



**THE BAR CONVENT**

Living Heritage Centre

## **Learning Resources for Schools**

### Suggested Classroom Discussion Topics for KS2

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#### **KS2 Religious Education**

##### People of Faith in History

- Imagine you are Mary Ward, looking for followers to journey across the Alps with you. It's a very long distance to walk and will take you months. You will be walking in harsh conditions. What kind of people would you choose to come with you? What qualities would they need?
- What do you think inspired Mary Ward to achieve the things she did?
- Why do you think people around the world find Mary Ward's story so inspiring?
- What big challenges do you think Mary Ward was facing? Have you ever faced the same challenges in your own life?
- In what ways did Mary Ward disagree with the common beliefs of the time? What did she think was wrong? What things today do people think are wrong? Does everybody think those things?
- Mary Ward was a very determined person. Have you ever been determined to achieve something? What things in the future are you determined to do?

##### Enduring Belief

- Why do you think people in Mother Frances Bedingfield's time were prepared to suffer (or even die!) for their beliefs?

- What do *you* believe in very strongly? What would you risk for that belief?
- Find a friend. Imagine you are Frances Bedingfield and her niece Dorothy, imprisoned in York's Ousebridge Gaol for your beliefs. How will you encourage each other to be strong? What reasons do you have for being in prison? How do you think you would feel in this situation?
- Why do people think that relics like the hand of Margaret Clitherow are special?

### Community

- List all of the communities you belong to - i.e., your family, your class... what is special about each of those communities? How are they different to each other?
- What do each of your communities bring to your life? What would you be missing if you were not part of that community?
- If you could decide Three Rules for a community you belong to, what would those rules be? What rules would make people happiest? What rules would be most fair? Are they the same?
- Why do you think that the hand of Margaret Clitherow is now in The Bar Convent Chapel? Why did her friends preserve it after her execution?
- What inspired Mary Ward's companions to travel with her all the way across the Alps?
- Do you think The Bar Convent's protestant neighbours knew that it was secretly a Catholic school? Why do you think they kept The Bar Convent's secret?
- Why do you think a mob of people once tried to burn down The Bar Convent? Why did individuals not come to burn us down on their own?
- Instead of living with a family of their own, our sisters live in a community together in the convent. How do you think this would be different to family life? Would some things be the same?
- Why do you think Queen Elizabeth I was angry when she heard about Margaret Clitherow's execution?

## Freedom and Justice

- What freedoms do we enjoy today that ordinary people did not have in Mary Ward's lifetime?
- Which of those freedoms would you miss the most? Which would you miss the least?
- How would your life have been different if you were living in Mary Ward's time?
- Complete this sentence: "To me, freedom means..."
- Complete this sentence: "To me, justice means..."
- Which do you think is more important - freedom or justice? What would you lose if one of them was taken away from you?
- If you could grant everyone in the world *either* freedom *or* justice, which would you choose to give? Why?
- When Mother Frances Bedingfield was in charge of The Bar Convent, it was raided and searched several times by the city authorities. If somebody searched your home or your bedroom, what would they discover about you? Would you have to hide anything to keep it secret? How would that make you feel?
- Mary Ward was imprisoned by the Inquisition as a heretic for her beliefs. Why did the Inquisition think this was necessary?