



OF CELTIC SAINTS, ENGLISH MARTYRS AND AUSSIE LINKS A PILGRIMAGE – IRELAND, SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND

25th September – 25th October 2017

Escorted by
Fr Wim Hoekstra



The British Isles are not normally considered part of a Catholic or Christian pilgrimage route, yet the history of Christianity is just as fascinating as that of Turkey, Greece or Rome. In this unusual month-long pilgrimage we journey through Ireland, Scotland and England, following in the steps of the saints who have gone before us. Our pilgrimage journey will include the early Celtic Saints in Ireland and Scotland (such as Patrick, Brigid, Oliver Plunkett, Kevin, Columba), and then move to England with Thomas Becket, the English martyrs of the Reformation period (such as Thomas More, Edmund Campion, Margaret Clitheroe, the Protestant Martyrs), Blessed John Henry Newman and many other interesting people we will meet along the way, especially those with links to Australia – Catherine McAuley and Mary MacKillop. So please come and join me in this exciting pilgrimage.

DAY 1: Monday 25 September

DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart Sydney this evening on your Emirates flight to Dubai. On arrival, transfer to your connecting Emirates flight to Birmingham, UK.

DAY 2: Tuesday 26 September

ARRIVE BIRMINGHAM

On arrival at Birmingham airport, you will be met by your driver and guide and taken on a short guided tour of the city with specific reference to John Henry Newman. At the end of your tour you will be taken to your hotel in Birmingham where accommodation has been arranged for tonight on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.

DAY 3: Wednesday 27 September

BIRMINGHAM – STRATFORD UPON AVON

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and meet your coach and driver for the start of today's journey. A visit has been arranged to the Birmingham Oratory and a Mass will be arranged here. After Mass, you will travel onto Coventry where a guided visit has been arranged of Coventry Cathedral.

And finally today, you will be taken to Stratford upon Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare, and to your hotel where accommodation has been arranged for two nights.

DAY 4: Thursday 28 September

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

After breakfast meet your coach, driver and guide for a half day guided tour of Stratford-upon-Avon. This afternoon has been left free. We hope to arrange attendance to either a matinee or evening performance by the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC).

DAY 5: Friday 29 September

STRATFORD UPON AVON - BATH

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and meet the coach and driver. Your first visit today will be to Oxford where you will take part in a guided tour with visits to Oriol and Newman Colleges. Re-join the coach and transfer to Downside Abbey for Mass. After Mass, re-join the coach for the short journey to Bath, where a short visit to Bath Abbey has been arranged. After you will be taken to the hotel where accommodation has been arranged for tonight.

DAY 6: Saturday 30 September

EBATH - BIRMINGHAM

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and meet the coach and driver for the start of today's journey to Birmingham. A visit will be made to Glastonbury en-route, a town famous for the myths and legends that surround it, including those that surround Joseph of Arimathea and King Arthur who is rumoured to be buried at Glastonbury Abbey – could Glastonbury be Avalon? After a visit to Abbey, rejoin coach for journey to Birmingham. On arrival you will be taken to your hotel where accommodation has been arranged for tonight.

DAY 7: Sunday 1 October

BIRMINGHAM – DUBLIN

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and meet your coach and driver for transfer to Birmingham airport in good time for your flight to Dublin. On arrival in Dublin, pass through Customs and Immigration to the arrivals hall where you will be met by your driver. Once the coach is loaded you will be taken into Dublin for a guided panoramic tour. At the end of the tour you will be taken to your hotel where accommodation has been arranged for tonight.

DAY 8: Monday 2 October

DUBLIN - KNOCK

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and meet the coach and driver. Today you will be travelling to Knock. En-route a stop will be made in Drogheda to visit the Shrine of St Oliver Plunkett and continue the journey to Knock. Comfort stops can be made en-route. This afternoon, you will be in Knock where a visit has been arranged to the Marian Shrine. Mass at the Shrine. At the end of the day, check into your hotel where accommodation has been arranged for tonight.

DAY 9: Tuesday 3 October

KNOCK - DUBLIN

After breakfast, please check out of the hotel and meet your coach and driver. Your first visit today will be a guided tour of the ancient monastic settlement at Clonmacnoise. Clonmacnoise is an early Christian site founded by St Ciarán in the mid-6th century on the eastern bank of the River Shannon. The site includes the ruins of a cathedral, seven churches (10th - 13th century), two round towers, three high crosses and the largest collection of early Christian grave slabs in Western Europe. At the end of the visit, re-join the coach and transfer once again to Dublin where accommodation has been arranged for the next three nights.

DAY 10: Wednesday 4 October

DUBLIN

After breakfast, we will have a day related to Catherine McAuley. The morning will be spent at Mercy International at Baggot Street and the afternoon doing a walk of Catherine's Dublin.

DAY 11: Thursday 5 October

DUBLIN

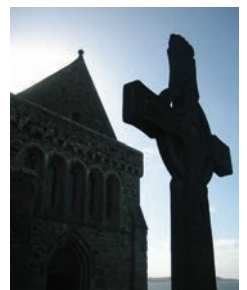
After breakfast, check out of the hotel and join the coach and driver for the transfer to Kilkenny where visits have been arranged to the Black Abbey and St Canice's Cathedral. The Black Abbey was a peaceful place and home to a group of Dominican friars when it was founded in the 1220s. Among the highlights are sepulchral slabs, stone carvings and sculptures, including a unique figure of the Blessed Trinity. It has the only known surviving statue of St Dominic in Ireland. Also of note is the great Rosary Window depicting the fifteen mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

After your time in Kilkenny, re-join the coach and travel to Glendalough where a visit to the Visitors' Centre, that introduces you to the 6th century monastic settlement of St Kevin, has been arranged. The remainder of your time here is free to walk the trails, visit the round tower, lakes, stone churches and numerous high crosses of this inspiring reminder of the Celtic monastic tradition. At the end of the day, re-join the coach and make your way into Dublin and to the hotel where accommodation has been arranged for tonight.

DAY 12: Friday 6 October

DUBLIN – FORT WILLIAM

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and join the coach and driver for the transfer to the airport arriving in good time for the check in for your flight to Glasgow, and then by coach to Fort William and to the hotel where your accommodation has been arranged for the next two nights.



DAY 13: Saturday 7 October
FORT WILLIAM

Breakfast is served in the hotel restaurant. Today we connect with the Josephite community for a trip around places associated with Mary MacKillop. Mass will be in one of the chapels associated with her and her family.

DAY 14: Sunday 8 October
FORT WILLIAM – IONA

After breakfast in the hotel restaurant, mass will be arranged before departure to Oban, by ferry to Craignure and then to the port of Fionnphort where you will catch the foot passenger ferry to Iona. You will walk to the St Columba Hotel where accommodation has been arranged for the next two nights.

DAY 15: Monday 9 October
IONA

Today will be spent exploring the island accompanied by one of the Islanders for a guided tour. Please be advised that the terrain is often uneven and in places challenging so stout shoes or boots should be worn. A tiny island, of typically Hebridean beauty, Iona holds a unique place in the story of Scotland and kindles the imagination of thousands who journey there each year. Yet it is also where people have lived, worked and worshipped over many centuries. To and from its shores have come monks and pilgrims, clan chiefs and kings, artists and craftsmen, farmers and fishermen. 17.00 hours Mass at Cnoc a' Chalmain

DAY 16: Tuesday 10 October
IONA – EDINBURGH

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and make your way down to the port to catch the foot passenger ferry from Iona to the Isle of Mull, and then via Oban to Edinburgh. On arrival in Edinburgh we move to our hotel where accommodation has been arranged for the next two nights.

DAY 17: Wednesday 11 October
EDINBURGH

Today will be spent exploring Edinburgh with a full day guided tour. Visits will be made to Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile, amongst others.

DAY 18: Thursday 12 October
EDINBURGH – DURHAM

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and meet your coach and driver for today's journey towards Durham. En-route you will make a stop at Lindisfarne – Holy Island. Lindisfarne is approached by a tidal causeway. Today it will be safe to cross between 08.30 hours and 14.10 hours. A visit to the Priory on the island has been arranged. After the visit to Lindisfarne you will be taken onto a traditional fish-and-chip supper en route to Durham, then to your hotel where accommodation has been arranged for the next two nights on a bed and breakfast basis (dinner on second night)

DAY 19: Friday 13 October
DURHAM

Today you will have a full day guided tour of Durham including visits to the Cathedral and Castle amongst others - the Norman Cathedral is final resting place of St Cuthbert and Bede the Venerable. Attendance at a Mass in one of the churches will be arranged today.

DAY 20: Saturday 14 October
DURHAM – YORK

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and meet your coach and driver for the start of your journey to York. Your first visit today is to Marton-in-Cleveland which is the birthplace of Captain Cook. A short time for you to see the cottage. After your visit, re-join the coach and continue to Whitby where you will visit the ruins of the Abbey founded by St Hilda and site of the Synod of Whitby in 664 AD which fixed the date of Easter. Make your way to Whitby station where you will catch the 1400 steam train to Pickering. The coach will drive between Whitby and Pickering and collect you on arrival. Then journey to York and your hotel for two nights.

DAY 21: Sunday 15 October
YORK

After breakfast, you will have a full day guided tour and visits around York. These will include York Minster, St Mary's Abbey, York Castle

and the Margaret Clitherow Shrine. A Mass will be arranged at the English Martyrs' Parish Church. Return to your hotel after the tour.

DAY 22: Monday 16 October
YORK – CAMBRIDGE

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and meet the coach and driver for the start of your journey to Cambridge. A visit en-route have been arranged to the beautiful Rievaulx Abbey, one of the many abbeys suppressed by Henry VIII. After your visit, re-join the coach and start the long drive south to Cambridge. On arrival you be taken to your hotel where accommodation has been arranged for tonight.

DAY 23: Tuesday 17 October
CAMBRIDGE – NORWICH

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and store your luggage. Visit King's College Chapel and Grounds and then back to the hotel for your coach journey to Norwich via Walsingham. The village is famed for its religious shrines in honour of the Virgin Mary and as a major pilgrimage centre. A Mass will be organised for the group whilst in Walsingham. After the visit, re-join the coach and continue to your hotel in Norwich.

DAY 24: Wednesday 18 October
NORWICH – LONDON

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and meet the coach and driver. Your first visit today will be to St Julian's Church and to the Julian Centre next door. Julian of Norwich (1342-1416) is internationally famous for her "Revelations of Divine Love". She remains one of the most creative theologians, spiritual writers and mystics in the Christian tradition. There will also have the opportunity to visit Norwich Cathedral (Anglican) and The Cathedral of St John the Baptist (Roman Catholic). Then to London, and your hotel where accommodation has been arranged for the next five nights.

DAY 25: Thursday 19 October
LONDON

After breakfast, meet your coach and driver for a full day guided tour of London. Sights will include the Tower of London, the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, the London Eye and much more! Visits have been arranged to Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral where the group will attend Mass.

DAY 26: Friday 20 October
LONDON

A free day.

DAY 27: Saturday 21 October
LONDON – CANTERBURY

After breakfast meet your coach and driver for your full day trip to Canterbury, where will catch up with Canterbury Cathedral, Chaucer's the Canterbury Tales and the life and story of Thomas Becket. Visits have been arranged for St Augustine's Abbey and St Thomas of Canterbury Church for Mass. At the end of the day, re-join the coach and transfer back to London.

DAY 28: Sunday 22 October
THOMAS MORE'S LONDON

After breakfast, meet your coach and driver for the start of today's visits, including the Chelsea area and the site of Thomas More's home, now Allen Hall where a Mass will be arranged; walk to Chelsea Old Church, Catholic Church of Most Holy Redeemer and Thomas More and to the More statue near Cheyne Walk. Then make your way to Chelsea Harbour to join the Thames Clipper service to the Tower of London where a visit has been arranged - particular sites of note are Bell's Tower, St Peter in Vincula's chapel, Tower Hill (execution site) and All Hallows Church. After your visits, re-join the coach for your transfer to your hotel.

DAY 29: Monday 23 October
LONDON – TRAVEL HOME

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and store your luggage. Today has been left free for personal time. Make your way back to the hotel to meet the coach and driver for the transfer to London Heathrow airport. Check in for flight. Departure of flight to Sydney via Dubai



TOTAL PACKAGE PRICE:

AUD \$11,590* per person (twin sharing) Single supplement: AUD \$2,125

* Price is based on minimum of 25 paying participants. Conditions apply. Subject to change.

HOTELS TO BE USED (or similar)

Birmingham	Copthorne Millennium (1 night)
Stratford upon Avon	Billesley Manor Hotel (2 nights)
Bath	The Royal Hotel (1 night)
Birmingham	Holiday Inn City Centre (1 night)
Dublin	Hilton Garden Inn (1 night)
Knock	Knock House Hotel (1 night)
Dublin	Hilton Garden Inn (3 nights)
Fort William	West End Hotel (2 nights)
Iona	St Columba Hotel (2 nights)
Edinburgh	Jurys Inn (2 nights)
Durham	Best Western Whitworth Hall (2 nights)
York	Best Western Pavilion Hotel (2 nights)
Cambridge	Royal Cambridge Hotel (1 night)
Norwich	Best Western Oaklands Hotel (1 night)
London	St Giles Hotel (5 nights)

PRICE INCLUDES:

- AIRFARES Emirates economy class flights from Sydney – Dubai – Birmingham and London – Dubai – Sydney Including current airport and departure taxes. Estimated Ryan Air flights from Birmingham – Dublin & Dublin – Glasgow (including luggage and taxes)
- MEALS Breakfast and dinner daily
- TRANSPORT Services of an executive coach
- LOCAL GUIDES:
 - 26th Sept: Meet and greet at Birmingham airport
 - Half day guide for tour of Birmingham
 - 28th Sept: Half day guide for tour of Stratford upon Avon
 - 29th Sept: Half day guide for tour of Oxford
 - 1st Oct: Half day guide for tour of Dublin
 - 9th Oct: Full day guide for walking tour of Iona
 - 10th Oct: Full day guide for tour of Edinburgh
 - 13th Oct: Full day guide for tour of Durham
 - 15th Oct: Full day guide for tour of York
 - 19th Oct: Full day guide for tour of London
- VISITS/ENTRANCES TO ALL SITES MENTIONED IN ITINERARY
- PROPOSED MASS VENUES:
 - 27th Sept: Birmingham Oratory
 - 29th Sept: Downside Abbey
 - 2nd Oct: Marian Shrine, Knock

- 3rd Oct: Clonmacnoise – open air Oratory
- 9th Oct: Cnoc a'Chalmain, Iona
- 11th Oct: TBA, Edinburgh
- 12th Oct: St Aidan's, Lindisfarne
- 13th Oct: TBA, Durham
- 15th Oct: English Martyrs' Parish Church, York
- 17th Oct: TBA, Walsingham
- 19th Oct: Westminster Cathedral
- 21st Oct: St Thomas of Canterbury
- 22nd Oct: Allen Hall, London
- TIPS & GRATUITIES
- PORTERAGE

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Lunches
- Donations for mass
- Travel Insurance
- Beverages with meals
- Entrance/sightseeing/meals other than those in the itinerary
- Single supplement
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, room service etc.
- Any services not listed above

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

- Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Fr Wim or the team at Olive Tree Travel
- Secure your place by registering and paying your \$500 per person deposit no later than Friday, 17th March 2017 (unless sold out prior).
- Final balance will be due by 14th July 2017

ATTEND AN INFORMATION BRIEFING:

Join Fr Wim and your prospective pilgrims at an information afternoon:

Sunday March 12th at 2pm for 2.30pm
in the Downey Room, St Michael's Offices,
1-3 Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills.



WHO TO CONTACT:

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