

religious gathering planned for next year. The fact that ma-dame Louise Shao and her son introduced us to the deep resonances of Chinese music was a promising sign of this wider openness to the various religious traditions in our region. The theme of the Breath, which for us Christians refers to the mystery of the spirit, along with the dialogue with the great traditions of Asia remain central points in my theological and spiritual research.

In these moments of confinement which can serve as a kind of retreat, allowing us to regain awareness of the importance of prayer, of a simple meditation which allows us to be born and live unceasingly from the Spirit, from the breath. «Births» from within, in the often unnoticed dynamic of our breath, where we completely abandon ourselves so that we can receive even more breath. This prayer, meditation so simple can connect us to the very mystery of Jesus, the beloved Son. Incessant mystery of gift between him and the father in the divine breath. We also hope to offer in the course of the coming months, some highlights that can help us to descend within ourselves by the practice and simple teaching of such themes. Do not hesitate to contact us with your questions or ideas regarding these subjects. In communion through the divine breath.

Sœur Marie-Claire-Denys

Agenda

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS INTO 2021

Thursday 24 December 2020 at 23.30 Vigil and Midnight mass at Notre Dame du Haut
Friday 25 December 2020 at 11am Mass in the Oratory of the Monastery of St Clare
Thursday 31 December 2020 at 22.30, Prayer vigil for the New Year in the Oratory
Friday 1st January 2021 at 11 am Mass in the Oratory.



WEEK-END at the Monastery of Saint Clare

Lighting our path of life in the light of the Bible and Sophrology
from 7pm Friday 26th February to 5pm 28th February with Sr Marie Laetitia, Ghislaine Hawrosz and with the participation of Annabel Henry.

FEAST OF SAINT COLETTE in the Oratory :

Friday 5th March 2021 at 8.15pm Prayer Vigil
Saturday 6th March at 11am Mass

TEN YEARS OF THE MONASTERY AT RONCHAMP :

Saturday 2nd October 2021 at 11am in the Oratory . Mass presided, by Monsignor Bouilleret (10th anniversary of the benediction of the Oratory and of the Bell).

Other events will be announced
later. Consult our website :
www.clarisses-a-ronchamp.fr

AND SAINT COLETTE OPENS THE ROAD

to our new community counsel :
soeur Brigitte (abbess),
soeur Maggy (vicarress)
soeur Marie-Claire-Denys (2nd counsellor)



**To become friends of the monastery of Saint-Clare
at Notre-Dame du Haut - Ronchamp (Franche Comté)
fill in the le bullet-in attached**



Les clarisses à Ronchamp

Autumn 2020 - Winter 2021



THE HYPHEN : A very small sign which sometimes unites great things. A small sign which could characterise our life at this time of year, as also in any other season, since by our vocation we are “linkers”. You will see it in the inter religious meeting of 13th September, through the gaze our bishop, a Poor Clare sister, federal councillor, over the past four years, our present and our opening to the future, during our canonical visit. The link with our guests who have come or revisited us with joy. Link with our friends attentive to share the fruits of their gardens, their talents and with those who suffer, who ask themselves questions. Link with all through the liturgy which binds us closely to Jesus Christ and gives us life by the Holy Spirit. Link between death and life during the passing of our sister Marie-Celine to God .Feast of All Saints brought home.

That this Christmas 2020 be our thank-you to the Father, our thank-you to all who support us in so many ways, our thanks the One who humbly connects heaven to earth, and always opens a future for us in the midst of the current upheavals that are so difficult to take on board.

That the year 2021 be again for us a land of broad and deep encounters

soeur Marie-Claire,

Monastère Sainte-Claire, 13 rue de la Chapelle, 70250 RONCHAMP (France)
monasteresteclaire@orange.fr ou steclaireronchamp@orange.fr
www.clarisses-a-ronchamp.fr - tél. : +33 (3) 84 63 13 40

JOYS OF A SUMMER IN FREEDOM

To emerge from the Lockdown which had held us apart for three months, to meet up again on 31 May for Pentecost in the open air, a beautiful church gathering that we had much missed... in addition to Sunday and weekday liturgies in the chapel of Notre Dame du Haut, This was followed by August 11th the feast of saint Clare, August 15th (the assumption of Our Lady) the 8th of September 5our lady's birthday and the farewell to fr John Kita, priest and dean of the deanery of Lure and an outstanding musician. The joy of giving thanks together, whilst at the same time respecting the health measures in place to protect us all.

The young families on holiday, on walks, on pilgrimage have retaken over the hill, praying and placing their candle in the chapel, whose doors were wide open to allow the air to circulate to chase away the virus. Other viruses, more interior, have taken over, in the number of persons asking to stay for a time of inner reflection and ressourcement at the monastery. Mainly strangers who have made the right choice thanks to the internet.

We came here by a life's chance, my son and I arrived here to spend four days. Silence, Light, prayer and peace. A beautiful present of the life to discover your monastery and to profit from this long time. The marriage of the spiritual and architectural beauty is dazzling and energising. Your kindness welcomes us and enables us to feel at home with much simplicity. Four days long and to take the time to live at the rhythm of the prayers. To be close to you was a very inspiring moment for this first individual retreat. Thank-you for your faith and your love, for allowing this place to be created in face of all the obstacles with the monastery project. This place is magnificent. Thank-you to you all and thank-you for the beautiful encounters.

Despite the cancellations of groups and scheduled meetings we have in community had some beautiful moments of sharing, with some Swiss pilgrims, with some singers coming from Germany, with the ordinary assembly of the Poor Clares and some insertion into the diocese with the hosting of the seminarians of France-Conte, then the bishop's council preceded by our canonical visit to take stock of our life and our mission, as is done periodically in church life.

Sr Marie Claire



AND THE AUTUMN CAME

In the warm autumn light the trees blaze, with their last leaves, and then strip bare. With the second lockdown made necessary by the galloping pandemic, we again were stripped of our projects, delivered to the only inner fire "confined in Christ", yet continuing, by prayer to forge links and to keep them at a distance with or without Zoom or Skype.....

To the last days of October, we accompanied our Sr Marie-Celine's passing to God. Aged 95 after 75 years of life

given to the Lord, the star of morning arose in her heart. The ultimate thoughts of her departure are :

"Love is as strong as death" (Cantic of the Creatures 8,6)

"All praise to you Lord for our sister bodily death, that no person can escape.

Happy the one who death will surprise in you most holy Will". (Saint Francis)

This community event sends each of us back to our primary vocation, and we hear our sister saying with a welcoming smile, simple and mischievous, whisper to us in a Franciscan manner : Let us begin sisters to serve the Lord, because until now we have done nothing.

Sr Maggy



ACCOMPANIMENT

A little more than two years ago the community had offered me to follow a training in spiritual accompaniment. This formation was set up by the diocese to respond to real need for a number of people.

This training is given by two trainers from the Manresa centre run by the Jesuits and is therefore based on Jesuit spirituality. Between twenty and twenty-five people responded to the offer that was proposed to them. This cycle consists of four sessions of three days, an accompanied individual retreat, various tasks and subjects for reflection in between time, and the invitation to form smaller local groups to meet up between the main sessions.

I receive this formation as a good immersion into the Church, by way of this sample, so diverse and so complementary, both in vocations, (laity, deacons, priests, religious), as in the commitments and the missions of each, and by their age. A richness of discovery of the face of the local Church, of intense testimonies, in all simplicity and humility.

This training is for the whole person and is very demanding and searches our profound depths. It touches a thirst in me, one of a true inner pilgrimage. And then very gently we began to put into practice some of the things that we learnt. Rereading and discernment exercises, are precious in many facets of my vocation, and in the services entrusted to me. The service of accompaniment fills me with gratitude for this anchoring in the life of the church, through the concrete companionship of people involved in parishes or other places.

Sr Marie Laetitia

THE DIVINE BREATH



The theme of our inter-religious meeting of 2020 was "**Sacred Breath and Music**" a gathering which was very much reduced in number this year because of the pandemic. The **breath** directed us towards the East. In three short hours we tasted and appreciated the Surates of the Qur'an, sung and explained by the Imam of Belfort. We heard the Kaddish, a central element of Jewish liturgy, referring to the vision of Ezekiel This chant, whose theme is the glorification and sanctification of the divine name, took us back to the roots of the Lord's Prayer, which was sung in Aramaic by our Iraqi friends. The highlight of the meeting was a text by the Chinese sage Zhuang Zhou on that **Great Breath** which animates Nature and mankind. If the pandemic prevented us from including in our programme the recitation of Sutras by Buddhist friends, with whom we have been in contact throughout this year. We hope that we will have the pleasure of welcoming them to our inter-

