

20
DAYS

Sydney Catholic Schools

Saints of Ireland Back to the Well

Dublin / Wicklow / Waterford / Cork / Killarney / Galway / Knock /
Westport / Athlone / Dublin.

29 SEPTEMBER - 18 OCTOBER 2018



Sydney Catholic Schools
INSPIRING SPIRITS AND MINDS

harvest.
journeys



St Patricks Cathedral, Dublin

Saints of Ireland. Back to the Well.

20 Days / 17 Nights A Pilgrimage Journey through Ireland



DAY 1: SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2018 - DEPART FOR IRELAND

DAY 2: SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER - ARRIVE CO. WICKLOW VIA DUBLIN

Cead Mile Failte – Welcome to Ireland!

On arrival in Dublin we will be met by our Irish guide and transferred by coach directly south to County Wicklow.

Wicklow overnight (D)

DAY 3: MONDAY 1ST OCTOBER – GLENDALOUGH / MOONE / TULLOW

Travel out today to the holy town of **Glendalough** – ‘Valley of the two lakes’. This renowned place of pilgrimage is the site of the monastic settlement founded in the 6th century by **St Kevin** – a man of noble stock. Coming here to be alone as an ascetic contemplative monk, his prayerful inspiration ironically

attracted many others and thus the community of Glendalough springs from a hermitage. From a simple beginning, the site grew to become famous as a centre of learning throughout Europe. Standing for 600 years it was destroyed in 1398. Our visit here in Glendalough is focused on the remains at both the upper and the lower lakes in the valley. The upper site is simpler and more in fitting with his life as a hermit, whereas the lower one has the more famous monastic monuments – one of Ireland’s best preserved **Round Towers**, a roofless Cathedral, **St Kevin’s kitchen** and the diminutive **Priest House** over the **Saint’s tomb-shrine**.

Sister Margaret from the Glendalough Hermitage Centre will meet the group for a **pilgrimage** of the site. The group will be split in two for a 2 hour pilgrimage.

We also visit **Moone**, famous for its unique tall **High Cross**, beautifully evocative and with carved scenes of the Old and New Testaments.

Coming to **Tullow** in County Carlow, where we will meet with **Br. Cormac Cummins & Br. Camillus** at the parish church in Tullow. See here the museum with items relating to the Founder of the Patrician Brothers and Brigidine Sisters.

Wicklow overnight (BD)

DAY 4: TUESDAY 2ND OCTOBER - VIA KILKENNY TO WATERFORD

Departing Glendalough, we travel south to **Kilkenny**, the most medieval of Irish cities with its 13th century **Butler Castle** overlooking the River Nore and the great **Cathedral of St Canice** (6th century), the most lovingly cared for of the Irish medieval churches.

Our journey brings us to beautiful **Waterford**, home of the world-famous crystal, and the place where the Christian Brothers began. Waterford

Meal Code B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner

is the oldest city in Ireland. A walled city of Viking origin, it retains much of its medieval character together with the graceful buildings from its 18th century expansion. Like Kilkenny, Waterford feels medieval, with narrow alleyways leading off many of the larger streets. **Reginald’s Tower** marks the city’s Viking heart and the surrounding area is particularly attractive. Georgian times left a legacy of fine houses and commercial buildings particularly around The Mall, George’s street and O’Connell Street.

On arrival, we see the 9th century Reginald’s Tower and the ruined city walls before visiting the **Waterford Crystal** showroom.

Waterford overnight (BD)

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY 3RD OCTOBER - WATERFORD – RETREAT DAY

The **Edmund Rice International Heritage Centre** is the resting place of **Blessed Edmund Rice**, founder of the Christian and Presentation Brothers. It is also the site of an impressive visitor centre, thriving community centre and beautiful chapel.

Following a guided tour of the museum we will enter into a time of retreat.

Waterford overnight (BLD)

DAY 6: THURSDAY 4TH OCTOBER – VIA ARDMORE & COBH TO CORK

Taking the coastal road south through the fishing town of **Dungarven** we soon come to the remote coastal village of **Ardmore** in honour of **St Declan**. He was miraculously guided here on a return voyage from Wales in the 5th century. Today, a number of intriguing sites remain from this monastic city, pointing to a devotion that stood the test of time. Among other sites we come to **St Declan’s Well**, a shallow basin where pilgrims came to bathe their hands and feet.



Later we arrive into the unique port town of **Cobh**. It is here that over 2.5 million adults and children emigrated from Ireland to places such as New Zealand, Australia and the United States from 1848 onwards. It was also the last port of call for the ill-fated Titanic. Here we will also admire Cobh's Cathedral, dedicated to St Colman who founded the diocese in the 6th century. Irish communities in Australia were among those who helped to finance construction.

We continue to **Cork**.

Cork overnight (BD)

DAY 7: FRIDAY 5TH OCTOBER – CORK & ROCK OF CASHEL

We begin our day with Mass at **St Mary and St Anne's Cathedral**. Soon after, make a stop at the **Blarney Castle**, one of Ireland's most historic castles. We have a chance to kiss the Blarney Stone – will you dangle from the Castle ramparts to acquire the 'gift of the gab'?

Our afternoon brings us to the foreboding **Rock of Cashel**, an impressive great rock rising abruptly from the plain of the Golden Vale, on which stands Ireland's first Romanesque Church (11th century). St. Patrick visited the rock in 450 AD, while Brian Boru was crowned the first high King of Ireland here in the tenth century. We explore this unique landmark including **Cormac's Chapel**, which retains traces of Ireland's earliest frescoes.

Cork overnight (BD)

DAY 8: SATURDAY 6TH OCTOBER - LAKES OF KERRY

Journey on through the rugged **Derrynasaggart Mountains** towards the popular resort town of **Killarney** with its horse-drawn jaunting cars and singing pubs.

Enjoy a leisurely tour of the region featuring superb seascapes, towering cliffs, charming villages and spectacular mountains. Travel around **MacGillycuddy Reeks** and past the beautiful **Killarney Lakes** to **Ladies View** for a

spectacular photographic opportunity.

Killarney overnight (BD)

DAY 9: SUNDAY 7TH OCTOBER - DINGLE PENINSULA

Journey via Milltown and Castlemaine to the **Dingle Peninsula**, the northernmost of the five fingers projecting out into the Atlantic Ocean. Here we find a vast number of Christian sites mainly belonging to the cult of **St Brendan** the famous navigator who was born nearby at Andfert (484), including **St Brendan's Well**. We travel along the coast road past Inch to **Slea Head**, the most westerly point in Europe. We join the ancient pilgrim traffic of old and visit the 12th century **Church at Kilmalkedar** and the famous **Gallarus Oratory** built without mortar in fine masonry. Visit the **beehive huts** and spend some time in the lively fishing port of **Dingle**. Passing the 3000-foot **Mt Brandon** we journey back via charming **Tralee** to browse the shops.

Killarney overnight (BD)

DAY 10: MONDAY 8TH OCTOBER – SKELLIG ISLANDS

Today we will have the Skellig Experience :

The Skellig Experience is a heritage centre dedicated to life on the Skellig islands and was developed by Cork Kerry Tourism in 1992 to make the four treasures of the off shore Skellig Islands more easily understood by all. The Skellig Islands are found 12km off the coast of Kerry. The larger island, Skellig Michael, an UNESCO World Heritage site, was a monastic site occupied from the 6th until the 12th century. The second Island is renowned as a bird sanctuary and houses a colony of 20,000 pairs of breeding gannets, the second largest breeding colony in the world. The exhibition building is a purpose built visitor centre designed to be rugged in feeling and finishes, to reflect the experience which will be undertaken by visitors. The use of concrete vaults with grass topping is designed to echo the wild quality of the south west of Ireland

and to blend in with the surrounding hills.

Afterwards we will have lunch included and continue onto the Ring of Kerry tour.

Killarney overnight (BLD)

DAY 11: TUESDAY 9TH OCTOBER - CLIFFS OF MOHER TO GALWAY

A wonderful day of surprises awaits us as we journey north today through picturesque **Adare**, renowned for its pretty thatched cottages.

Now sit back and enjoy our afternoon's drive, which will take us through the Clare Coast along the majestic 668-foot **Cliffs of Moher**, a five-mile stretch of the darkest sandstone draping sheer to the tempestuous Atlantic Ocean. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara.

Atlantic Edge is the exciting new interpretive centre at the **Cliffs of Moher** and is built into the natural landscape. The centre is a huge domed cave that contains images, exhibits, displays & experiences exploring different elements of the mighty Cliffs of Moher: Ocean, Rock, Nature and Man.

On through the floral wonders of **Burren to Galway** the 'City of Tribes'. Before proceeding to our retreat centre accommodation we will visit the lovely **Galway Cathedral** and hear about the infamous **Lynch Stone**.

Galway overnight (BD)

DAY 12: WEDNESDAY 10TH OCTOBER – GALWAY – RETREAT DAY

Today we can take some time out to reflect on our journey so far and enjoy the beautiful Irish countryside at the Esker Retreat Centre.

Galway overnight (BLD)

DAY 13: THURSDAY 11TH OCTOBER – THE CONNEMARA / KYLEMORE ABBEY / KNOCK

Today we journey into the unspoilt mountainous region of **Connemara** - a land of lakes and rivers, bogs and mountains. A land of small villages where Gaelic is still the spoken language



and where little has changed little since the beginning of time. It is without a doubt the wildest and the most romantic part of Ireland.

From here we come to the seaport of **Clifden** and onwards to nearby **Kylemore Abbey**, home to the Benedictine nuns in Ireland. Admire the Gothic Church set in the Abbey's peaceful grounds.

Departing the Abbey we continue to the Marian shrine of **Knock** where we come to celebrate Mass in the **Church of Apparitions** where Our Lady appeared in 1879 on a rainy night. We will enjoy a guided tour of the shrine's highlights.

HOLY SHRINE OF KNOCK

On the evening of 21 August 1879, the eve of the Octave of the Assumption, the parish church of Knock, County Mayo, was the scene of an apparition of the Blessed Virgin. The vision lasted two hours and was witnessed by a large number of people. When it became known, people began to come to Knock in large numbers. Among the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to the Shrine in 1979 (the Centenary anniversary) was the first Pope to set foot on Irish soil, Pope St John Paul II. The Pope announced to the estimated quarter-of-a-million pilgrims gathered for the ceremony that the church at Knock would be henceforth known as the Basilica of Our Lady, Queen of Ireland. He presented a Golden Rose to the shrine as a witness of his own gratitude to Mary, mother of the heavenly and earthly Church.

We then proceed to the town of **Westport** located on the banks of the beautiful Carrabawn River.

Westport overnight (BD)

DAY 14: FRIDAY 12TH OCTOBER – CROAGH PATRICK & CLONMACNOISE

After breakfast, we travel to **Croagh Patrick**. Rising 2500-feet above sea level lies the holy mountain of **Croagh Patrick**, a place of pilgrimage for more than 1500 years. St Patrick spent forty days and nights in prayer and fasting at the summit in 441 and is said to have banished all demons and snakes from the mountain.

Following in the footsteps of St Patrick, every year since the fifth century, thousands of

pilgrims climb the Holy Mountain in a spirit of prayer, penance and reparation. At the top is St Patrick's Chapel built in 1905. (this visit will be weather permitting)

After our descent, we journey to **Clonmacnoise** (time permitting) founded in 548, becoming Ireland's most important monastic city and boasting today the very epitome of the early Irish monastery. Pope St John Paul II visited here in 1979 testifying to the importance of this shrine.

Athlone overnight (BD)

DAY 15: SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER – VIA KILDARE TO DUBLIN

This morning we depart for **Kildare**, which Ireland's best known woman saint, St Brigid, is closely associated with. Visit **St Brigid's Cathedral** (subject to availability) reputed to be the site of a co-ed monastery headed by St Brigid in the 5th century, and see a 'healing well' of St Brigid.

In the late afternoon, we continue on to **Dublin**.

Dublin overnight (BD)

DAY 16: SUNDAY 14TH OCTOBER - DUBLIN

Our morning sightseeing tour will include statue-lined **O'Connell Street** as we drive around and view some of the city's elegant **Georgian Squares**. Visit the **Trinity College Library**, home of the famous 8th century **Book of Kells** and onwards to **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, Ireland's largest Cathedral made famous by its former dean Jonathan Swift, author of 'Gulliver's Travels'. We continue to **Dublin Post Office** and on to **St. Mary's Pro Cathedral**. The original, partially completed facade was replaced by the present imposing neo-Romanesque structure by Sir Thomas Dean in 1868.

We then enjoy a visit to the **Sisters of Charity Motherhouse**.

Remainder of the afternoon at leisure to shop or wander the streets of Ireland's lively capital or perhaps enjoy an optional tour of the **Guinness Brewery**.

Dublin overnight (BD)

DAY 17: MONDAY 15TH OCTOBER – DUBLIN - RETREAT

We take the opportunity today to pause and reflect on the graces we have received on our pilgrimage and can take home with us on this day of retreat at the **Emmaus Centre**.

Dublin overnight (BLD)

DAY 18: TUESDAY 16TH OCTOBER – DUBLIN

We visit this morning the **Mercy Convent** in Baggot Street, the first house of **Mother Catherine McAuley**, founder of the Sisters of Mercy. This is where the determined **Mary**

MacKillop met with the inflexible Bishop Quinn of Bathurst on Oct 10, 1874 who wanted the Sisters kept under his diocesan control. Also nearby was **St Brigid's Orphanage** in Eccles Street (now part of the Mater Hospital) where Mary MacKillop, now a canonised saint, first stayed and met with Cardinal Cullen to explore the possibility of obtaining postulants from Ireland. We enjoy afternoon tea here during our visit.

This afternoon we will commence our final time of retreat back at the Emmaus Centre.

Dublin overnight (BD)

DAY 19: WEDNESDAY 17TH OCTOBER - DEPART IRELAND

We will be transferred to Dublin airport today for our homebound or onward flight connections.(B)

DAY 20: THURSDAY 18TH OCTOBER - ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

Departure Date: 29 September 2018

Tour Code: 8PV47

INCLUSIONS

Airfares: Economy class flights from Australia (N.B. Airlines taxes and fees are included and subject to fluctuations).

Accommodation & Meals: Based on moderate standard hotel and Religious accommodation throughout with breakfast and dinner daily

Miscellaneous inclusions: Deluxe air-conditioned motor coach • Local tour escort/guide • Sightseeing and entrance fees throughout itinerary

Not Included: Passport and Visa Costs (if applicable) • Other meals not stated • Items of a personal nature including phone calls, laundry, beverages, etc. • Travel insurance • Prepaid Tipping Fund

All details of sightseeing listed and order of daily arrangements must remain subject to change due to any unforeseen circumstances, which may arise, or at the discretion of the pilgrimage leadership.

This overview is based on the standard pilgrimage departure and return dates. Please refer to your personal flight itinerary for more specific details or amendments pertaining to your travel.

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