

## 《Exploring icons with Hong Kong students, Sr Esther, OSB》

Icon painting is a meditative, prayerful painting of an image that aims to depict the true inner likeness of Christ, Mary or the saints. So, this book starts with the story of Sr Esther who first came to Hong Kong in 2013. She is a sister at the Priory of Our Lady of Peace in Turvey Abbey in Bedfordshire (a Roman Catholic community living according to the Rule of Saint Benedict and belonging to the Olivetan family of Benedictines) for many years. She had a dream of establishing a mutual help and support network amongst iconographers. In 2001 Sr Esther together with others formed the British Association of Iconographers. Sr Esther has a further vision to bring icon painting to the East. She first came to Hong Kong in a retreat house in 2013 to teach a one-week course on icon. Since then it has become an annual event as the interest in icons is still growing in Europe and other places including HK. Bonfire World invited Sr Esther to come to Hong Kong from the UK for 2 weeks to conduct icon workshops for Hong Kong students each year from 2014 up to 2018.

The book 《Exploring icons with Hong Kong students, Sr Esther, OSB》 represents the collaborated efforts of Sr Esther and her Hong Kong students to introduce icon painting to the Chinese community. For the promotion of icon writing, apart from the launching of this new book, there is a series of other events in the coming month. 3 talks on icons will be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup>, the 16<sup>th</sup> of August (7:30-9:30pm). An icon exhibition will be held concurrently at the venue from the 2<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> of August 2018. Guided tours are available for individuals and groups.

For the exhibition we have included an iconostasis taken from the Church of the Beatitudes in Bethsaida of Israel – (the largest Church named Church of Sermon on the Mount) to show Christians are still in that country) – started by now retired Archbishop of Elias Chacour – a man called to bring peace to that country. Archbishop has granted his permission and copyright for us to use the icons of the church for this exhibition event.

The exhibition in HK is the result of Bonfire World collaborating with Father Thomas Law to help spread something of the meaning and lasting value of icons. The book is an excellent introduction to this. Anyone who is interested, curious or merely has new doors opening and deepening their own Christian faith from whatever denomination of Church is recommended to read this book.