

Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality

Code of Conduct

The Discalced Carmelite Code of Conduct for Our Life and Ministry at CACS

Carmelite spirituality begins with a vision: every human person is a dwelling place of God. Saint Teresa of Ávila saw in the soul a castle of great beauty, radiant at its centre with the presence of the Trinity. Saint John of the Cross recognised in every person a capacity for union with God that no earthly love can exhaust. When we receive a retreatant, accompany a pilgrim, support the learning of a student or serve any who come to us, we encounter a soul already held in the friendship of God – and we are bound to meet them as such.

Our Commitments

The Discalced Carmelite Friars and all who minister in the name of CACS undertake to:

- Receive each person with reverence – recognising in them a soul beloved of God on a journey that ultimately belongs to the Holy Spirit.
- Honour the integrity of the person – offering ministry in a manner that is transparent and accountable, avoiding situations of undue privacy.
- Honour all the boundaries proper to the pastoral relationship, which is a sacred trust and never a space for control or over-familiarity.
- Guard the vulnerable with particular care – never ministering alone to a minor or vulnerable adult without another responsible adult present or nearby.
- Exercise prudence in all communication – whether in person, online or in writing, reflecting always the dignity of those we serve.
- Refuse what degrades – never acting in any way that shames, humiliates, coerces or manipulates. What cannot be done in the light cannot be done in the name of Carmel.

- Remain accountable – to our community, to those who lead CACS, and to the Church’s safeguarding structures.

Saint Teresa, writing to her sisters in *The Way of Perfection*, calls true friendship the love that seeks nothing for itself but desires above all to lead the beloved closer to God (4:6). This is the spirit in which we make these commitments as an act of love – for those we serve, for the Order we represent, and for the God who first loved us.

Those who come to CACS have the right to expect this to be honoured. Where concerns arise, we ask that they be brought to the safeguarding leads.

