

A pilgrimage on Celtic Christianity

**Chaplain accompanying the pilgrimage:
Archbishop Sir David Moxon**

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

**Explore the significant sites of ancient Celtic Christianity through
England, Wales, Ireland & Scotland
on a 20 day pilgrimage
Including the islands of Iona & Lindisfarne**

**PILGRIMAGE DATES:
Thursday 12 April to Tuesday 1 May (after Easter)**

Pilgrimage is about engaging with a place and its people in a way that is different from a tour. Both have their place. On pilgrimage we pause, take time to reflect and to ask questions. Pilgrimage is a spiritual experience, often transformative, sometime uncomfortable. There will be moments of prayer or worship. Anyone is welcome on pilgrimage regardless of religious affiliation, or not.

ITINERARY:

Day 1 / Thursday April 12 Meet at Heathrow airport, London early afternoon and transfer to Aylesford Priory, an ancient religious house of the Order of Carmelites dating back to the 13th century. Enjoy a tour around the beautiful grounds, followed by some free time to relax in the grounds and the Friars Peace Garden. Attend Evening Prayer before dinner. Overnight in the 13th Century guesthouse.

Day 2 / Friday April 13 Breakfast. Full day visit to Canterbury. Visit St Martin's Church, the oldest church 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 the Cathedral. Free time for lunch. Afternoon visit to St Augustine's Abbey, a former Benedictine monastery originally founded in 598. Return to the Cathedral for evensong. Dinner and overnight.

Day 3 / Saturday April 14 Breakfast. Explore Kent in spring including a visit to the beautiful village of Chilham with a stop and visit at the church famous for the last known resting place of the shrine of St Augustine. Continue through the Kent countryside near Ramsgate to see the stone cross commemorating St Augustine's landing in 597AD. Then on to Reculver to see the remains of Saxon Church built in the 7th century. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 4 / Sunday April 15 Breakfast. Morning service at the Cathedral. Rest of day in Canterbury. There are a number of options available that will be notified before departure. Dinner on own. Overnight

Day 5 / Monday April 16 Breakfast. Drive from Canterbury to Winchester. Visit Winchester Cathedral, once the seat of Anglo-Saxon and Norman royal power

and situated on the site of an early Christian church. Jane Austen is buried here. Free time for lunch. Afternoon continue to Wales for dinner and overnight.

Day 6 / Tuesday April 17 Breakfast. Transfer to St David's. Visit the Cathedral, which stands on the site of the monastery which St David founded in the Glyn Rhosyn valley of Pembrokeshire, and includes the site of the original St David's Shrine which was destroyed during the reformation. Free time with the opportunity to walk to visit the site believed to be the place of St David's birth, and marked by the ruins of a tiny chapel close to a holy well – St Non's Retreat. Transfer to hotel in mid-Wales region for dinner and overnight. (*Boxed lunch on this day*)

Day 7 / Wednesday April 18 Breakfast. Spend some time in Snowdonia national park in the morning. Take the Snowdon Mountain train as far as possible (*due to time of the year this is not likely to reach the summit*). Afternoon visit to St Winefride's Well, a shrine to a Welsh lady. The shrine has been a place of public pilgrimage for healing for over 13 centuries. Dinner and overnight Holywell.

Day 8 / Thursday April 19 Breakfast. Morning ferry to Dublin. Transfer to city centre for time for lunch then visit to St Patrick's Cathedral and remain for evensong. Transfer to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 9 / Friday April 20 Breakfast. Panoramic tour of Dublin including a visit to Trinity College with its magnificent Long Room Library. Trinity 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 to Knock in Co. Mayo. Knock was the site of an apparition on the 21st August 1879. It is now Ireland's national Marian Shrine and it is visited by 1.5 million people each year. Check in to your hotel on site and free time to visit the shrine. Dinner and overnight

Day 10 / Saturday April 21 Breakfast. Then depart for Westport and on to Croagh Patrick – the Holy Mountain. The tradition of pilgrimage to this mountain goes back over 5,000 years. The climb is optional and pilgrims may climb as much of Croagh Patrick as they wish. Free time for a late lunch. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 11 / Sunday April 22 Breakfast. Depart for village of Ballintubber. St Patrick first established a church here in 441 and the present day Ballintubber Abbey has a proud history where it is said that mass has been said daily 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. Achill is easily accessible by bridge now and it encompasses dramatic land and seascapes with a wonderful Atlantic Coastal drive to visit Keel village and the wonderful Minaun Cliffs. (Optional) Walk the 6.7km Granuaile Loop Walk with an ascent of 334metres on the island. Return to Knock for dinner and overnight`

Day 12 / Monday April 23 Breakfast. 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. Continue to Belfast in the late evening. Dinner and overnight.

Day 13 / Tuesday April 24 Breakfast. Meet with a local guide and depart by coach for a morning tour of Belfast with special emphasis on Peace and Reconciliation. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon there are options available that will be notified prior to departure. Dinner and overnight at your hotel.

Day 14 / Wednesday April 25 Depart hotel transfer to Belfast port for early morning crossing to Scotland. Breakfast on board ferry. On arrival in Scotland visit Whithorn, the country's earliest recorded Christian settlement at the mouth of the Solway Firth. It owes its origins to St Ninian, who has been acknowledged as Scotland's first saint. 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 with a stop en route for lunch. Dinner and overnight.

Day 15 / Thursday April 26 Breakfast. Cross to the sacred Isle of Iona. A small and peaceful isle of the Inner Hebrides, Iona was to become the heart of Celtic Christianity in Scotland when St Columba landed in AD563 and founded a new monastic community. Trace the story of Celtic Christianity here, which prospered until relentless Viking raids forced many monks to flee the island. The Roman Church would later return in force with a new Benedictine Abbey in the 12th century. Eucharist at the Abbey shortly after arrival. Visit the Abbey where numerous Scottish Kings were believed to be buried. Three original Celtic High Crosses can also be viewed. You will also see the nunnery ruins, and the Iona Parish Church with its Macleans Cross outside. Dinner and overnight. *(Boxed lunch on this day)*

Day 16 / Friday April 27 Breakfast. Depart hotel and transfer to Glasgow, a city founded by St Mungo the missionary in the 6th century. Visit the cathedral, also called the High Kirk of Glasgow or St Mungo's Cathedral, including the St Mungo Museum of World Religion within the Cathedral precinct. Free time for lunch. Afternoon transfer to Edinburgh. Check into hotel. Rest of day and dinner at leisure. Overnight.

Day 17 / Saturday April 28 Breakfast. 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 includes a leather-bound facsimile of the Lindisfarne Gospels. Depart the island for dinner and overnight at hotel. *(the tides on this date show it is safe to cross in the morning until 12:25 hrs - then you would not be able to depart until 18:15 hrs)*

Day 18 / Sunday April 29 Breakfast. Attend one of the Sunday services at Durham Cathedral in the morning. After the service, some time to wander the cathedral for a visit - it is here where monks from Lindisfarne brought St Cuthbert's body; his tomb is still here and 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. Rest of day and dinner at leisure. Overnight

Day 19 / Monday April 30 Breakfast. Morning visit to Whitby Abbey. The ruins of St Hilda's Abbey dominate the town's skyline. Oswiu, King of Northumbria after Oswald, called the Synod of Whitby in 664AD in order to bring to a head the conflict between the traditions of the Celtic church and Roman Church. Return to Durham. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 20 / Tuesday May 1 Breakfast. Check out of hotel. Return to Cathedral's Chapel of the Holy Cross for the concluding time together as a pilgrim group. Pilgrimage concludes at 12 noon. People make their own arrangements from Durham.

PARTICIPANTS: The pilgrimage group is limited to 20 participants.

The pilgrimage is open to anyone. Each day there will be the opportunity to participate in morning or evening prayers, and there will be several Eucharist services that all may participate in.

FITNESS AND HEALTH: Pilgrims must be able to walk for several kilometres a day without assistance – a **medium** level of fitness is required. If unsure discuss with the tour leaders before registering. Any health conditions that may affect a person must be discussed in advance and in confidence with the tour leaders. Participants must have travel insurance.

ACCOMMODATION: Twins/Doubles for 19 nights. All rooms with private facilities. Breakfast is included. Accommodation is in pilgrim guest rooms in monasteries or nunneries; and also modern hotels.

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

April 13 – 3 nights – Canterbury Cathedral Lodge
www.canterburycathedralodge.org

April 16 – 1 night – The Priory, Caerleon <https://www.thepriorycaerleon.co.uk/>
 April 17 – 1 night – Metrople 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 – Oban Bay Hotel <http://www.crerarhotels.com/oban-bay-hotel>

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/>

MEALS: included in the fee are 16 three course dinners (without drinks) & coffee at the hotels; and 3 boxed lunches.

TRAVEL: by motor coach with air conditioning and panoramic windows. Ferry crossings include Holyhead/Dublin – as foot passengers, with breakfast on board Belfast/Cairnryan – as foot passengers, with breakfast on board Oban/Isle of Mull return Isle of Mull/Isle of Iona return – as foot passengers

ENTRANCE FEES to the following attractions are included in the 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, Downpatick Centre, Whithorn Priory, Iona Abbey, Lindisfarne Centre, Lindisfarne Priory, Durham Cathedral, Chapel of Holy Cross hire, Whitby Abbey and Snowdon Mountain Railway*

ADDITIONAL COSTS: travel insurance; 3 dinners and most lunches (that are not listed on the itinerary); optional activities (at Canterbury and in Belfast); tips and donation (optional), taxis or public transport if personally required; single supplement if desired of 632 pounds (approx. \$1,116 NZ dollars); travel to the start of the pilgrimage at Heathrow, London and following the pilgrimage conclusion in Durham.

FEES/COSTS: The fee for the 21 day pilgrimage is \$ NZ 7850. A deposit of \$3,500 is required on registering and the remainder by 1 December. Costs are subject to currency fluctuations and the price may be reassessed prior to final payment being due. In the event of major currency fluctuation there would be some adjustment required. The pilgrimage is a not for profit endeavour.

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST:

If you have questions please contact John and Jenny on 06 3587824 or 021437566 (John).

To register your interest please email the information required below to John and Jenny at hornblow@ihug.co.nz

- **Full name**
- **Age**
- **Church or religious affiliation (optional)**
- **Passport number**
- **Confirmation you can meet the required health and fitness level.**

- **Contact details: Postal address, email, phone**

BOOKING WITH TRAVEL AGENT:

Once you have registered your interest we will contact you and if there are places available we will refer your name and details to the booking agent who will contact you and take the process from there. The agent will handle all finances and can make all travel arrangements for you. We have selected this agent because of his extensive experience:

Graham Mills
NZ Travel Brokers
Phone 06 5602235 or 021 994342

TOUR LEADERS CONTACT DETAILS:

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