

## Application to join 'The Confraternity of the Holy House, Corby'



Membership is open to everyone, and the commitment is to daily offer the Our Lady of Walsingham Prayer, and to pray the Holy Rosary every Wednesday, preferably in the Holy House or at home, and to pray for the mission of the Shrine at Walsingham, and for all members of the Confraternity of the Holy House, Corby. The lifetime membership is £5.00 to cover the costs of the Confraternity badge and Prayer Card.

### The Confraternity's Daily Prayer:

O Mary, recall the solemn moment  
when Jesus, your divine Son, dying on the cross  
confided us to your maternal care.  
You are our Mother; we desire ever to  
remain your devout children.  
Let us therefore feel the effects of your  
powerful intercession with Jesus Christ.  
Make your name again glorious in the shrine,  
once renowned throughout England  
by your visits, favours and many miracles.  
Pray, O Holy Mother of God,  
for the conversion of England, restoration of the sick,  
consolation for the afflicted, repentance of sinners,  
peace to the departed.  
O Blessed Mary, Mother of God,  
Our Lady of Walsingham intercede for us.

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### OLOW Confraternity Applicant's Full Name:

Please give this slip to Janet Northing with the remittance for the Lifetime Membership

## The Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Walsingham The Confraternity of the Holy House, Corby



The Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Walsingham, Corby is unique in England, in having its own Holy House where the Priests and People can gather to honour Our Lady under her title of 'Our Lady of Walsingham' and seek her prayers, leave petitions, and leave lighted candles for those for whom they seek Our Lady's prayers.

For those not at the Basilica or Slipper Chapel in the village of Walsingham, Norfolk this provides another "England's Nazareth" where Our Lady of Walsingham's powerful intercession may be sought.

In order to foster devotion to Our Lady, a 'Confraternity of the Holy House, Corby' is to be formed. Those wishing to be members of the Confraternity will be able to purchase Badges - just as the medieval pilgrims

wore badges, and be committed to say daily the 'Prayer to Our Lady of Walsingham,' and to encourage others to share in all the good things done among us. The Confraternity will have a Priest Director and a Lay Guardian, and is open to all who wish to honour Our Lady of Walsingham and seek her intercession for the conversion of England and for themselves and others.



### ***A brief history of the Holy House in Walsingham, Norfolk***

In 1061, near a quiet small village in Norfolk, there lived a wealthy young widow named Richeldis de Faverches, the Lady of the house at Walsingham Manor which overlooked the village. Richeldis lost her husband at a young age. She found comfort and solace in prayer and through long habit became quite devout. Our Lady took pity on this young woman who faithfully day by day asked her aid so patiently. Richeldis was to become the one to whom Our Lady would come with a special request.

Our Lady appeared to Richeldis three times, and each time she showed her a vision of her home in the town of Nazareth. It is said that, in the vision, they walked together until they reached one small, unassuming little dwelling. Our Lady turned to Richeldis and told her it was here, in her girlhood home of Nazareth, that the Angel Gabriel asked her to be the Mother of God. This was the place she spoke her *fiat* to God's will for the world. Our Lady asked Richeldis to remember what it looked like, to take dimensions in her mind, and to rebuild an exact replica of the house in her own little village of Walsingham. Richeldis took these visions to heart, and did as Our Lady asked. And so, there in her small village near Walsingham manor, a perfect replica of the holy house of Nazareth rose in its quiet simplicity to the wondering questions of the villagers. Our Lady said this to Richeldis:

"Do all this unto my special praise and honour. And all who are in any way distressed or in need, let them seek me here in that little house you have made. To all that seek me there shall be given succour."

This all happened during the time of the Crusades, when pilgrims could no longer travel to the Holy Land to pray and honour the holy places where Jesus had walked. Our Lady knew the poor and needy of England could not travel to the Holy Land, so she brought the Holy Land to them! And they came. Poor,

rich, suffering, thankful, needy. All came to her little house of Nazareth and found her there, ready to welcome them. In fact so many came that the Milky Way in the night sky became known as the 'Walsingham Way.' The Shrine became one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Europe - to which *Kings and Commoners* came in great numbers, until that is that King Henry VIII ordered its dissolution and destruction.

The Shrine lay in ruins for many years. But Our Lady clearly had plans. A wealthy Anglican woman named Charlotte Boyd took the shrine to her heart in the 1890's. She discovered the small original building which had once been the "Slipper Chapel" which was a mile from the original shrine. Pilgrims were said to have taken off their shoes and left them at this chapel to make the last mile of sacrifice in bare feet. Charlotte was so moved by the story, that she determined to restore public devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham. She undertook to restore the Slipper Chapel and found herself converting to the Catholic Church in the process. On August 20, 1897, she oversaw a small procession with a humble statue of Our Lady of Walsingham into the renovated chapel.

A copy of the Holy House was subsequently built in the village by an Anglican Priest, Hope Patten. It is not built on the original site, but attracts many pilgrims. The Catholic Church decided to create a Shrine with what remained of the original buildings and a beautiful image of Our Lady of Walsingham resides in the original Slipper Chapel, and nearby stands a new Basilica. Catholics visit Walsingham in reparation for the sins of the English Reformation. In our Confraternity in Corby, we have the opportunity to continue that work and pray for the conversion of England.

*"The Faith in England will flourish when the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham is flourishing."* Cardinal Griffin in 1954

*"When England goes back to Walsingham, Our Lady will come back to England."* Pope Leo XIII in 1897