The Vision for the Development of Kylemore Abbey

Comencing in Autumn 2012, a major programme of development is being planned to strengthen and consolidate every aspect of Kylemore Abbey’s mission. Great care will be given to preserving the beauty and tranquility of the place, the built heritage of Mitchell Henry, the spiritual tradition of an active Benedictine monastery and the welcome extended to all who come for recreation, education and renewal.

Principal projects include the following:

1. RECONFIGURATION OF THE CASTLE
   - This €3.5 million project aims to provide Kylemore’s 250,000 annual visitors with a world-class experience based on Mitchell Henry’s grand design. The refurbishment will broaden access for visitors, restore the character and features of principal rooms and redesign every aspect of the exhibition space.

2. AN EDUCATION CENTRE
   - Commencing 2013, a new Education Centre will offer residential accommodation and modern classrooms and training spaces as well as a comprehensive programme of Summer schools and training opportunities.

3. A COMMUNITY CHURCH
   - Commencing 2012, a full re-orientation of the former gymnasium will provide a community chapel where groups of up to 100 can be accommodated to spend time in silence or to join the nuns at worship. The Community Chapel will also present an exhibition of the life of the community and the Benedictine tradition.

4. A NEW MONASTERY
   - The community intends to construct a stand-alone monastery, separated from the Castle, which is purpose-built for the life of a community of nuns.

5. SPACE FOR HOSPITALITY
   - A new guest house and pilgrim accommodation will be provided through the restoration of current buildings on the estate and the development of new facilities.

6. NEW COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES
   - Following extensive evaluation of their appropriateness and sustainability – a range of new initiatives will be developed in renewable energy, food preparation, outdoor facilities and visitor services.

Message from the Abbess

Welcome!

At Kylemore, we are blessed with a beautiful natural landscape, the legacy of Mitchell Henry’s estate and a strong tradition monastic life – education and hospitality. We seek to make Kylemore a haven for all those who love the natural environment, who respect the heritage of yesteryear and who seek new skills and blessings for tomorrow’s challenges.

Our community finds that Kylemore provides us with all of the tools to be faithful to our mission and reach out to a world in great need of a new approach.

I hope that you will join us through your prayers, your regular visits, and financial support.

Sr Maire Hickey, OSB
Abbess

Come and See

About The Benedictine Community

The present Benedictine Community at Kylemore Abbey traces its origins to the St Johns Dames of Ypres, founded from Ireland in 1665. After many years in exile, a move to Ireland was precipitated in 1914 following the destruction by shellfire of their monastery in Ypres. In 1920, the community settled in Kylemore, County Galway.

Daily Timetable of the Community

07:15 Morning Prayer (Vigils and Lauds)
12:00 Mass/Midday Prayer
18:00 Evening Prayer (Vespers – Litas on Sundays and Feastdays)
20:00 Night Prayer (Compline)

The nuns understand that in their work, they are co-operating with God the Creator to enhance the ongoing process of creation. They do this through involvement in the care of the community, the preparation of the liturgy, the administration and management of the estate, catering, running the small farm, welcoming guests, engaging in teaching and performing the daily tasks in the house and garden.

Award Winning Progress

Those new developments build on the success of previous projects, including the completion of the award-winning The Science and Craft Centre, the restoration of the Victorian Walled Garden (winner of a Europa Nostra Award in 2002) and an extensive restoration of the two-Gothic church (recipient of an AIB Better Ireland Award and a RIAI Conservation Award).

How You Can Help

The Trustee believes that Kylemore Abbey today can have a similar transformational effect on the region as did Mitchell Henry 150 years ago.

Further Information: www.kylemoreabbey.com

You are invited to join this great effort:

• Join with us in prayer
• Become a member of our Women’s Network
• Attend and participate in our educational and retreat programmes
• Support us through your financial contributions.

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