

Module DC36: St. John of the Cross

This module is designed to introduce you to St John of the Cross.

Unit 1 covers his life up to the age of 21 when he entered the Carmelite novitiate.

Unit 2 looks at the events of John's life from 1563 until the end of 1577, covering his novitiate and student years, his first meeting with St. Teresa and the foundation of the Discalced Carmelite Friars; his work as novice master and as confessor to the nuns at the Monastery of the Incarnation in Avila. The unit closes with John's imprisonment in Toledo.

Unit 3 considers the events in John's life from 1578 until 1588 covering his imprisonment at Toledo and his escape, the years he spent in Andalucía and his appointment as prior of Segovia. These years include most of his writings and the unit takes a look at the first stanzas of The Spiritual Canticle.

Unit 4 charts the events of John's life from his appointment as prior of Segovia in 1588 until his death at Ubeda in 1591. Then it follows the progress of his cause for Beatification and Canonisation and the developments which led to him being declared a Doctor of the Church. Finally, it considers some aspects of The Living Flame of Love.

Unit 5 outlines John's quest for union with God in The Ascent of Mount Carmel and at some other aspects of that work, together with the poem One Dark Night. It considers the influence of John on some well-known people from the late nineteenth century to the present day.

