

TIMELINE: *The Life of Mary Ward*

Date	Mary Ward's Life	What else is happening in the world?
1585	A very important person is born in Mulwith, here in Yorkshire – <i>Mary Ward</i> . Mary will one day set up religious communities and schools right across Europe. Mary's family are devoutly Catholic. This means they believe in the spiritual authority of the Pope.	Elizabeth I (a Protestant) is on the throne of England. People plot to replace her with her Catholic cousin, Mary (known as Mary, Queen of Scots). War has broken out between England and Catholic Spain.
1595	When Mary is eleven years old, her family home catches fire. Mary and her sisters hide and say the rosary until their father comes to save them.	In July, a Spanish fleet raids Cornwall. Meanwhile, three famous plays by Shakespeare are probably performed for the first time this year – <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> and <i>Richard II</i> .
1597	At twelve years old, Mary is urged by her parents to marry a rich man named Shafto who had asked for her hand in marriage. She refuses him.	In February in Nagasaki, Japan, 26 Catholics become martyrs. They are crucified for refusing to abandon their faith, as all forms of Christianity had been outlawed in Japan a year before. Meanwhile, John Gerard – a Jesuit priest – famously escapes from the Tower of London.
1598	One year later, at the age of thirteen, Mary is again pressured by relatives to accept a marriage proposal, this time from a man named Eldrington. Mary again says no.	Philip II of Spain dies, ending a golden age for Spain. Despite many attempts to invade England, including The Spanish Armada in 1588, he has never been successful. This has given great reassurance to the Protestant cause all over Europe.

1605	Three of Mary Ward's uncles are involved in the Gunpowder Plot to blow up parliament. Meanwhile, all of Mary's friends are trying hard to persuade her not to enter religious life and become a nun...	James I (son of Elizabeth's cousin) is on the throne now. He was originally King of Scotland, where he was successful, but he faces many challenges as King of England. He is deeply unpopular with Catholics, because he failed to repeal laws against them.
1609	At the age of 24, Mary founds a religious order for women at Saint-Omer. They are modelled on the Society of Jesus, whose mission takes them all over the world	Galileo Galilei demonstrates his first telescope to Venetian officials. The German Catholic League is formed, hoping to challenge the Protestant Union.
1617	During Mary Ward's life, people believe that women are generally weak and fickle creatures. It is thought that women should either be married or live a <i>cloistered</i> religious life – sealed away from the world in a nunnery. Mary Ward disagrees. She says, "I hope in God it will be seen that women in time to come will do much."	In Bohemia, Ferdinand II becomes king – two years later, he will also become Holy Roman Emperor. He is a zealous Catholic, whose aim to restore Catholicism to his country causes unrest and turmoil.
1618	On the feast of St James, Mary is at sea when a dangerous mutiny breaks out on board. Mary prays to St James for help, and to the amazement of everyone else, calm is restored.	The famous adventurer and spy Sir Walter Raleigh is beheaded for allegedly conspiring to commit treason against James I. His last words are, "Strike, man, strike!" Walter was one of Elizabeth I's favourite people, but King James did not feel the same way.
1630s	Mary's adventurous approach to apostolic religious life isn't for everyone. Pope Urban VIII is unhappy with her institute, suppressing it and declaring Mary Ward a heretic. She is even at one point imprisoned by the Inquisition, and the congregation is suppressed by the Pope.	An outbreak of The Black Death sweeps through northern and central Italy. It will claim one million lives – about a quarter of the population.

1639	Mary returns to London. In 1642 she returns to her native Yorkshire and lives with a few of her original companions in a village named Heworth, outside York.	King Charles I is on the throne. He is very unpopular with parliament, and the people are suspicious of his French Catholic wife. The Civil War breaks out between the King and Parliament.
January 30 th 1645	Mary Ward dies. She is buried in the churchyard at Osbaldwick, where her tombstone can still be seen, but her story is far from over...	The English Civil War between King Charles I and his enemy, Oliver Cromwell, has led to fighting all over England.
c.1650	The Painted Life of Mary Ward is created. This is a series of beautiful paintings detailing the important events in Mary's life.	Nell Gwyn is born – a famous actress, and girlfriend of the future King Charles II. Meanwhile, Charles himself is busy escaping to France. Oliver Cromwell has executed his father and taken control of England.
1877	The Institute set up by Mary Ward is <i>finally</i> approved by the Church – 268 years after its founding.	Queen Victoria is proclaimed Empress of India, and the famous inventor Emile Berliner produces the first microphone. A ballet by Tchaikovsky called <i>Swan Lake</i> has its debut.
1909	Mary Ward is finally acknowledged as the foundress of her order, three centuries after its beginning.	In April, Joan of Arc is beatified in Rome – this is where the Catholic Church recognise someone has entered heaven, and can intercede on behalf of people who pray in their name. In five years, the First World War will plunge the world into chaos...

