

A 12-DAY CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND & SCOTLAND

Including Dublin, Clonmacnoise, Westport, Knock, Croagh Patrick, Armagh, Belfast, Ballymena, Downpatrick, Glasgow, Stirling & Edinburgh.

Under the spiritual direction of Fr. Robert A. Quarato

September 16, 2019 - Monday **NEW YORK / IRELAND**

Today we gather at New York's JFK Airport for our overnight flight to Dublin. Meals are served on board our direct flight.

September 17, 2019 - Tuesday **DUBLIN**

This morning we arrive in Dublin where we meet our Pilgrimage Tours' tour director and board our motor coach. We enjoy a motor coach tour of Ireland's capital, including a drive by the Christ Church Cathedral, or Cathedral of Holy Trinity, founded by the Danes in 1030. We arrive at Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church, where we will celebrate Mass and see the Shrine of Our Lady of Dublin. Finally, we arrive at our hotel for dinner and overnight in Dublin.

September 18, 2019 - Wednesday **DUBLIN**

Today we will visit and celebrate Mass at Saint Mary's Pro Cathedral. Following Mass we will visit the Legion of Mary, a lay organization whose members volunteer their time in service of the Catholic Church. Here we will learn about the life's work of Frank Duff, "Servant of God", who founded the Legion of Mary in 1921. In the afternoon we will enjoy free time for lunch and shopping on Grafton Street. Later in the afternoon, we will visit the highly renowned Guinness Brewery and its "Storehouse", including its Hop Store and Visitor's Centre. Here we sample the brewery's latest batch of their famous libation from high atop their observation deck overlooking Dublin. This evening we enjoy dinner and a performance at the Merry Ploughboys. Here we will experience its famous "Irish Night & Banquet Show" including traditional ballads, music & dance. Following our night out, we return to our hotel. This evening you may wish to explore some of Dublin's typical Irish Pubs, many offering other types of live traditional Irish music. Overnight in Dublin.

September 19, 2019 - Thursday

DUBLIN / CLONMACNOISE / WESTPORT / CLAREMORRIS

This morning we drive through Ireland's countryside to Clonmacnoise, a monastic site situated on the banks of the River Shannon. Here we see the ruins of a cathedral, two round towers, several churches, several high crosses as well as a large collection of early Christian grave stones. Next we continue on to the quaint, seaside town of Westport where we enjoy some free time in its center square where we explore its many shops and enjoy its unique atmosphere. Finally, we arrive at our hotel in Claremorris for dinner and overnight.

September 20, 2019 - Friday

CLAREMORRIS / KNOCK / CROAGH PATRICK

This morning we drive to Knock, where we visit the Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, the single most important Marian Shrine in all of Ireland. We visit and celebrate Mass in the Apparition Chapel where the apparition of Our Lady, Saint Joseph and Saint John the Evangelist occurred and was witnessed by some 15 people in 1879. Following Mass, we enjoy free time to explore the Sanctuary's grounds, including a visit to the shrine's museum. Later in the afternoon, we will visit Croagh Patrick; Saint Patrick's Holy Mountain, where tradition states that St. Patrick spent 40 days fasting during Lent in 441. The site has been a place of Christian worship and pilgrimage ever since. Those who wish may climb a short way to a small shrine which is part way up the mountain or "Croagh". We return to Claremorris for dinner and overnight.

September 21, 2019 - Saturday

CLAREMORRIS / ARMAGH / BELFAST

This morning we depart for Northern Ireland, where we will visit the town of Armagh, where St. Patrick built Ireland's first stone church. In Armagh we will visit and celebrate Mass at the beautiful St. Patrick's Cathedral. Following Mass, we will visit St. Malachy's Chapel before continuing on to Belfast, the capital of the Republic of Northern Ireland. Dinner and overnight in Belfast.

September 22, 2019 - Sunday

BELFAST / BALLYMENA

This morning we will visit and celebrate Mass at St. Malachy's Church. Following Mass, we drive by the Harland & Wolff shipyard where the Titanic was built. Here we will visit the newly opened Titanic Museum. Later in our day we drive to Slemish Mountain, a strangely shaped mountain believed to be the central core of a former volcano. It is here that St. Patrick was enslaved for six years as a shepherd between the ages of 16-22. While here St. Patrick turned to frequent prayer, found

faith in God, and in a vision was encouraged to escape and return home, later becoming a priest. We return to Belfast where tonight we enjoy dinner on our own. Overnight in Belfast.

September 23, 2019 - Monday

BELFAST / DOWNPATRICK

Today we enjoy a day in Downpatrick where we will visit The Saint Patrick Centre, a wonderfully spiritual place dedicated to Ireland's patron saint, where we will enjoy interactive exhibits and stories about the life and legacy of Saint Patrick. On Cathedral Hill we will visit and celebrate Mass in the Down Cathedral, where we will see the grave of Saint Patrick. Next we will visit St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, housing St. Patrick's Shrine. Before returning to Belfast, we will also visit the St. Patrick Statue, the tallest statue of Saint Patrick in the world, as well as Saul Church, known as the "Cradle of Christianity" in Ireland, built on the site of St. Patrick's earliest Christian worship. We return to Belfast where dinner will be on our own this evening. Overnight in Belfast.

September 24, 2019 - Tuesday

BELFAST / GLASGOW / EDINBURGH

This morning we depart Belfast for its port to board our ferry for Scotland, arriving at the Scottish port of Cairnryan. In Glasgow we enjoy an orientation tour including a visit and celebration of Mass at Saint Andrew's Cathedral. Next we depart for Edinburgh, capital of Scotland, where upon our arrival in Edinburgh, known as "the Athens of the North", we embark on an orientation tour of Edinburgh's most notable landmarks, including its famous "Royal Mile" and Old Town. We arrive at our hotel in Edinburgh for check-in. While in Edinburgh, you are welcome to explore the numerous Scottish pubs and experience traditional Scottish music. Dinner and overnight in Edinburgh.

September 25, 2019 - Wednesday

EDINBURGH / STIRLING

Following Mass this morning at Sacred Heart Church, we enjoy a day-trip to one of Scotland's most famous towns; Stirling, where we visit its impressive Stirling Castle that sits atop a 250 foot high rock overlooking the city. This castle once served as a royal residence for Mary Queen of Scots. Following free time to explore the local merchants, we return to Edinburgh and enjoy our "Scotch Whisky Experience", to learn about Scotland's national drink. Here we will enjoy a whisky barrel ride through the stages of whisky production and sample the different aromas of whisky. We will also visit its marble & glass vault to see the world's largest private collection of Scotch whisky. Our tour culminates with a dram of their Scotch whisky for all! This evening dinner will be on our own. Overnight in Edinburgh.

September 26, 2019 – Thursday

EDINBURGH

Today we enjoy a full day in Edinburgh. First we visit and celebrate Mass at Saint Patrick's Church, where we will visit the Shrine to the Venerable Margaret Sinclair (Sister Mary Francis of the Five Wounds) as well as a Shrine to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Next we enjoy free time for lunch and shopping the many interesting shops in Old Town. In the afternoon, we visit Edinburgh Castle for a grand tour of this popular tourist destination. This evening is free, offering another opportunity to enjoy dinner on our own. Overnight in Edinburgh.

September 27, 2019 – Friday

EDINBURGH / NEW YORK

This morning we depart for the airport and board our connecting flight home. Though our tour of Ireland & Scotland draws to a close, its blessings and memories will remain with us for a lifetime.