



DOWNSIDE ABBEY PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINISTRY OF THE PRINTED WORD

Scholar-Priests of the Twentieth Century

Downside Abbey Press releases a collection of essays exploring the work of eleven priests whose ministry was that of the printed word.

Pope St John Paul II reminded all priests of the need for on-going formation, both pastoral and intellectual; his belief was that pastoral activity needed grounding in assiduous study. With an output that spanned the 19th and 20th centuries, the work of the 'Scholar Priests' is considered relevant to the Church today.

The book explores the work of both religious and secular priests, whose studies ranged across fields as diverse as biblical studies, liturgy, philosophy, history, theology and spirituality, including: Cardinal Gasquet OSB, George Tyrell SJ, Bernard Ward, Adrian Fortescue, John Hungerford Pollen SJ, Herbert Thurston SJ, Ronald Knox, Philip Hughes, David Knowles OSB, Christopher Butler OSB, and Frederick Copleston SJ.

"There [is] here indeed a very wide diversity among these scholar priests in the variety of their formation, temperament, career, academic interests and, perhaps more interestingly, in their relations with the Church." Abbot Geoffrey Scott.

Edited by Fr John Broadley and Fr Peter Phillips, the book includes contributions by Oliver Rafferty, Stewart Foster, Nicholas Paxton, Thomas McCoog, Dom Aidan Bellenger, Nicholas Schofield, Terry Tastard, Simon Johnson, and Michael Walsh.

The book will be released on Thursday 19th May and is available for purchase at www.downside.co.uk priced at £35.00.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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Downside Abbey is a Roman Catholic monastery, and is home to a community of Benedictine monks.

Situated atop the Mendip Hills, south of Bath, the Abbey Church is one of only four Minor Basilicas in England; it has been designated by English Heritage as a grade I listed building. It is also the largest of the Neo-Gothic style churches built in this country after the Reformation, and was described by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as "the most splendid demonstration of the renaissance of Roman Catholicism in England. If ever there was an excuse for building in period forms in the twentieth century, it is here".

Downside School is one of England's oldest and most distinguished Catholic schools. It is an independent, co-educational, boarding and day school for pupils aged 11-18. Founded in 1606 in Douai (in France), the School is now housed in magnificent buildings at the foot of the Mendip Hills, twelve miles south of the City of Bath.

www.downside.co.uk