

Dear Sisters and Associates/Companions -- Today, on this fifteenth week (April 22) of our 2024 Global Coordinating Group calendar, we are invited *to listen to the heart of the world* and hold in our prayers the Sisters and Associates serving in **England** as well as all the people in that nation.

The Sisters belong to two Congregations -- Anney and Lyon -- and work in various ministries including: anti-trafficking; teaching; a chaplaincy with asylum seekers, those experiencing homelessness, prison inmates, and others; and, in universities and parishes. The Anney Congregation began their work in England in 1864 with three Sisters. Today, its English Province works in various parts of the country as well as in Ireland and Wales. This [recent article](#) (and photo left) recounts the Province's Day of Religious Celebration which was held on February 2



(2023) with many Sisters in attendance. The Lyon Congregation established its England mission in 1905 in Haunton - where they continue to be present. In 1996, the Sisters of the Anglo-Irish Region and those of Bordeaux joined efforts with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyon to better serve groups in retreat, youth, the elderly and homebound as well as those living in retirement homes. As noted on their website: "All these forms of apostolates allow us to make acts of inclusive love among ourselves, with others and with God." Today, the Lyon Sisters in England have moved away from teaching and nursing to focus on diocesan and national pastoral ministries.



Country Background: The region now called England was first inhabited during the Upper Paleolithic period, and takes its name from the Angles - a Germanic tribe who settled there during the 5th and 6th centuries. England became a unified state in the 10th century, and has had a significant global cultural and legal impact with many nations adopting the English language, Common Law, the Magna Carta, and its parliamentary system of government. Today, England has a population of just under 57million (2024) with more than 80percent living in urban areas. For comparison, the entire population of the United Kingdom/UK is 68million (2024). Economically, England is a highly industrialized country and a major manufacturer of textiles, chemical products, and transportation vehicles as well as a leader in global financial services. Despite its economic and political stability, England faces several challenges as noted in this [Human Rights Watch report](#) which raised concerns about the rights of migrants and asylum-seekers, racial and ethnic discrimination, the effects of climate policy and impacts, and economic inequality in the UK overall. (Sources: Anney Congregation website, Big Issue Group, International Centre website, Lyon Congregation website, Human Rights Watch, Wikipedia, Worldometer)



United in prayer, the Global Joseph Family, 7850 Sisters, 5700 Associates, 34 Agrégées in 45 countries, listening to the heart of the world.