

Ebrach Abbey

From Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebrach_Abbey (04.09.2010).

Ebrach Abbey (Kloster Ebrach) was a Cistercian monastery in Ebrach in Oberfranken, Bavaria, Germany. It is located in the Bishopric of Würzburg.

The abbey, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Nicholas, was founded in 1126 or 1127 by Conrad III of Germany, his consort Gertrude, who at her death in 1146 was buried here, and various Frankish nobles, including Berno and Richwin. It was settled by twelve monks from Morimond Abbey in Burgundy, under the first abbot, Adam of Ebrach. It was dissolved during the secularisation of Bavaria in 1803. The abbey church became the local parish church.



Ebrach Abbey



Former abbey church: nave

Hearts of the Bishops of Würzburg

Beginning with the 13th century, the bishops of Würzburg had their hearts brought to the monastery in Ebrach (entrails to the chapel of the Marienburg, bodies to the St. Kilian cathedral). About 30 hearts of bishops, some of which had been desecrated during the Peasant Wars, are said to have found their final resting place at Ebrach. The prince-bishop Julius Echter von Mespelbrunn broke with this tradition and had his heart buried in the Neubaukirche.

Prison

Since 1851 the premises have served as a prison - *Justizvollzugsanstalt Ebrach* - and since 1958 as a young offenders' institution. A museum and some remains of the abbey buildings can still be seen on guided tours.

Gallery



Former abbey church:
Nave



Rose window from within



Rose window exterior



Detail of ceiling vault at
crossing



Angel figure



Ceiling