



THE BAR CONVENT

Living Heritage Centre

Quick Definitions

Catholic	A member of the Roman Catholic Church, which has the Pope as its head
Chapel	A place of worship, like the one hidden here in the Bar Convent
Congregation	A group of people who gather together for religious worship
Congregation of Jesus	The religious congregation to which the Bar Convent sisters belong, established by Mary Ward
Convent	A place where nuns live together
Contemplative	A way of religious life where people devote themselves completely to prayer and silence, without active work in the world
Enclosed	The ordinary life for nuns in Mary Ward's time – behind a convent wall, with little contact with the outside world
English Reformation	The period of religious upheaval started by Henry VIII's split from the Catholic church. This led to the creation of the Church of England.
Jesuit	A member of the Society of Jesus, founded by Ignatius of Loyola in 1540 to do missionary work. Jesuit priests came to England after the Reformation to support Catholics in their faith, and make new converts.
Martyr	Someone who dies for their faith
Missionary	A religious person who goes out across the world to spread God's message
Mother Superior	The sister who is in charge of a convent
Nun	A woman who takes religious vows to live her life in devotion to God
Persecution	An attack on people because of their religious or political beliefs
Pope	Head of the Catholic Church, who lives in Rome
Priest Hole	A hiding place in a house during the recusant period where priests had to hide if the authorities came searching
Protestant	A member of one of the churches set up after the Reformation
Recusant	Someone who, during the time of people like Margaret Clitherow, did not attend their Anglican parish church when they were supposed to by law
Relic	A sacred item or object connected to a holy person or a saint
Vows	Special promises made to God, such as those made by our sisters when they enter religious life