
- 1289 Boniface III gave unconditional approval to the Order which had been restricted by Lyons II.
- 1290 *Order establishes a friary in Kildare Town.*
- 1291 Lay brothers now deprived of active and passive voice.

FOURTEENTH CENTURY:

Government of the Order in the thirteenth century was very much along the Dominican model. Huge growth is experienced in the second half of the century. By 1300, there were 150 houses across Europe and the Holy Land, including 9 friaries in Ireland. In the first half of the century St Angelus, the first to come to Sicily from Mount Carmel, was martyred.

- 1304 Earliest record of female profession.
- 1305 St Peter Thomas born. Was Procurator General at Avignon before being made a bishop and working in various Sees for the Holy See. Made Latin Patriarch of Constantinople in 1364. He died in 1366.
- 1307 St Albert of Trapani (in Sicily) dies.
- 1317 John XXII gave the Order full exemption from episcopal jurisdiction.
- 1322 *Sabbatine Bull* of John XXII which confirmed the Scapular Confraternity and the promise of the Scapular Vision (ie, a happy death and salvation to its wearers). No original of this document is to be found.
- 1324 John Wycliff born (died 1384). He was strongly opposed by English Carmelites, especially Thomas Netter Waldensis (died 1430) who was an aid to both Henry V and Henry VI.
- 1326 *Super cathedram* of John XXII gave all the privileges of the Franciscans and Dominicans to the Order.
- 1334 *Order establishes a friary in Kinsale, Co Cork.*
- 1348 The Black Death. At the General Chapter at Metz 200 friars died.
- 1356 *Order establishes a friary at Knocktopher, in Co Kilkenny.*
- 1360 Saint Nuno de Santa Maria Alvares Pereira born. A champion of Portuguese independence before he joined the Order following the death of his wife in 1423. He died in 1431.
- 1374 January 6 - St Andrew Corsini, bishop, dies. He was born at the start of the century.
- 1395 Blessed John Soreth, for a time Prior General, born. He died in 1471.
- 1399 The general chapter decreed the celebration of the Feast of St Elisha.
Rubrica Prima - declared the Order came from Elijah and Elisha - the start of the tale.

FIFTEENTH CENTURY:

While the papacy was at Avignon the centre of the Order also moved there and stayed in their house there. A split arose in the Order following the split in the papacy. Urban VI was elected in Rome in 1378 but refused to go to Avignon. The majority of the Cardinals were French and immediately declared the election invalid (though they had voted for Urban) and instead elected Clement VII on September 20. He was recognised by France, Flanders, Spain and Scotland, and Urban by all the rest. Both popes appointed generals to the Order who ruled in the two “territories.” The Order was re-united in 1409 when the Council of Pisa deposed the successors of both Urban and Clement. Much slower expansion in the fourteenth century with 150 new houses by 1400. *This century also was the greatest expansion Ireland ever saw.*

- 1409 In his *Sabbatine Bull* of December 7, Alexander V confirms that of John XXII regarding the Scapular Fraternity and promise.
- 1430 General Chapter at Nantes probably agreed to seek the second mitigation of the *Rule*.
- 1432 *Supplica* of February 2 to the Holy See seeking the mitigation. Granted that day by Eugene IV.
- 1413 Reform of Mantua is agreed with the first house being in Le Selve (between Florence and Pisa). Cloister and silence were stressed with no entrance for the laity. Covered three houses.
- 1447 April 17 - Blessed Baptist Spagnoli of Mantua born. Was Vicar General of the Mantuan Congregation six times and also Prior General of the Order. He died March 20, 1516.
- 1480s Reform of Albi began.

RENAISSANCE:

Erasmus - Some of his bitterest enemies and critics were Carmelites. Many Carmelites were taken in by the Renaissance and animated by it.

REFORMATION:

The Provinces of Saxony, England, Ireland, Scotland, Denmark and parts of Germany (Upper and Lower) were lost. Poland also diminished. Continental reforms of the Order had not reached the English so the Province quickly died away for want of martyrs. A number of the friars, including provincials, supported Henry VIII (and received bishoprics for it). Ireland began to lose houses in August 1539 but still remained though not always with a prior provincial because of travel in the country.

SIXTEENTH CENTURY:

- 1515 Teresa de Ahumada y Cepeda (Teresa of Avila) born (died 1582). Mystic, reformer and Doctor of the Church.
- 1527 First Carmelite to arrive in South America as a chaplain to the Portugese expeditionary forces. King Philip II had given permission to some orders to go to his new territories but the Order was late in applying for permission and so were refused it. The Crown did nominate Carmelites to be bishops there however.

- 1532 *Knocktopher friary lost during the Reformation.*
- 1539 *Kildare and Dublin friaries lost during the Reformation.*
- 1542 St John of the Cross born (died 1591). Mystic, reformer and Doctor of the Church.
- 1543 *Leighlinbridge and Kinsale friaries lost during the Reformation.*
- 1545 The Council of Trent opens and is attended by forty Carmelites including one Prior General (Nicholas Audet) and four bishops. Council opened with four cardinals, four archbishops, twenty-one bishops, and five generals of the mendicant orders (Franciscans – Conventual and Observant), Augustinian, Carmelite and Servite. Others attending were theologians and assistants.
- 1554 Teresa of Avila has the “vision” which causes her conversion.
- 1564 General Chapter. Philip II of Spain wants reform of the Orders within his territories and takes a keen interest in such reform.
- 1566 April 2 – Mary Magdalen de’ Pazzi born.
Cornerstone of the Carmelite Church Santa Maria in Traspontina (Our Lady across the Bridge), in Rome, is laid. Part of the facade was built with stone from the Colosseum. The work was completed in 1688.
- 1567 Teresa of Avila given permission by the General to found new monasteries.
- 1560s Cardinal Charles Borromeo was Cardinal Protector of the Order. He was later canonized.
- 1570 Between 1570 and 1571, Selim II – Turk – took Cyprus and the Order lost the Holy Land – its first province.
Still four or five houses in the Irish Province. Probably there were always Carmelites in Ireland though not known about.
- 1571 John of St Samson born (died 1636). Spiritual director, healer and mystic.
- 1584 May 1 – *Pastoralis officii* of Gregory XIII ended the Congregation of Albi in Paris and returned the 12 friars to the Order.
- 1591 December 14 – death of St John of the Cross.
- 1593 December 20 – Clement VIII in his *Pastoralis officii* confirms the decree of the 1593 General Chapter of Cremona which erected the Order of Discalced Carmelites (O.D.C) and he gave them a Preposit General. The members of this Order could not erect houses where the Order of Carmelites already were. Clement VIII reforms the religious orders of the Church.
- 1598 General Chapter – Henry Sylvio elected prior general. Began reform of the Order following Trent and Clement VIII’s decrees as all other Orders had to do.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY:

- 1603 March 19 – Clement VIII’s *Institutions* fixed the form of novitiate which exists today.
- 1604 Chapter of Touraine at Nantes began the Reform of Touraine under Peter Behourt (1564-1633) and Philip Thibault (1572-1638), friends of Mme Acarie’s house and of Pierre Card. De Bérulle and Francis de Salles. Also involved was John of St Samson. Basically the product of French spiritual renaissance. Some of Touraine’s ideas spread to other provinces and resulted in reform. Important were Touraine’s statutes and directory for novices which became normative.
- 1615 Miguel de la Fuente composes a Rule for his tertiaries which presents the Third Order

fully developed in its modern form, though tertiaries had been around for some time but not clearly defined.

- 1629 *December – the Protestant archbishop of Dublin, Lancelot Bulkeley, headed a military raid on the Cook Street house but was repulsed. But was it an ODC or an O.Carm house?*
- 1634 Colour of the habit finally settled as dark brown. Some provinces had been wearing black.
- 1638 *ODC province in Ireland is erected and had nine houses by 1643. Established themselves by taking the abandoned houses of O.Carms which led to trouble in time. The ODCs were to return them when the O.Carms returned but refused when actually asked. All were eventually lost under Cromwell.*
- Post-Reformation Europe was seen as mission territory and Carmelites undertook missions to Ireland, England, Holland and Northern Germany.*
- 1646 Mission to Grenada in the West Indies sets off. Granted apostolic status after many requests only in 1712.
- 1633 Urban VIII decreed that no other order could establish on Mount Carmel.
- 1686 *A short while after this Touraine was given responsibility for Missions to England and Ireland.*
- 1698 *Letters from an ODC in Ireland says O.Carms had three times more men than him.*
- 1697 *Ireland comes under the commissary for England.*

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY:

- 1715 *May 1 – Ireland separated from England and Scotland. Students will go to Spain and France for studies.*
- 1720 *Monopoly of Flanders and Touraine over Ireland is lost.*
- 1730 *Leighlinbridge friary re-established.*
- 1731 *Irish petition the General Chapter for the restoration of the Province under the Stricter Observance (which was now normative in the Order). Now had 12 houses and 38 friars. Kinsale friary re-established. No further word from the mission in England is heard after this year.*
- 1735 *Order establishes a friary in the Irish midlands at Moate, Co Westmeath.*
- 1737 *October 10 – Clement XII's brief Pastoralis officii erected the Irish Province. Also able to name a vicar for Scotland and a prior for Edinburgh.*
- 1741 *May 25-31 – first Chapter of the restored Irish province elected 14 priors.*
- 1743 *Congregation of Propaganda said all students were to study on the continent, which was prompted by rumours coming from Ireland. Re-iterated in 1751. Same for all mendicant orders.*
- 1750 *Kildare and Knocktopher friaries re-established. Carmelites return to Dublin.*
- 1754 *Congregation of Rites approves Blessed Virgin Mary Immaculate as patron and St Patrick as co-patron of the province in Ireland.*
- 1768 *France: Commission des Réguliers said the Order had 1,199 friars in 129 houses in 8 provinces in France. Commission caused havoc in all the Orders in France. Similar happenings in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and Portugal. No houses in France by the turn of the century.*
- 1780 *Forty-two members in Ireland. Maintained its numbers while numbers in other countries were falling.*
- 1798 *During the 1798 Rising the prior of Kildare was hanged by soldiery but revived by locals. In*

places where the Carmelites had disappeared the tertiaries continued and often under the guidance of a secular priest who was also a tertiary. They helped greatly in returning friars to certain areas.

NINETEENTH CENTURY:

- 1801 *Ireland had 10 houses and 28 priests. Various houses come and go in the following years.*
- 1825 *Site of original Dublin foundation at Whitefriars Street re-purchased. Cornerstone of the Church laid in 1825 and finished in 1827. Move from French Street. Our Lady of Dublin installed.*
- 1826 *Leighlinbridge friary suppressed by Bishop Doyle of Kildare and Leighlin.*
- 1837 *Kinsale church begun, finished 1850. Convent built 1854.*
- 1840 *Ireland has 26 priests.*
- 1843 *Knocktopher church built to replace the old thatched cottage which had been used as a church.*
- 1852 *Thomas Albert Bennett appointed provincial in Ireland by Pius IX.*
- 1860 *Terenure College opened – the oldest educational institution in the Order.*
- 1861 *Bennett, founder of Terenure College, made president of All Hallows College, Dublin. Chaplaincy of the South Dublin Union (now St James' Hospital) begun.*
- 1864 *Signs of re-growth begin to appear in Europe.*
- 1868 *Completion of the Moate church followed by the convent in 1870.*
- 1869 *December 8 – the First Vatican Ecumenical Council opens with 699 Council Fathers including three Carmelite bishops and the Order's Vicar General.*
- 1870 *Ireland has 41 priests between Dublin, Knocktopher, Moate, Kinsale and Kildare.*
- 1871 *John Spratt (b1796), architect of Whitefriars Street, dies. Chapter decreed a home novitiate be opened, based at Terenure College, as Europe was now closed due to suppression in Spain and loss of the Papal States. Chapter was attended by Angelo Savini – first general to visit Ireland.*
- 1872 *July 17 – Joseph Valerga, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem (and first to reside there since the Crusades) wished Savini every success in returning to Mount Carmel. ODCs were already there, though not at the original foundation, and on December 9 the preposite general rejected the O.Carm request, though Propagation of the Faith had supported it.*
- 1873 *Françoise Thérèse Martin (St Thérèse of Lisieux) born in Alençon, France. Died September 30, 1897, canonised 1923, declared a Doctor of the Church in 1999.*
April 28 – Propagation of the Faith said a move to Mount Carmel by the O.Carms was “not expedient.”
- 1875 *February 26 – Propagation of the Faith gave Savini permission to go to the Holy Land.*
April 12 – Pius IX gave his blessing to the project. October – the ODCs quietly buy the land of the original foundation (they were living elsewhere in the mountain range), but this was later shown to be false.
- 1878 *May – Propagation met again and, despite the money raised by Savini, the project ended.*
- 1880 *Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity born. Died in the Dijon Carmel in 1906.*
- 1881 *Blessed Titus Brandsma born. He spent a Summer in Ireland learning English. Martyred at Dachau 1942.*
Irish Mission to Australia begins, though there had been a “lay Carmelite” there since 1802 (he had been deported in 1802 after the 1798 Rebellion) – John Butler. First parish north of Melbourne covered 700 miles and ten towns.

- 1884 *Kildare church begun, finished 1887.*
- 1889 *First Irish Carmelites arrive in New York. German and other friars had been in the States since 1886, especially in the Deep South. Second foundation in New York in 1897 at Tarrytown.*
- 1891 October 12 – Edith Stein (Teresa Benedicta of the Cross) born to Jewish parents. Baptised 1922 and entered Carmel in 1933. Martyred at Auschwitz August 9, 1942. Canonised 1999, and later made Co-Patroness of Europe.
- 1894 Revival in Brazil by the Spanish.
- 1895 *School at Whitefriars Street built.*

TWENTIETH CENTURY:

- 1904 New Constitutions approved by Pius X, February 20.
- 1919 *Elijah Magennis elected prior general. Born 1868 in Mayo and died 1937. Carried restoration of the Order to its completion and paved the way for expansion.*
- 1922 *Irish houses in New York become a Commissariate and finally a Province in 1931.*
- 1926 July 31 – *first Irish Carmelites arrive in Faversham, Kent to restore the English province.*
- 1929 *January 5 – two Carmelites arrive in the Holy Land at Nablus. The foundation became a studium with Irish and American Carmelites attending but was suspended due to Arab hostilities under the British Mandate. The mission ended after the Second World War.*
- 1930 *Irish houses in Australia become a Commissariate.*
Carmelites return to Portugal.
New Constitutions adopted.
- 1931 Hilary Doswold elected Prior General.
- 1932 Two provinces now in Spain – Catalonia and Araga-Valentina.
- 1936 Seventeen Spanish members of various Carmelite communities gave their lives in defence of and in witness to their Christian faith during the Spanish Civil War.
- 1946 *July 22 – Propagation of the Faith gives permission for the Order to go to Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) – the first time the Order has gone to Africa.*
October 7 – Raymond Lamont, Luke Flynn and Anselm Corbett leave Ireland for the mission.
- 1947 *Kilian Lynch elected Prior General.*
- 1944 *Irish Province purchases Gort Muire in Dundrum, Dublin and builds a student house there.*
- 1948 Australia becomes a Province with 41 friars and 7 convents.
Spain now has third Province.
- 1949 Aylesford, Kent is recovered and rebuilt.
The North American Province of the Pure Heart of Mary starts a foundation in Peru.
Members of the Maltese Province establish foundations in Peru and Bolivia.
- 1951 Commissariat of Parana, Brazil founded by members of the Upper German Province.
- 1952 January 1 – England becomes a Commissariate.
- 1957 *February 1 – Raymond Lamont consecrated bishop.*
- 1959 Kilian Healy elected Prior General.
- 1963 Order has 2,760 friars.
- 1969 September 12 – England becomes a Province.
- 1971 September – 130th General Chapter of the Order takes place at which Falco Thuis is elected Prior General.
- 1973 First Carmelites arrive in India from the Upper German Province.

February 10 – First Carmelites arrive in the Congo.

- 1974 *The Carmelites accept responsibility for the newly constituted Parish of Whitefriar Street with Whitefriar Street Church being the parish church.*
The Carmelites accept responsibility for the Parish of Knocklyon, Dublin.
- 1978 *The Carmelites accept responsibility for the Parish of St Mary's, Abercromby Street, in Glasgow, Scotland.*
- 1981 *The Carmelites accept responsibility for the Parish of Beaumont, Dublin.*
- 1983 September – 132nd General Chapter of the Order takes place at which John Malley is elected Prior General.
- 1989 The Order returns to France and opens its first house in Bourges.
- 1995 *The Whitefriar Street Community Centre was destroyed by fire and the Parish Sister – Sr Teresa Roche – lost her life. The Centre had been housed in the school which was built in 1895.*
The Carmelites withdraw from the Parish of St Mary's, Abercromby Street, Glasgow, after seventeen years.
The North American Province of the Pure Heart of Mary starts a foundation in Mexico.
September – 134th General Chapter of the Order takes place in Sassone, Rome, at which Joseph Chalmers is elected Prior General. The Chapter approves the new Constitutions.
- 1996 *Carmelite College, Moate, closed following a decision of the Irish Government to build a community school elsewhere in the town.*
- 1997 St Elias Province, U.S.A. voted to begin a foundation in Trinidad.
Members of the Carmelites in the Congo begin visiting the Cameroon and welcome vocations to the Order.
- 1998 March 25 – Hermits of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, New Jersey, USA, affiliated to the Order.
August 30 – First Carmelites from the North American Province of St Elias arrives in Trinidad.
September 6 – First Carmelites take up residence in Mozambique from Peru with help of the Carmelites in Zimbabwe.
October 11 – Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) canonized. She would later be named Co-Patroness of Europe.
- 1999 *The new Carmelite Community Centre in Whitefriar Street was opened by the President of Ireland, Mrs Mary McAleese.*
December 8 – Hermits of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel at Christoval, Texas, USA, affiliated to the Order along with a separate group of hermits of the same name from Lake Elmo, Minnesota, USA.

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY:

- 2000 First Liberians move to England to study as members of the Order.
January 17 – First foundation in Burkina Faso inaugurated.
- 2001 Carmelite Marian Year to celebrate the 750th Anniversary of the giving of the Scapular.
Carmelites return to Lithuania. 500 people are enrolled in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The Indian Commissariat of the Upper German Province begins a mission in Kenya.
After 140 years, the Irish Province withdraws from the Chaplaincy to St James' Hospital, Dublin.

March - Order begins its first foundation in Cameroon, Africa. October 1 is the official beginning of the presence in Cameroon.

May 14 - The Hermits of Lake Elmo, Minnesota (USA) are incorporated into the Order.

September 3 - 135th General Chapter of the Order opens in Sassone, Rome.

November - East Timor becomes part of the Australian Province.

December 14 - The Order was approved as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) of the United Nations.

2002 November 9 - Hermits of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel at Christoval, Texas, USA, officially incorporated in to the Order.

2003 January 1 - Hermits of Monteluro, Tavullia, Italy, officially incorporated in to the Order.

February 9 - first Romanian Carmelite ordained to the Priesthood. Italian Province arrived in Romania in 1993.

2004 March - The General Council of the Order gave permission to the Maltese Province to reactivate the Bolivian Commissariate.

July 16 - the Carmelite General Commissariat of the Philippines came into existence.

2005 May - the Dutch Province accepts responsibility for the mission in Lithuania.

2007 May 11 - the Canonical Erection of the Province of St. Thomas of the Syro-Malabar Rite in India takes place. The new Province comes into existence on July 16.

September 4-22 - the 136th General Chapter of the Order takes place in Sassone, Rome at which Fernando Millan Romeral is elected Prior General.

2008 October 19 - a new Carmelite mission was officially inaugurated in the diocese of Beirina, Papua New Guinea. It is a mission of the General Commissariate of the Philippines.

November 14 - first Solemn Profession celebrated in Vietnam.

2009 February 2 - The Sixteenth Council of Provinces is convoked. It will meet in September on the theme "Embracing his Gospel: Carmelite community in faith, hope and love."

April 26 - Nuno de Santa Maria Alvares Pereira was canonized in Rome by Pope Benedict XVI. Born in 1360, Nuno became a soldier and champion of Portuguese Independence before becoming a Carmelite in 1423 following the death of his wife. He died in 1431.