

THE LEADERS

The pilgrimage will be led by Julienne McLean, Peter Tyler, Viv Stacey and Fr Michael Kirwan who will be presenting talks and items for reflection. We anticipate, in addition, that there will be plenty of time and space for quiet reflection. As well as our own (ecumenical) prayers participants are invited to participate in the liturgies of CITES.

Dr Peter Tyler is Senior Lecturer and Programme Director of Pastoral Theology at St Mary's Uni. College, Twickenham. He has had a long interest in the Christian mystical tradition, and regularly co-leads these Spanish study retreats with Julienne. His doctoral work combined his interest in mystical theology with psychology and philosophy. He has published *The Way of Ecstasy - Praying with Teresa of Avila* (1997, Canterbury Press) and *John of the Cross – Outstanding Christian Thinker* (2010, Continuum).

Julienne McLean is a psychologist, Jungian analyst and spiritual director in North London. For many years, she has been teaching, writing and running groups and workshops on depth psychology and Carmelite spirituality, as well as co-leading these study retreats to Spain with Peter. She is the author of *Towards Mystical Union* (2003, St Paul's, London), a modern commentary on St Teresa's text on prayer *The Interior Castle*.

Viv Stacey is a spiritual director with a background in hospital chaplaincy. She leads quiet days, retreats and formation programmes offering creative readings of mystical writings

and wisdom literature, with a special interest in the writings of the Spanish mystic, Francisco de Osuna. Most of her work is offered through the Christian Contemplative Spirituality Network, and in association with the British Focusing Teachers Association.

Father Michael Kirwan is a Jesuit priest living in South West London. He is a Senior Lecturer in Theology at Heythrop College (Uni. of London), with a special interest in political and liberation theologies, and in the work of the French religious thinker, Rene Girard. He is author of *Discovering Girard* (2004, DLT, London) and *Political Theology: a New Introduction* (2009, DLT, London).

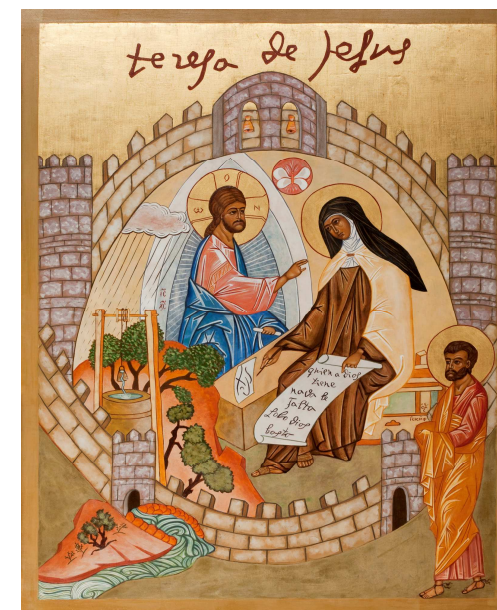
The cost is 850 Euros payable directly to CITES by Visa/Mastercard. This includes full board at CITES and all travel expenses in Spain, and excludes travel from your home to Barajas airport, Madrid. A deposit of 100 euros is necessary on booking, with the full balance to be paid by 1st March, 2013.

**To book a place, please contact –
Milagros Quintela Mathison
Group Coordinator, CITES, Avila.
Tel: + 34 920 352 240
Email: grupos@citesavila.org**

**For more information & enquiries, see
www.contemplativespirituality.org/retreats or
email info@contemplativespirituality.org**

Demand for places on the pilgrimage has been high in the past, so we recommend booking as soon as possible.

THE SPANISH SCHOOL OF SPIRITUALITY STUDY RETREAT



**At the Carmelite Institute of Teresian
and Sanjuanist Studies (CITES) in**

Avila, Spain during

1st – 9th July, 2013

**in association with the Contemplative
Spirituality Network**

'There is a great fire in the spirit after the manner of a cloud of surpassing brightness. Then the soul is given surpassing certainty that the three Persons are one substance, one power, one wisdom and one only God. Thus it comes about that what we have held by faith now we grasp by vision.'

Teresa of Avila, *The Interior Castle*

We are delighted to invite you to share eight days together in the company of St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross in the places most associated with their life and work in Castille: Avila, Toledo, Segovia and the Gredos Mountains. Our retreat shall take place at the newly built *Carmelite Institute of Teresian and Sanjuanistic Studies* (CITES) inaugurated in June 2008 and purpose-built in Avila for study and retreats by the International Carmelite Order.

From 2pm on Monday 1st July participants may arrive at the centre. For those who need it, a coach will depart from Barajas Airport, Madrid at 2pm. **Avila**, our base for the retreat, is the so-called 'City of Knights' and retains the best preserved medieval fortifications in Europe. It has also been a centre for Jewish and Christian mystical writing for over a thousand years. CITES itself is built adjacent to Teresa of Avila's own Convent of the Incarnation and commands breathtaking views of the city and the Gredos Mountains.

On each day of the retreat there will be a planned itinerary in the mornings, involving presentations from the retreat leaders followed by a guided visit to a place of interest in the environs. During our time together we hope to explore various themes which arise from the saints' writings whilst placing them in the unique setting within which we find ourselves.

On our first day in the city you will have a chance to visit some of its key sites, including the Cathedral and Teresa's birthplace. On Wednesday we shall again be based in Avila and have time to visit the convent of the *Encarnación*, Teresa's home for much of her religious life, and San Vicente.

On Thursday we make a day pilgrimage to the mystical city of **Toledo**. Known as 'The Jerusalem of the West' and 'The City of Three Cultures,' for many centuries it was the place where Eastern and Western cultures met and cross-fertilized. To this day the unique blend of Jewish, Muslim and Christian cultures is seen in the literature, art and spirituality inspired by this great city. During our day, we shall visit the two remaining synagogues of Toledo, the El Greco House and Museum and the Cathedral built on the site of the old city Mosque.

Friday is designated as a day for silent reflection to allow us to absorb the peace and serenity of Avila. Participants who

want to can work in the gardens, laundry or library of CITES and breakfast and lunch will be in silence.

On Saturday we have the chance to visit the fairytale city of **Segovia** including the tomb and Priory of St John of the Cross. We shall enter into this scene and have a chance to visit the Knights Templar church of Vera Cruz, the Plaza Major, Cathedral, *Convento* of Corpus Christi (a former Jewish synagogue) and the world-famous Roman aqueduct.

On Sunday we shall once again be in Avila and as well as our chance for prayer and reflection we shall visit the first foundation of Teresa's reform of the Carmelite Order, the church of San Jose.

Our final excursion on Monday will be to the spectacular wild mountains of the **Gredos**. Here we will spend the morning at the Hermitage of Saint Peter of Alcantara in the Gredos Mountains. St Peter was a close ally of St Teresa and is mentioned many times in her 'Life'. His hermitage is in one of the most beautiful spots in the Gredos which is always pleasant, cool and verdant even in the hottest weather. After lunch we will visit the stunning Caves of Aguilar. The retreat ends after early breakfast and prayer on Tuesday 9th July with a coach available at 10.30 for those who need transport to Barajas Airport, Madrid.