



BRUKNA
KALNA SVĒTĪBU KOPIENA



**ALL ABOUT
BRUKNA**

What is Brukna?



**It's a place. It's both learning
and labour. It's people.
Brukna is a community with
sacred values.**

*For as long as we consider ourselves
almighty gods, there will be no life
within ourselves. But as soon as we
acknowledge our helplessness and
weakness, we become like blooming
flowers which God fills with his life,
happiness, courage and peace. For as
long as we rage within ourselves, we
are not getting where we need to be.*

– Priest Andrejs Medins



Community



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Purification and rebirth

The purpose of the Community is to enable people to find their own way in this world of God, "using" only spiritual life and work therapy. Nature, the change of the seasons, the rituals of the countryside and the liturgical time, prayers, care for the maintenance of manor houses, the construction of the church, and the renewal of the school, are opportunities for purification and the chance to return to God.



Community



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There are places where, contrary to expectations, life opens abundantly and sometimes gives unexpected gifts. This is Brukna Mountain Blessing Community - **Addiction Alternative Healing Center.**

The community, founded by Catholic priest Andrejs Medins, his family and contemporaries in 2001, is credited with “God, Nature and Work”. In the Mountain Blessing Community faith is the basic rule of spiritual travel so that people that are injured do not further hurt themselves or others. The Community is ecumenical. It does not matter whether a person belongs to a confession, is an atheist, or is immune to spiritual searches. The most important thing is the conscious motivation to change your life, which is a voluntary choice. The

Community has strict unconditional rules aimed at disciplining people in internal and external manifestations, promoting mutual cooperation, tolerance, and understanding of values. The Community is open to all cultural and artistic activities. Every year members of the Community go on a pilgrimage to nearby Aglona in Latvia, or Medjugorje, located near the Adriatic Sea.



Brukna Church



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Hand-built chapel

Through donations from the foundations to the roof, an interfaith church was built, the doors of which are open to everyone throughout the day. It is not only a building, it is also the thoughts of all people of goodwill, thinking which leads them to spiritual growth.

Brukna's story is special because the ambitious building is being built with our own hands. People not only build a physical building but find strength and a way back to oneself.



Brukna Manor



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Cultural and spiritual center

The complex of Brukna manor dates back to the 19th century and consists of a house built in the middle, two barns and a cowshed. The buildings are gradually recovering their shape and the interiors are acquiring new visitors.

The park's vegetation and flower beds form a renaissance garden. The manor is a favourite artisan meeting place where gatherings of painters and ceramists take place, as well as other events. We rent premises for banquets and other events.



Brukna Manor

In the Bauska region, the Brukna Manor is an important centre for spiritual life, culture and art. The volunteers and friends of the Blessing Community have an important role to play in developing it, and they effectively organize events for a wide audience.

Charitable concerts, artistic plenaries, children's summer camps, retreats, and conferences all take place in the manor of Brukna. Pianist Vestards Simkus, the Latvian Radio Choir, the Latvian Academic Choir, traditional music ensembles and dance groups, Renars Kaupers, Goran Gora, Aija Andrejeva, Uģis Roze, Putnu Balle and many other performers have performed in Brukna. They are not only occasional guest artists but also trusted supporters of the community who have participated in concerts several times.



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Good co-operation in organizing concerts was arranged with the Iecava Music School, the Bauska Castle Museum's old dance group and other cultural institutions of the surrounding area. In implementing ideas for visual art, music, or spiritual activities, the community is supported by professional ceramists, painters, musicians, directors, craftsmen, and Christian organizations from all regions of Latvia and abroad.



Brukna history

Just like a vision from the Bible visitors see the Brukna Manor in a forested area at the base of a foothill. It is located just 12 kilometres from Riga on the Skaistkalne highway, and 20 kilometres from Bauska. The builders and owners of the Brukna manor prior to 1920 were the old-time German-speaking aristocrats Baron von Korffand family. In Zemgale and Kurzeme they owned several estates; one was about 20 kilometres from the Skaistkalne (Šenberga) Manor in Brukna. The Brukna Manor ensemble was built in the middle of the 18th century, but the current manor is a remodelling in the Neoclassical style that was made in the 19th century. The Brukna house is ideally located in the tranquil landscape of Zemgale. The building has not changed - only the indoor and park area was modified.



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The Mountain Blessing community, by attracting funds from various European and local funds, managed to renovate the facade of the building and make other infrastructure improvements. In the lobby at the entrance to the chapel of Blessed Virgin Mary, attention is drawn to the unusual wall painting of the former inhabitants of the community - the romantic version of the antique and the present version of Bruknas Manor.



Brukna Manor garden

Brukna Manor garden is a piece of art. It is designed to not look like an impeccable, overly-perfect piece of art. The garden is alive and breathtaking. Only in Brukna can you see the early version of the European gardens - the Renaissance gardens. It does not have flowers or flowering shrubs, because cabbage, beets, carrots and herbs are growing instead, in low-lying bosquets. Their foliage and colours create an interesting interplay from spring to late autumn.

Such gardens were built by monks in the closed courtyards of the monasteries in the 15th and 16th centuries. Only many years later were vegetables and aromatic plants replaced by flowers and shrubs. The garden's special accents are the sculptures created by the new sculptor



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Sandis Aispurs. A maze-meditation spot is created on the lower terrace of the garden. Its paths will be marked by a hedge that needs to grow a few more years. In the warm season, visitors to the Manor of Brukna can enjoy the fringe landscape, making themselves comfortable on the garden steps.



The Brukna Manor house interior



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In the historic building of the first half of the 19th century, no historic interior was preserved. The founder of the Mountain Blessing Community, Andrejs Medins, in consultation with leading Latvian art scholars, opted for an alternative solution. It was decided not to go for authenticity, but to use a creative approach. Each piece of a public interior of Brukna Manor is created by volunteers - art students and other enthusiasts.

These are Latgale, Kurzeme, Riga young artists and groups of like-minded people. The classical furnishings of the Brukna Manor Library were made by the graduates of the Riga Crafts Secondary School, and the ceiling of the Egyptian Hall was painted by the young artists of Rezekne. For several years the talented graduates of the Latvian Academy of Art,

Sandis Aispuris and Brigita Aispure, have devoted themselves to the restoration of Brukna Manor. Sandis is also the creator of the interior and exterior project for the future Brukna Church (or Apostolic Chapel). He had already shown his talent during the study of the interior of St. Peter's and St. Paul's Catholic Church.





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In none of the projects I have been involved in, my goal is not to change the world, but with my posture, work and attitude, to recall that there are still values that are considered sacred. Even if there is an ocean of contamination around which cannot be purified, I invite you to remember the belief of Mother Theresa: that which we can give may only be a small drop of love, but without these drops the world would be so much poorer.

- Priest Andrejs Medins



Roots and Wings



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In Barbele, in the premises of the former elementary school, the Brukna community forms a new type of school - the new father's school, which would provide suitable conditions for the growth of boys that are developed, versatile, capable and responsible persons of good judgment.

It is a school in which learning occurs not through fears because life is often frightening enough, but by stimulating positive thinking doing good according to the program we created.

It will be a primary school that will offer basic education programs, Montessori

education programs and special, exclusive craft programs for boys age 1 to 6. Boys at such a school would learn to grade 6, but could later enter a higher education program.



Roots and Wings

Roots and Wings is planned as a multifunctional educational center with a priority as a boys school with an aviation orientation - boys are given the opportunity to study in the most appropriate way for them (more dynamically, lessons are not only spent in school, but a lot of the time is spent outside, managing and living in nature, emphasizing practicality, ability to take responsibility, thus forming men that will be responsible fathers in the future).

Boys experience the family environment in a community based on Christian values (loving, warm relationships, shared meals and cleaning work). Work is done with a higher goal (serving God and the people closest to us, doing everything in the name of God, participating in God's plan

for this place and society), rather than formally, such as solely for the obligation or only for income.



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From the beginning of 2017, the Brukna community has taken over the former Vecumnieki prison building. The purpose of the Brukna community is to create a place of life skills where people acquire the skills they need for life and apply it in their everyday lives by living in an independent, self-regulating community, mutually supporting, sharing and learning.

In pursuit of this goal, the association will provide social assistance to low-income families and socially disadvantaged people, provide public utilities in apartments, and will also ensure the improvement of the entire area in an environmentally sound manner. It is

planned that there will be a library, and economic activities will be carried out to promote unemployment reduction.





"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." - *Mother Theresa*



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4,27 EUR per call

Donation by transfer

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