

CELTIC CHRISTIANITY PILGRIMAGE

DATES: APRIL 22 TO MAY 11, 2024 (19 nights)

Fee: £4956.00 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE (single supplement £759.00)

Pilgrimage leaders: Rev John Hornblow and Dr Jenny Boyack

Pilgrimage Chaplain: Archbishop (Emeritus) Sir David Moxon

For a photo slideshow of the 2018 Celtic Pilgrimage go to

www.pilgimagenz.nz and click on *past/2018/slideshow*

This pilgrimage is:

- A journey to well-known and lesser-visited sacred places, each significant in the story of Celtic Christianity;
- An opportunity to understand the heart and theology of Celtic Christianity, the ancient people who shaped it, and its relevance for today's world;
- A broadly Christian experience that includes morning or evening prayer in the Celtic tradition and an inclusive Eucharist service at several key sites;
- An opportunity to meet with locals and to hear contemporary faith stories;
- An experience in community;
- A journey inwards with opportunities most days for reflection, dialogue, writing, photography, sketching, etc;
- A space to pray, rest, recover, dream, plan and prepare.

Some of the pilgrimage highlights are:

- Three days in Canterbury exploring the Cathedral and surrounding area
- Visiting St David's, Wales, Britain's smallest city and its Cathedral
- Taking the Snowdon Mountain Railway towards the summit of Mt Snowdon
- Visiting Trinity College, Dublin, and viewing the magnificent Book of Kells
- Climbing Croagh Patrick, Ireland's Holy Mountain or for the less fit, walking the paths at the base
- Visiting Downpatrick and the burial site of St Patrick
- Touring Belfast with a special emphasis on peace and reconciliation
- Spending three days on the island of Iona
- Visiting the Holy Island of Lindisfarne
- A half-day retreat at Whitby led by Bishop Ellie Sanderson, formerly Assistant Bishop of Wellington, now Bishop of Hull.

The pilgrimage is a not-for-profit venture, offered in association with UK-based Tours International Ltd <https://tours-international.com/tours-for-individuals/celtic-christianity-pilgrimage>

Our pilgrimages usually have between 20 and 30 participants. People are welcome to come on this pilgrimage regardless of religious affiliation or belief.

ITINERARY:

DAY 1: MONDAY, 22 APRIL

Meet at Heathrow and travel to Aylesford Priory, Kent, a 13th Century religious house of the Order of Carmelites. There'll be time to enjoy the beautiful grounds and the Friars' Peace Garden before attending Evening Prayer with the Friars before dinner. Dinner and overnight in the guesthouse.

DAY 2: TUESDAY, 23 APRIL

After breakfast we travel to Canterbury where we visit St Martin's Church, the oldest church in continuous use in England, and the site of the first meeting of St Augustine and Ethelbert King of Kent and his Christian wife Queen Bertha. Before lunch we are taken on a guided tour of Canterbury Cathedral, one of the oldest and most famous Christian structures in England. In the afternoon we visit St Augustine's Abbey, a former Benedictine monastery founded in 598AD, and return to the Cathedral for Evensong. Dinner and overnight in the beautiful Canterbury Lodge within the Cathedral Close.

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, 24 APRIL

We travel through the Kent countryside to the beautiful village of Chilham and on to Ramsgate to see the stone cross commemorating St Augustine's landing in 597AD. We visit Minster Abbey, a small but active Benedictine nunnery, one of England's oldest continually inhabited buildings. Dinner and overnight at Canterbury Lodge.

DAY 4: THURSDAY, 25 APRIL

We attend a morning service at the Cathedral and have the rest of the day free to explore the ancient town of Canterbury. Own dinner arrangements followed by a simple ANZAC Day service (tbc) and overnight at Canterbury Lodge.

DAY 5: FRIDAY, 26 APRIL

We travel by coach from Canterbury to Wales, stopping on route to visit historic Winchester Cathedral, once the seat of Anglo-Saxon and Norman royal power. Free time for lunch in Winchester and into Wales for dinner and overnight.

DAY 6: SATURDAY, 27 APRIL

We travel to St David's, England's smallest city. There will be ample time to visit the Cathedral and enjoy lunch in the spacious Cathedral grounds. The opportunity to walk to St Non's Retreat which is marked by the ruins of a tiny chapel close to a holy well, and believed to be the site of St David's birth. Afternoon transfer to hotel in mid-Wales region for dinner and overnight.

DAY 7: SUNDAY, 28 APRIL

After breakfast we will travel into Snowdonia National Park, have free time for lunch, and then take the Snowdon Mountain train as far as possible (dependent on weather conditions). Afternoon visit to the shrine at St Winefride's Well, a place of public pilgrimage for over 13 centuries. Dinner and overnight Holywell.

DAY 8: MONDAY, 29 APRIL

We travel to Holyhead and catch the ferry to Dublin. Transfer by coach to the city centre for lunch then visit St Patrick's Anglican Cathedral and remain for Evensong. Transfer to hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 9: TUESDAY, 30 APRIL

Morning panoramic coach tour of Dublin including a visit to Trinity College with its magnificent Long Room Library. Trinity College houses Ireland's greatest cultural treasure and the world's most famous medieval manuscript, the Book of Kells. Free time for lunch in Dublin and then depart westwards through the beautiful Irish countryside to Knock in County Mayo. Knock is Ireland's national Marian Shrine and was the site of an apparition on the 21 August 1879. Free time to visit the shrine. Dinner and overnight at Knock Hotel.

DAY 10: WEDNESDAY, 1 MAY

Breakfast. Depart for Westport and on to Croagh Patrick – the Holy Mountain of St Patrick. The tradition of pilgrimage to this mountain goes back over 5,000 years. There will be time for pilgrims with appropriate fitness to climb Croagh Patrick or to explore the beautiful coastline. Lunch will be provided in Westport before a mid-afternoon visit to the Celtic Furrow Museum at Ballintubber Abbey. Dinner and overnight at Knock Hotel.

DAY 11: THURSDAY, 2 MAY

After breakfast, travel by coach to Downpatrick Visitor Centre, St Patrick's Cathedral where St Patrick is buried, and Saul Church. Continue to Belfast for dinner and overnight.

DAY 12: FRIDAY, 3 MAY

After breakfast meet with a local guide and depart by coach for a morning tour of Belfast with special emphasis on peace and reconciliation initiatives. Free time for lunch, then afternoon transfer to ferry terminal for the crossing to Scotland. Transfer to hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 13: SATURDAY, 4 MAY

After breakfast we travel by coach and visit significant sites in Glasgow, the city founded by missionary St Kentigern/Mungo in the 6th century. After free time for lunch in Glasgow we continue to the fishing village of Oban, crossing by ferry to the Isle of Mull and then onto the Island of Iona. Dinner and overnight in Iona.

DAY 14: SUNDAY, 5 MAY

A full day on the island of Iona, which became the heart of Celtic Christianity in Scotland. When St Columba landed there in 563AD he founded a new monastic community. Celtic Christianity prospered here until Viking raids forced many monks to flee the island. The Roman Church later returned in force with a new Benedictine Abbey in the 12th century and the island was revived in the early 20th century as the centre of a contemporary Christian movement which continues today. We will have a morning Eucharist in the Abbey and pilgrims will then be free to either explore the island. Dinner and overnight on the island.

DAY 15: MONDAY, 6 MAY

A day of leisure on the island or to join with others on a pilgrimage walk round the island. Dinner and overnight on the island.

DAY 16: TUESDAY, 7 MAY

After breakfast we will travel by ferry and coach to Edinburgh with a stop at Luss Church on the shores of Loch Lomond. After checking into the hotel in Edinburgh there will be time to explore and make own dinner arrangements.

DAY 17: WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY

A full-day pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. Actual timings for the visit will be tide-dependent. St Aidan came to Lindisfarne from Iona in 635AD at the request of King Oswald. Lindisfarne was also prominent in the life of St Cuthbert. We will visit the priory and Lindisfarne Centre which includes a leather-bound facsimile of the Lindisfarne Gospels. Depart the island for Durham. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 18: THURSDAY, 9 MAY

Travel by coach for a morning visit to the ruins of St Hilda's Abbey in Whitby, site of the important Synod of Whitby in 664AD. Own lunch. In the afternoon there will be a retreat led by Bishop Ellie Sanderson, Bishop of Hull and previously Assistant Bishop of Wellington (NZ). Return to Durham for rest of day at leisure. Own arrangements for dinner. Overnight at hotel.

DAY 19: FRIDAY 10 MAY

Attend one of the Sunday services at Durham Cathedral in the morning with time to explore the cathedral afterwards. St Cuthbert's body was brought here from Lindisfarne and his tomb is still here. At the other end of the cathedral are the remains of St Bede enshrined in the Galilee Chapel. Visit will also include 'The Treasures of St Cuthbert' exhibition. Own lunch arrangements. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 20: SATURDAY 11 MAY

Check out after breakfast and return to the Cathedral for time in the Chapel of the Holy Cross. The pilgrimage concludes at 12.00pm and pilgrims will have individual transfer arrangements.

ACCOMMODATION in Twins/Doubles for 19 nights. All rooms with private facilities (except for Aylesford and St Winefride's Guesthouse where this is not guaranteed). Breakfast is included

April 22 – 1 night – The Friars Guesthouse, Aylesford

<http://www.thefriars.org.uk/guesthouse/guesthouse.html>

April 23 – 3 nights – Canterbury Cathedral Lodge

<https://www.canterburycathedrallodge.org/>

April 26 – 1 night – Grand Hotel Swansea <https://www.thegrandhotelswansea.co.uk/>

April 27 – 1 night – Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford <https://www.greendragonhotel.com/>

April 28 – 1 night – St Winefride's Guesthouse, Holywell

<http://www.bridgettine.org/group.asp?page=51>

April 29– 1 night – Camden Court Hotel, Dublin <http://www.camdencourthotel.com/>

April 30 – 2 nights – Knock House Hotel <http://www.knockhousehotel.ie/>

May 2 – 1 night – Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast <http://www.wellingtonparkhotel.com/>

May 3 – 1 night – Park Hotel, Kilmarnock <https://theparkhotelayrshire.co.uk/>

May 4 – 3 nights – St Columba Hotel, Isle of Iona <https://www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk/>

May 7 – 1 night – Bruntsfield Hotel, Edinburgh (*will try and get somewhere more central closer to the time*) <https://www.thebruntsfield.co.uk/>

May 8 – 3 nights – Marriott Durham Hotel <https://www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/ncldd-delta-hotels-durham-royal-county/>

FEE INCLUDES:

16 Dinners, 3 course (without drinks) & coffee at the hotels, 1 lunch on day 10 in Westport 2 course with tea/coffee, 2 boxed lunches.

- Motor coach with air conditioning and panoramic windows
- Ferry crossings Holyhead/Dublin – as foot passengers, with breakfast on board; Belfast/Cairnryan – as foot passengers; Oban/Isle of Mull return; Isle of Mull/Isle of Iona return – as foot passengers.
- Snowdon Mountain Railway.
- Entrance fees to the following attractions; Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey, Winchester Cathedral, St David's Cathedral, St Winefride's Well, St Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College, Downpatrick Centre, Iona Abbey, Lindisfarne Centre, Lindisfarne Priory, Durham Cathedral, Chapel of Holy Cross hire, Whitby Abbey,

Fitness and health requirements

Pilgrims must be able to walk several kilometres a day usually in short stretches and without assistance. Note: the paths and roads may be of a lower standard than we are used to. If unsure whether you have the required level of fitness please discuss with the leaders

and/or your medical practitioner before registering. Any health conditions that may affect your capacity to participate must be discussed in advance and in confidence with the leaders.

The next step:

1. REGISTRATION OF INTEREST:

If you are interested please complete the form below and email or post to John and Jenny. We then forward your registration to Tours International who will confirm your place (if there is space available). The initial payment will be a 20% deposit with the balance required eight weeks before departure.

2. PAYMENT PROCEDURE:

Pilgrimagenz does not handle any money. All fees are paid direct to Tours International. When Tours International confirms your place you will be advised of how the deposit is to be paid.

3. CANCELLATION POLICY:

The cancellation policy can be found on Tours International website:

<https://tours-international.com/booking-conditions>

4. INSURANCE:

Participants must have travel insurance and this should be arranged at the same time as you book your flights. Any person who travels against their doctor's advice invalidates their insurance.

5. VISA:

If you are travelling on a NZ Passport you will not require a visa. If you are not travelling on a NZ Visa check requirements with your travel agent.

6. PILGRIMAGE LEADERS' CONTACT DETAILS:

John Hornblow and Jenny Boyack

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Palmerston North, New Zealand 4414

P: +64 6 3587824

M:021 437 566

E: jennyjohnhornblow@gmail.com

W: www.pilgrimagenz.nz

Registration Form for Celtic Pilgrimage

April 22 to May 11 2024

Please scan and email to jennyjohnhornblow@gmail.com or print off and post to
36 Langston Ave, Palmerston North, New Zealand 4414

Please delete one:

I am registering for the pilgrimage

I am interested and considering registering for the pilgrimage. Please hold a place for me.

PLEASE PRINT:

Full name.....

I prefer to be called (if different from above).....

Age & Birthdate.....

Contact Details

Postal Address.....

Phone number(s).....

Email address (print).....

Church or religious affiliation (optional).....

Nationality, Passport number and Passport expiry
date.....

Relevant pre-existing medical conditions.....

I confirm I can meet the required health and fitness level (able to walk several kilometres
in a day without assistance) yes/no **(cross one out)**.

Any clarification:

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Any other relevant information you would like to share

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Signed:

Date: