



THE CELTIC WAY

A Pilgrimage through Ireland

plus

A Retreat on the sacred island of Iona, Scotland,

May 20 to June 3, 2017

Travel with Catherine and Douglas Gregg of
Christian Formation and Direction Ministries

Pilgrimage Guide: Dave Olson

Pilgrimage cost

Complete pilgrimage: \$2799* per person double occupancy; \$3299* single occupancy; covers land transportation, lodging, all breakfasts and 9 of the 13 evening meals and entrance fees.

General provisions

1. A US \$100/person deposit holds your place in the Pilgrimage.
2. Participants will make their own arrangements for travel to Dublin, Ireland, and from Glasgow, Scotland. Travel through Ireland will be by private motor coach. Travel to and from Iona will be by public transportation arranged by CFDM and is included in the retreat cost.
3. Refunds: Deposits received by January 31, 2017, are fully refundable until March 1st. After March 1st all deposits are refundable only if a new deposit comes in to fill the spot.
4. Trip insurance. InAbba and CFDM make no guarantees about completion of the tour if interrupted by natural or national disasters. Participants are advised to purchase their own trip insurance if this is a concern.

*Note: Cost estimate April, 2016; may be adjusted to meet higher local costs and changes in the currency exchange rates.

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The Celtic Way

- travel through Ireland's incomparable beauty
- visit ancient sites of monastic communities
- reflect on the lives of saints, Patrick, Brigid, Kevin and others
- explore Celtic spirituality, with its earthy and mystic understanding of Christian faith
- let these encounters draw you into a deeper knowledge of God and yourself
- culminate your experiences with 4 days of retreat and reflection on the historic island of Iona

The Pilgrimage *The Celtic Way* offers all this and more through opportunity for personal exploration and interaction with fellow pilgrims.

A Pilgrimage is a journey into history on which the pilgrim follows the yearning of her/his heart for an experience of the mystery of God's Presence, by taking paths made sacred by another's encounter with the Mystery. One starts with hope set on a destination but will discover that it is the journey which opens the way to that which he/she desires. A Pilgrimage is not just a tour of history but is a search to link the longings in the pilgrim's spirit to demonstrations of the Spirit of God to other seekers.

“To be a pilgrim is not to perform an individual act of devotion, but to engage in humankind's dialogue with the divine: not in time, but eternity.”

Jennifer Westwood, *On Pilgrimage. Sacred Journeys Around the World*. Mahway NJ: Hidden Spring, 2003, p. 28.

Pilgrimage guide Dave Olson has been visiting sacred sites in Europe for 12 years, making personal pilgrimages and leading groups. His studies in the literature of Christian mysticism and in history equip him to bring to life the people and events of ancient times, opening ways to let these accounts stimulate your own spiritual journey.

Accommodations

On this pilgrimage there are choices in two of our locations: Glenstal Abbey and Iona. Choice of accommodation on Iona will affect the cost to each person.

Glenstal Abbey, 2 nights. Participants who register early will stay in the Guesthouse of the Abbey (www.glenstal.org). The other choices are a Bed & Breakfast within walking distance from the Abbey and a hotel in nearby Limerick city, with bus service to the Abbey. In all 3 locations breakfasts are on site and lunch and dinner are served in the Abbey Refectory.

Iona, 4 nights. Lodging choices are as follows:

Cnoc a' Chalmain, Catholic Prayer House (www.catholic-iona.com)

Finlay Ross Bed & Breakfast (www.finlayrossiona.co.uk)

St. Columba Hotel (www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk)

Cnoc a' Chalmain and Finlay Ross accommodations are included in the pilgrimage base price. St. Columba hotel is an additional \$60 per person for the 4 nights (subject to change).

In all 3 locations breakfasts are included; dinner is included in the Catholic Prayer House. For Finlay Ross and St. Columba hotel dinners are in local restaurants at your own cost.

Day 10, Tuesday, May 30

Leaving our hotel in Glasgow we travel over land and sea to arrive at Iona in late afternoon. We will settle into our accommodations, have dinner together, and conclude the day by joining the Iona Community for Evening Prayer in the Abbey.



It was in 563 that Saint Columba left his native Ireland and founded a monastery on Iona with 12 companions. From there they set about the conversion of Scotland and much of northern England. Iona's fame as a place of learning and Christian mission spread, and it became a major site of pilgrimage. Because of its reputation as a holy island Iona became the place where several kings of Scotland, Ireland and Norway came to be buried. The vision of Columba is carried on today in the restored Abbey by the Iona Community, and ecumenical mission of training and mission.

Wednesday through Friday, May 31 – June 2

This sacred setting provides the location for our retreat of learning, reflection and sharing. There will also be plenty of opportunity for walking and just sitting on hillside or seashore, listening for sounds of birds and waves or the echoes of chants and prayers from centuries past.

Saturday morning, June 3, we will make the return journey to Glasgow, arriving at 3:30 PM. In the train station we will say farewell to one another as all continue on to home or an extended pilgrimage.

Itinerary.

Day 1, Sunday, May 21

Arrive in Dublin; meet other pilgrims at our hotel, share the evening meal and receive orientation to our pilgrimage. Those who arrive on Saturday may experience worship in Christ Church, Dublin on Sunday. Overnight in Dublin.

Day 2, Monday, May 22

Visit the magnificent library of Trinity College Dublin to view the beautiful **Book of Kells**, the splendidly illuminated version of the Christian Gospels dating from the 9th century.



Book of Kells

Proceed to **Glendalough**, an ancient monastic city, established in the 6th century by St. Kevin, in the heart of "the valley of the two lakes" (Gleann da Loch). It was an important center of learning as well as a pilgrimage destination, extending its influence through Ireland and onto the continent of Europe. St Kevin is often compared to St. Francis of Assisi. We will visit The Interpretative Center and view its excellent audio-visual, which relates the Golden Age of early Christian Ireland.

Overnight in Glendalough.



Upper Lake, Glendalough

Day 3, Tuesday, May 23

The day is yours to walk the lovely paths of Glendalough, meditate on the ancient and present mystery revealed here, and share reflections with fellow pilgrims.

Overnight in Glendalough.

Day 4, Wednesday, May 24

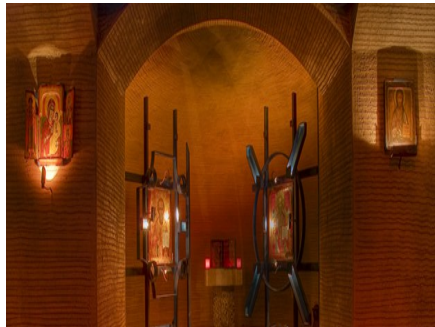
Travel by motor coach through the heartland of Ireland. Stop in Kildare to visit St. **Brigid's Cathedral** (13th century), located on the site of St. Brigid's monastery. St. Brigid lived in the 5th century and is one of Ireland's patron saints, along with Patrick and Columba. Revered for both her common-sense and her holiness, St. Brigid set an early standard for the service of women in the church. Continue on to Glenstal Abbey in County Limerick. Overnight in Glenstal Abbey.



St. Brigid's Cathedral (Anglican)

Day 5, Thursday, May 25

We take a day for quiet and contemplation in **Glenstal Abbey**, a living community of Benedictine Monks (Catholic). We enjoy the peace of their beautiful monastery and join the brothers in the Daily Office in their church and have time for personal prayer and a visit to the lovely Icon Chapel. We have 2 nights in this comfortable environment.



Day 6, Friday, May 26

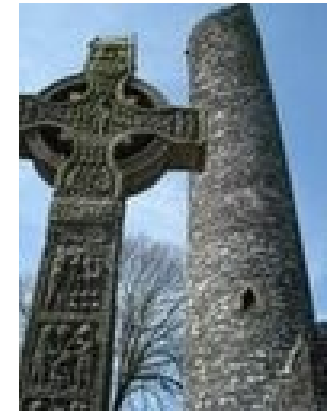
Continue our journey by motor coach. Tour **Clonmacnoise**, Ireland's most important monastic site overlooking the River Shannon. Founded by St. Ciaran in the 6th century its influence extended far into Europe through the missionary monks who trained there.

Travel to our hotel for overnight.



Day 7, Saturday, May 27

Travel by motor coach to visit the monastic ruins of **Monasterboice** with their remarkable high crosses. We will stop at **Newgrange** to tour the ancient burial site, then travel to Armagh, Northern Ireland and visit **St. Patrick's Cathedral** (Anglican) where we will consider history and impact of St. Patrick. Overnight in Armagh.



Day 8, Sunday, May 28

Armagh, Northern Ireland. Worship in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Anglican, or St. Patrick's Cathedral, Roman Catholic. We will have a half-day seminar in the Center for Celtic Spirituality, examining the ancient practices of the Celts and reflecting on our own experiences of the week. Continue to Belfast for overnight.

Day 9, Monday, May 29

We fly to Glasgow, Scotland, where we will have the afternoon and evening to explore this historic city on our own. Overnight in Glasgow, to be ready for the journey to Iona.