

Mary Ward: Time line

1585	Mulwith	Mary Ward was born on 23 January in Yorkshire, England. Her parents were Ursula Wright and Marmaduke Ward. Her baptismal name was Joan.
1585-1590		Mary lived with her parents at Mulwith until she was five years old.
1590-1594	Ploughland Hall near Welwick	Until she was nearly ten years old Mary lived with her grandparents, Robert and Ursula Wright, at Ploughland Hall, East Riding, Yorkshire. Her grandmother taught her Latin and Mary read the Fathers of the Church. When her grandfather died Mary returned to her parents.
1595-1597	Mulwith	Mary lived with her family. She had three younger sisters and two younger brothers. When Mulwith was burnt in 1595 the family moved to Newby.
1597-1598	Harewell	The family moved to Northumberland and Mary lived with Mrs Ardington of Harewell. She made her first Communion there on 8 September 1598.
1599-1606	Osgodby	Mary lived with relatives, the Babthorpe family, at Osgodby. With her cousins Mary was educated by tutors and learnt Latin, French, Italian and German. In 1605 Edmund Neville became a suitor for Mary's hand in marriage. She refused him, as she had refused several other suitors before him, and declared her desire to be a religious.
1605-1606	London and St Omer	Fr Holtby SJ consented to Mary's desire to enter religious life. At her confirmation Mary – who had been Joan to that point – took the name Mary. She travelled from England to Calais and then to St Omer and became an extern Sister in a Convent of Poor Clares.
1607		Mary left the Poor Clares.
1607-1608		Mary established a convent for English Poor Clares at Gravelines, in the province of Flanders. (This convent still exists.) Mary and her sister Frances became postulants.
1609		Mary understood that she was not called to be a Poor Clare and left the convent she had founded. Mary returned to London and visited Catholics in hiding and in prison and instructed them in the faith. She received the 'Glory Vision' by which she understood that she was not to be a Carmelite but was called to another vocation 'to the glory of God'.
1609-1610		Mary Ward returned to St Omer with her first companions (1609 according to the English and

		1610 according to the Gregorian calendar). They began community life and to teach English girls who went there seeking refuge from the persecution of Catholics in England. Mary Ward's first companions were: Mary Poyntz, Winefrid Wigmore, Johanna Brown, Susanna Rookwood, Catherine Smith, Barbara Babthorpe and Mary's sister, Barbara Ward. They were called the 'English Ladies' because they were English women of noble descent.
1611		Mary had a vision of the spiritual foundation of her Institute. The words she understood were: 'Take the same of the Society' (that is, of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits).
1611-1612	St Omer	First plan of the Institute – 'Schola Beatae Mariae' after her revelation ('take the same of the society'). Mary could not accept this plan.
c.1612	London	A small house was founded in London by some of her companions.
1614/18	England	Mary made about four more journeys to England in order to carry out some apostolic work.
1615	St Omer	In October 1615 she had the illumination called 'The Vision of the just Soul' which showed her the clear and perfect 'estate to be had in this life'.
1615	St Omer	The plan of the Institute 'Ratio Instituti' was sent to Rome asking for the approval of the Institute.
1616		Mary sent recommendatory letters from Bishop Blaes, Bishop of St Omer, to Pope Paul V. The Pope praised their work, commanded Bishop Blaes to have care of them, and promised the possibility of her Institute being confirmed.
1616	Liege	Mary went to take the healing waters at Spa and to investigate the founding of a house at Liege.
1617	Liege	Foundation of the house in Liege. Bishop Blaes sent a pastoral letter in praise of them. Mary went again to England and returned to establish the novitiate at Liege.
1618		Mary made another visit to England and was captured and condemned to death without trial. Fine money was paid by friends and Mary was released. A novitiate was founded in Liege in Pierreuse Street.
1619		Mary returned to St Omer and Liege. Sister Praxedes and Mary Alcock disputed her leadership. Both soon died.
1620-1621		Mary founded houses at Breite Straße in Cologne and Pferdemarkt in Trier. Barbara Babthorpe was made Provincial Superior for the houses in the north (St Omer, Liege, Cologne and Trier).

1621	1 Journey to Rome	21 Oct to 24 Dec: Mary and four sisters made their first journey to Rome on foot, across Europe and over the Alps, arriving on Christmas eve. 28 Dec: Mary had an audience with Pope Gregory XV, seeking approbation for her Institute.
1622-1623		The founding of a school for the poor in Rome. The death of Mary's sister, Barbara Ward on 25 Jan 1623. The opening of a school in Naples.
1624	Rome - Perugia	In January Mary travelled to Perugia to make a new foundation there. She also went to the Spa – San Casciano dei Bagni in Umbria.
1624	Naples	Susannah Rookwood, the Superior in Naples, dies.
1624	Rome	23 July: Decree by the Congregation for the Faith: the Institute will either have to accept enclosure or be closed down.
1624	Perugia – Rome	September: Mary Ward returns from Perugia to Rome.
1624	Rome – Mondragone	Between 17-23 October: Mary Ward was granted a first audience by Pope Urban VIII and given hope for the approval of her Institute.
1625	Rome	At the beginning of the year negotiations began between the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith and Mary Ward.
1625	Rome	11 April: A decree was issued – all houses in Italy had to be closed because they did not accept enclosure.
1625	Rome	June: the school in Rome was closed.
1625	Liege	The house in Pierreuse Street was closed because of debts.
1625	Perugia	Mary Ward went to Perugia to close the house.
1626	Rome	From 1626 on Mary Ward lived near Santa Maria dei Monti.
1626	Naples	From 20 June to c.14 July Mary Ward stayed in Naples (at that time Naples was under Spanish rule).
1626	Rome – Munich	From 10 November 1626 to 7 January 1627 – Mary travelled from Rome via Florence, Milan, Feldkirch, Innsbruck to Munich.
1627	Munich	27 April: Elector Maximilian I of Bavaria invited Mary Ward and her sisters, the 'English Ladies' (ie Englische Fräulein) to the Paradeiserhaus in Munich where they opened a school. The Elector recommended them to Emperor Ferdinand II.
1627	Vienna	At the end of June, Mary arrived in Vienna; in autumn 1627 a school was opened with the help of Emperor Ferdinand II and 465 girls attended the school in Vienna.

1628	Vienna – Pressburg (Bratislava)	March: Mary Ward travelled to Bratislava to set up a new house.
1628	Prague	April – July: An attempt to open a house in Prague was unsuccessful because of rumours being spread in Rome about the Institute.
1628	Rome	7 July: The decree to suppress the Institute was promulgated in Rome. The reason given was the refusal to accept enclosure.
1628	Eger (Bohemia)	August: Mary travelled to a Spa at Eger for her health.
1628	Vienna	From the end of August to the beginning of September: Mary Ward visited the Apostolic Nuncio in Vienna.
1628	Munich	October: Mary Ward returned to Munich.
1628	Munich – Vienna	4 to 11 November: Mary Ward visited the Apostolic Nuncio in Vienna.
1628	Vienna – Munich	21 November: Mary returned to Munich.
1629	Munich – Rome	2 January: Mary set out on her second journey to Rome via Innsbruck and Mantua.
1629	Rome	25 March: Mary sent a letter to the Pope asking for approval of the Institute.
1629	Castelgandolfo	Between 9 – 29 May: She was granted an audience by Pope Urban VIII.
1630	Rome	Between 26 February and 19 March: Mary Ward was invited to meet with the papal commission consisting of four cardinals.
1630	Liege	30 April: The house in Liege was closed.
1630	Rome – Munich	April – May: Mary Ward returned to Munich.
1630	St Omer	15 May: The house in St Omer was closed.
1630	Munich	June/July: Winefrid Wigmore was sent from Munich to the houses in the North on visitation.
1630	Cologne	Before 26 July: The Cologne house was closed.
1630	Liege	5 September: Winefrid Wigmore as the official visitor came to the house in Liege which had been closed. She tried to re-establish the house.
1630	Liege	September: the former members were questioned by the Apostolic Nuncio; then he forwarded the documents to Rome.
1630	Rome	27 November: The Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith handed the documents over the Inquisition.
1630	Munich	28 November: Mary Ward sent a letter to Urban VIII requesting help.

1630	Trier	November: the house in Trier was closed.
1631	Rome	13 January: Bull of Suppression – 'Pastoralis Romani Pontificis' issued by Pope Urban VIII; it is the final suppression of the Jesuitesses.
1631	Munich	7 February till 14 April: Mary was taken and imprisoned in the Angerkloster convent in Munich as a 'heretic'. The Sisters were allowed to stay in the Paradeiser House. 18 March: Mary Ward seriously ill at the Anger convent.
1631	Rome	21 May: Publication of the Bull of Suppression in Rome.
1631	Munich	The house in Munich is officially closed.
1631	Vienna/Munich	The Bull of Suppression was publicized before 16 August in Vienna and on 18 August in Munich. 24 October: Though still ill, Mary Ward sets out on foot on her third journey to Rome to plead her innocence from Munich.
1631	Bologna	23 November: Mary Ward arrived in Bologna. Due to the threat of plague, she was not allowed to journey onwards to the Vatican but had to wait for a certificate of good health until January 1632.
1632	Rome	Beginning of March: Mary Ward arrives in Rome and is granted an audience with Pope Urban VIII.
1632		Mary was acquitted of heresy.
1633	Rome	Around November, Mary and her companions moved to an apartment opposite the Capella Paolina of Santa Maria Maggiore.
1634	Rome	Before 16 November: audience with Pope Urban VIII.
1635	Munich	1 December: Elector Maximilian allows the Institute to reopen the school, but they are only allowed to teach as lay people.
1637	Rome	2 January to 13/19 March: Mary Ward was seriously ill.
1637	Nettuno	After 19 March until about 7 May: Mary went to Nettuno to recover.
1637	Rome	30 July: Mary received the sacraments of the dying and the blessing of the Pope.
1637	Rome	13 August: The Pope allowed her to travel to Liege.
1637	Rome	10 September: Mary departed from Rome going via Siena, Florence, Turin, Mont Cenis, Paris to Liege. It was a long journey because of the 'Thirty Years War' in Europe.
1638	Liege	Mary arrived in Liege in spring.
1639	London	20 May: Mary arrived in London and worked with Catholics there. They were unable to open a

		school at that time. Between 28 June and 1 July – audience with Queen Henrietta Maria.
1642	Yorkshire	End of April: Because of the outbreak of the Civil War in England between the King Charles I and the Parliament, the Sisters were forced to travel north to Yorkshire. Later she moved her household to Hutton Rudby, Cleveland.
1643	Heworth/York	Due to the dangers of war, she moved to Heworth.
1644		20 April to 3 June: The siege of the city of York forced them to move inside the city.
1644		End of July: Mary returned to Heworth.
1644		From November onwards, Mary became very weak.
1645	Heworth	On 11 or 12 January Mary Ward received the sacraments for the last time. On 30 January (20 January – Old Calendar) Mary Ward died peacefully surrounded by her faithful companions. She was buried in the small cemetery (Anglican) belonging to the church of Osbaldwick near Heworth. On her tombstone they chiselled the inscription:

*To love the poor,
 persevere in the same,
 live die and rise with them
 was all the aim of
 Mary Ward
 who having lived 60 years and 8 days
 died 20th [sic] January 1645*

With thanks to Sr Renata Rohleder, CJ.