

Learning Resources for Schools

Suggested Classroom Discussion Topics for KS2

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KS2 History

Significant Figures in History: Mary Ward

- How would you describe Mary Ward's role in history? For example, is she a teacher? A hero? A rebel? What is the difference?
- Can you think of any historical figures or famous people who are *similar* to Mary Ward? What do you think they would say to each other if they met?
- Can you think of any historical figures or famous people who would *not agree* with Mary Ward? What would they say to each other?
- What do you think Mary Ward would think about the world today? Would she be pleased? Is there anything that would make her angry?

Women in History

- Do you think Mary Ward faced different challenges as a woman than she would have as a man?
- What did people assume about women at the time that Mary Ward lived? Are those assumptions now all gone?
- What challenges would a woman like Mary Ward encounter today?
- Mary Ward believed that "women in time to come will do much". What important things have women achieved since Mary Ward's lifetime?

- The Bar Convent all began with a donation from a man called Sir Thomas Gascoigne. He said: "We must have a school for our daughters." Why do you think this was important to him?
- How does the work of the Congregation of Jesus today reflect the beliefs of their founder, Mary Ward?

Local History

- Do you think The Bar Convent has always been welcome in York? What clues in our story or in our building might help you answer this question?
- Which time in history do you think was most dangerous for the sisters of The Bar Convent? Why?
- Why is The Bar Convent a safe place to be today? What threats have disappeared?
- What historical event has caused The Bar Convent to change the most?
- What else was happening around the world when Mother Ann Aspinal's chapel was built in 1769? (Examples: James Watt's steam engine; first ever Christian service held in New Zealand on Christmas Day; Napoleon Bonaparte and Duke of Wellington both born; etc.)
- What can the outside of The Bar Convent buildings tell us about the inside? What things are carefully hidden? What historical events have left their mark? (Examples: WW2 bomb damage has been replaced with different bricks; the domed chapel, built in secret, is hidden from the street by a plain roof; today, in an age of greater religious tolerance, the door welcomes those of all faiths and none; etc.)
- How do you think The Bar Convent has changed to respond to the city around it?