

STUDY TOUR

with the Spanish Mystics

**for Priests and Deacons of The Society in the Province of York
with the Bishops of Beverley and Blackburn**



**13-18 April
2026**

led by Bp Norman Banks SSC and Fr Adrian Ling CMP



**THE SEE OF
BEVERLEY**

In 1562, St Teresa of Avila began her reform of the Carmelite order, with the foundation of St Joseph's convent in Avila, recovering the basic austerity and simplicity of the order. She derived much support from St John of the Cross who extended the reform into the male branch. They both encountered much opposition but are now acclaimed as Doctors of the Church for their renowned spiritual works, such as The Interior Castle and The Spiritual Canticle.

This pilgrimage around Castile in Spain, and based in Avila, takes the pilgrim to many of the sites associated with their lives, together with other places which form part of the golden age of Spain under Philip II.

Mass will be celebrated daily at many of the important shrines or in the chapel of the retreat house.



Bishop Norman Banks has taken several pilgrimage groups to Avila and will share his insights into the lives and teachings of these two great Carmelite saints.



Canon Adrian Ling, Rector of South & West Lynn has extensively explored the history and culture of Spain. He is a fluent Spanish speaker and will act as interpreter and guide.



Avila

- Convent of the Incarnation: home to St Teresa, where preparations were made for the Carmelite reform.
- Convent of San Joseph: St Teresa's first foundation of the discalced Carmelite order.
- Avila Cathedral: built into the walls that surround the city.
- Convent of St Teresa: on the site of her birthplace.



Alba de Tormes

- Convent of the Annunciation: burial-place and shrine of St Teresa.
- Carmus museum displays the previously hidden treasures of the convent.



Salamanca

Built of golden stone, the city is the location of the oldest university in Spain, where St John of the Cross pursued his studies. Free time to explore the city and cathedrals, and take refreshment in the elegant Plaza Mayor.

Segovia

- Convent of St John of the Cross: final home and burial place of the saint.
- Free time to explore the graceful late-gothic cathedral, Alcazar fortress and Roman aqueduct.





Fontiveros

- Birthplace of St John of the Cross
- C16 Parish Church of Saint Cyprian, site of his baptism



Duruelo

Out in the sparse Castilian countryside. Site of the first foundation of St John of the Cross, now an enclosed convent of Carmelite Sisters.



Medina del Campo

- Convent of Saint Joseph, where the perfectly preserved original cells of St Teresa's second foundation have recently been opened to the public, offering rare admission inside an enclosed convent.
- Chapel where St John of the Cross celebrated his first Mass.



- Full-board accommodation is provided in the comfortable Diocesan Retreat House in Avila, which is a short walk from the city centre, close to bars for a welcome evening drink.
- All rooms are en-suite.
- Cost: £830.
- To register your interest please contact the Bishop of Beverley's Office: office@seeofbeverley.org.uk or 07394 545887.