

# Celtic Christianity Pilgrimage

Exploring significant Celtic Christian sites in England, Wales, Ireland & Scotland, including the islands of Iona and Lindisfarne

Thursday 12 April to Tuesday 1 May 2018

**Accompanying Chaplain:** Archbishop Sir David Moxon

**Pilgrimage Leaders:** Rev John Hornblow and Dr Jenny Boyack  
(see [www.pilgrimagenz.nz](http://www.pilgrimagenz.nz))

Pilgrimage is about engaging with a place, its people and their stories, and is part of our heritage as Christians. It provides an opportunity to pause, reflect and ask questions, with times for prayer and worship.

People interested in joining this pilgrimage are welcome regardless of religious affiliation or belief.

## Itinerary

### Day 1/Thurs April 12

Early afternoon meet at Heathrow and transfer by coach to Aylesford Priory, a religious house of the Order of Carmelites dating back to the 13th century. Enjoy a tour and free time in the beautiful grounds including the Friars' Peace Garden. Attend Evening Prayer before dinner and overnight in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century guesthouse.

### Day 2/Fri April 13

Transfer to Canterbury. Visit St Martin's Church, the oldest church in constant use in England, and thought to be the site of the first meeting of St Augustine and Ethelbert, King of Kent and his Christian Queen, Bertha. Visit Canterbury Cathedral with free time for lunch in the historic town. Afternoon visit to St Augustine's Abbey, a former Benedictine monastery founded in 598. Return to the Cathedral for Evensong. Dinner and overnight at Canterbury Lodge.

### Day 3/Saturday April 14

Explore Kent in spring including a visit to the beautiful village of Chilham and St Mary's Church, once a shrine of St Augustine. Continue to Ramsgate to see the stone cross commemorating St Augustine's landing in 597AD, and to Reculver to see the remains of a Saxon church built in the 7th century. Return to Canterbury Lodge for dinner and overnight.

### Day 4/Sunday April 15

Morning service at the Cathedral. Rest day in Canterbury with a number of options available for pilgrims. Own arrangements for dinner and overnight at Canterbury Lodge.

### Day 5/Monday April 16

Drive from Canterbury to Winchester. Visit Winchester Cathedral, once the seat of Anglo-Saxon and Norman royal power and a thriving worship centre today. Jane Austen is buried here. Free time for lunch. Afternoon continue to Wales for dinner and overnight stay at The Priory, Caerleon.

**Day 6/Tuesday April 17**

Transfer to the small cathedral city of St David's on the west coast of Wales. Visit the St David's Cathedral on the site of a monastery founded by St David and the site of the original St David's Shrine which was destroyed during the reformation. Option to walk to St Non's the site of St David's birth, and marked by the ruins of a tiny chapel close to a holy well. Transfer to hotel in mid-Wales for dinner and overnight. Boxed lunch provided on this day.

**Day 7/Wednesday April 18**

Spend time in Snowdonia national park in the morning. Take the Snowdon Mountain train as far as possible (unlikely to reach the summit at this time of the year). Afternoon visit to St Winefride's Well in Holywell, a place of public pilgrimage for healing for over 13 centuries. Dinner and overnight at St Winefride's Guesthouse.

**Day 8/Thursday April 19**

Breakfast and transfer to Holyhead for ferry crossing to Dublin. Transfer to city centre for lunch and a visit to St Patrick's Cathedral, remaining for Evensong. Dinner and overnight at Camden Court Hotel.

**Day 9/Friday April 20**

Panoramic tour of Dublin including a visit to Trinity College with its magnificent Long Room Library which houses Ireland's greatest cultural treasure and the world's most famous medieval manuscript, The Book of Kells. Free time for lunch in Dublin. Travel westwards to Knock, the site of an apparition in 1879 and now Ireland's national Marian Shrine. Dinner and overnight at Knock Hotel.

**Day 10/Saturday April 21**

Depart for Croagh Patrick, the Holy Mountain of St Patrick and a site of religious pilgrimage for over 5000 years. The climb is optional and pilgrims may climb as much of Croagh Patrick as they wish or enjoy adjacent coastal walks. Late lunch in the town of Westport. Dinner and overnight at Knock Hotel.

**Day 11/Sunday April 22**

Depart for village of Ballintubber where St Patrick established a church in 441. Mass has been said daily at Ballintubber Abbey for 800 years. Adjacent you will find the Celtic Furrow Museum where you can trace 5000 years of Irish History from Neolithic Farmers to the Golden Age of Christianity. Continue via Westport and Newport to visit Achill Island, the largest of the islands off County Mayo. Stop en route for lunch and an outdoor Eucharist service. Optional 6.7km Granuaile Loop Walk with an ascent of 334metres on the island. Dinner and overnight at Knock Hotel.

**Day 12/Monday April 23**

Depart for Armagh for a visit to the Navan Fort and talk by a representative of the Centre of Celtic Christianity. Free time for lunch and then visit the Downpatrick Centre for a tour to St Patrick's Cathedral, his grave and to Saul Church. Dinner and overnight in Belfast.

**Day 13 Tuesday April 24**

Meet with a local guide and depart by coach for a morning tour of Belfast with special emphasis on peace and reconciliation sites and initiatives. Own lunch and free afternoon for rest or private visits to other Belfast attractions. Dinner and overnight in Belfast.

**Day 14/Wednesday April 25**

Transfer to Belfast port for early morning crossing to Scotland with breakfast on board ferry. Visit Whithorn, Scotland's earliest recorded Christian settlement established by St Ninian at the mouth of the Solway Firth. The present priory ruins date from the twelfth century but archaeological digs have revealed much earlier churches from the Celtic period. The priory museum includes the Latinus Stone and a fine collection of carved stone crosses. Transfer to Oban for a ferry crossing to the Island of Mull. Dinner and overnight at Mull Hotel.

**Day 15/Thursday April 26**

Cross to the sacred Isle of Iona in the Inner Hebrides and the heart of Celtic Christianity in Scotland when St Columba landed in AD563 and founded a new monastic community. Celebrate the Eucharist in the 12<sup>th</sup> century Benedictine Abbey shortly after arrival then free time for walking, prayer and visits to sacred sites. Dinner and overnight at Mull Hotel. Boxed lunch on this day.

**Day 16/Friday April 27**

Cross from Mull to Oban, then transfer to Glasgow, a city founded by the missionary St Mungo/Kentigern in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Visit the St Mungo's Cathedral/the High Kirk of Glasgow and the St Mungo Museum of World Religion within the Cathedral precinct. Free time for lunch. Afternoon transfer to Edinburgh. Own arrangements for dinner and overnight at Courtyard by Marriott Hotel.

**Day 17/Saturday April 28**

Full day pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. St Aidan came here from Iona at the invitation of King Oswald in AD635 and built his monastery, a place also prominent in the life of St Cuthbert. Take a guided tour and explore the Priory and Lindisfarne Centre, which displays a leather-bound facsimile of the Lindisfarne Gospels. Dinner and overnight at Marriott Hotel, Durham.

**Day 18/Sunday April 29**

Attend one of morning services at Durham Cathedral and visit important cathedral sites such as the tombs of St Cuthbert and St Bede. Visit will also include 'The Treasures of St Cuthbert' exhibition. Free afternoon to explore Durham own dinner and overnight at Marriott Hotel, Durham.

**Day 19/Monday April 30**

Day visit to Whitby including the ruins of St Hilda's Abbey which dominate the town's skyline. This was the site of the historic Synod of Whitby, called by Oswiu, King of Northumbria, in 664AD in order to resolve the conflict between the Celtic and Roman Christian traditions. Dinner and overnight at Marriott Hotel, Durham.

### **Day 20/Tuesday May 1**

After hotel checkout, gather at Durham Cathedral's Chapel of the Holy Cross for concluding time together as a pilgrim group. Pilgrimage concludes at 12 noon with pilgrims making their own travel arrangements from Durham.

### **General Information**

The pilgrimage is a not-for-profit venture open to any interested person and **limited to 22 participants**. There will be opportunities each day to participate in morning or evening prayer services, and there will also be Eucharist services at key sites.

**Fitness and health requirements.** Pilgrims should be able to walk for several kilometres a day in short stretches and without assistance. If unsure whether you have the required level of fitness please discuss with the tour leaders and/or your medical practitioner before registering. Any health conditions that may affect a person's capacity to participate must be discussed in advance and in confidence with the tour leaders. Participants must have travel insurance.

**Costs:** The cost for the 20-day pilgrimage is \$NZ7850 (this does not include travel to Heathrow and from Durham). A deposit of \$3,500 is required on registering, with the remainder payable by 1 December, 2017. Usually the deposit is non-refundable. Pilgrimage costs are based on Twin share/Double for 19 nights, with breakfast included and all rooms with private facilities (with the exception of Aylesford where there is some sharing required). There is a single room supplement of \$NZ1,200 but where participants are able and willing to share this amount is waived. The pilgrimage fee includes 16 three-course dinners with coffee and 3 lunches.

**Additional costs:** Travel to the start of the pilgrimage at Heathrow, London and following the pilgrimage conclusion in Durham; travel insurance; 3 dinners and most lunches; optional/additional activities (e.g in Canterbury and Belfast); tips and donations (optional); taxis or public transport if personally required.

**Adjustment of fee: (1)** Costs are subject to currency fluctuations. In the event of major currency fluctuation the price may be reassessed prior to final payment being due. **(2)** In the very unlikely event of there not being 20 participants the price may be reassessed.

**Accommodation** is in pilgrim guest rooms in monasteries or nunneries or in modern hotels.

**Travel** is by airconditioned coach with air conditioning and ferry crossings are as foot passengers.

**Entrance Fees** to the following attractions are included in the overall pilgrimage fee: Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey, Winchester Cathedral, St David's Cathedral, St Winefride's Well, St Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College, Ballintubber Abbey, Navan Fort, Downpatrick Centre, Whithorn Priory, Iona Abbey, Lindisfarne Centre, Lindisfarne Priory, Durham Cathedral, Chapel of Holy Cross hire, Whitby Abbey and Snowdon Mountain Railway.

**Booking and paying:**

Once you have registered your interest with us we will confirm that there are places available. Your name and details will then be given to our travel agent Stephen Parsons House of Travel (SPHOT) Palmerston North who will complete the process from there. All pilgrimage bookings must be made and paid for through SPHOT who handle all finances and can make all travel arrangements for you including additional travel packages or tours for individual participants. Where people choose not to use SPHOT for their travel bookings a **\$200 NZ Administration Fee (per person)** will apply. SPHOT have not added any margin to the overall pilgrimage fee so the Administration Fee is required to defray costs associated with their time and expertise. We strongly recommend that travel to and from the pilgrimage is booked through SPHOT. This does not mean that people have to travel over or back together (although in the past a number of participants have chosen to travel as a group), or that they cannot use their own preferred airline or route. However it greatly assists the smooth running of the travel arrangements for the whole group.

**If you would like to join the pilgrimage, the next step is to register your interest** by completing the form at the bottom of this document and emailing to John and Jenny at [hornblow@ihug.co.nz](mailto:hornblow@ihug.co.nz)

If you have questions please email John and Jenny or phone them at 06 3587824 or 021437566 (John),

April 12 (1 night) The Friars Guesthouse, Aylesford Priory  
<http://www.thefriars.org.uk/guesthouse/guesthouse.html>

April 13 (3 nights) Canterbury Cathedral Lodge  
[www.canterburycathedralodge.org](http://www.canterburycathedralodge.org)

April 16 (1 night) The Priory, Caerleon  
<https://www.thepriorycaerleon.co.uk/>

April 17 (1 night) Metropole Hotel & Spa, Llandrindod-Wells  
<https://www.metropole.co.uk/>

April 18 (1 night) St Winefride's Guesthouse, Holywell  
<http://www.bridgettine.org/group.asp?page=51>

April 19 (1 night) Camden Court Hotel, Dublin  
<http://www.camdencourthotel.com/>

April 20 (3 nights) Knock House Hotel  
<http://www.knockhousehotel.ie/>

April 23 (2 nights) Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast (*or similar*)  
<http://www.wellingtonparkhotel.com/>

April 25 (2 nights) Mull Hotel & Spa, Craginure  
<https://www.spabreaks.com/venues/crerar-isle-of-mull-hotel-and-spa>

April 27 (1 night) Courtyard by Marriott, Edinburgh  
<https://www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/edicy-courtyard-edinburgh/>

April 28 (3 nights) Marriott Durham Hotel  
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/xvudm-durham-marriott-hotel-royal-county/>

**Tour Leaders' Contact Details**

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*Please feel free to forward this document on to others who may be interested.*

**Document version: 3 July 2107**

**Registration of Interest for Celtic Pilgrimage to  
England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland in April 2018.**  
(Please email this information to us or print off and post)

Full name.....

Age & Birthdate.....

**Contact Details:**

Postal Address.....

Phone number(s).....

Email address.....

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

Nationality and Passport number.....

Pre-existing medical conditions if relevant for this  
pilgrimage.....

Confirmation you can meet the required health and fitness level

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Any other relevant information you would like to share

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