



Dear Fellow Pilgrim,

Come to the land of Patrick. A land that enslaved him, but which Patrick set free from her pagan ways.

Stand upon the Hill of Slane and look upon the land before you. It is from that hill that the Christian story of a race starts, when, upon it, Patrick lit a paschal fire. The sparks of this fire were never to die. Instead, from those flames the Catholic faith found its way to new lands and new continents as Irish pilgrims went out sowing in tears so that you could return to sing Psalms.



Walk with us among Erin's ancient lanes, through her ruined monasteries, past the sites where long ago were fought the battles that even today still resonate. You will see the scars of more recent conflicts upon the walls of the disputed North.

Of course, you will taste the hospitality of the Irish, which is legendary. Eat and drink their fine foods and even better beers from a land that knows the value of a feast. Experience the "craic" – that indefinable Irish word for "a party," but which is so much more than just that.

History, culture, food and drink, breath-taking scenery: we will make trips to islands set in the swirling Atlantic, journey through city streets as their stories are told.

All of this you would expect on a trip to Ireland. But this is an *Inside the Vatican* experience, so it is going to be different.

We are *not* inviting you to come on "a tour."

Instead we are inviting you to come on *pilgrimage*. When you land in Ireland, you are the pilgrim: here and now, not there and then. Despite what you might have heard or observed in recent years, the faith story of Ireland continues still, but, this time, with you as part of it. This is a journey inwards as much as it is one outwards. The only thing is, this is where *you* write the faith story.

So, this is what we are offering you: a pilgrimage – but with a difference. It is a faith journey, a path that takes these ancient stones scattered all around and makes them life-giving for today, for now, for you.

Remember, this is not a tour where you will be returning home to talk of the ruins you've seen. Instead, it is one where you return home a "living stone," having become part of a faith journey that was begun by Patrick at the Hill of Slane 1500 years ago.

*Inside the Vatican* invites you to become a part of this.

If you want to experience, feel and live the faith story of Christian Ireland, and to become a part of that story – then journey with us. The choice is yours. But the call is Divine, for the Fire started on Slane still burns, and will burn yet brighter in those it calls...

– Kevin Turley

Kevin Turley is a filmmaker, writer, journalist, scriptwriter, radio presenter, television host, podcast presenter, film and book reviewer. (He writes under the name K.V. Turley) His writing has appeared in: *The National Catholic Register*, *The Catholic World Report*, *Crisis Magazine*, *Catholic Exchange*, *The Catholic Herald*, *The Chesterton Review*, *The Imaginative Conservative*, *LifeSite*, *The Tablet*, *The Irish Times*, as well as a regular column, "Faith on Film", for *St. Austin Review*. He is a regular contributor to EWTN and other media. Turley is the Master of the Keys, a leadership position, in The Catholic Writers' Guild of England and Wales – established in 1931 by G.K. Chesterton. He is married and lives in London where he runs a media consultancy.

# Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages Ireland: “Saints and Scholars” August 2-12, 2019



## The Soul of Ireland

Ireland, the bucolic Emerald Isle: in places, it has lusciously green pastures that rise and fall in gentle hills, and yet it also has a rawness as you look inland to heathland, bogs, quartzite mountain ranges and vast forests of oak, ash and spruce. It's a land where mountains loom over glassy lakes... an island with a savage-looking coastline and monstrously high cliffs, juxtaposed with white-sand beaches more reminiscent of the Caribbean than northern Europe. It's a place where prehistoric hill forts stand watch over a far-flung archipelago of bleakly beautiful, rocky terrain, surrounded by a churning Atlantic.

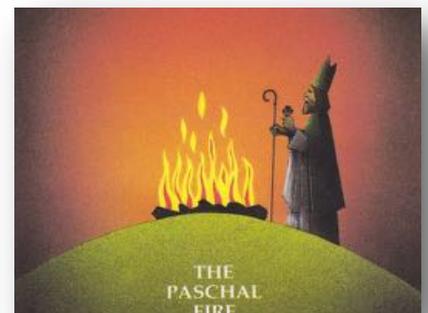
The history of Ireland reveals a Celt people of great faith and intelligence: book makers, jewelry makers, craftsmen, warriors and master negotiators who have survived the Viking invasions of the 9th century, the Norman expansion of the 12th century and the political divisions along religious lines of more recent history that created a partitioned Ireland. As early as 431 A.D., Christianity made an appearance when Bishop Palladius arrived to minister to existing believers. St. Patrick began his mission a year later. For generations, Ireland was perceived as a Catholic country, holding fast to values of Christ's teaching, even passing an Amendment to the constitution safeguarding the unborn. Last May that amendment was struck down by a vote among the Irish that many see as the burial of Catholic Ireland. It was the final act in a series of deaths experienced in Ireland: the death of the respect and love for life; the death of common human decency; and the death of the sense of robust political discussion. The illusion of Ireland being a Catholic country was shattered.

## Day 1: Friday, August 2, 2019 – Arrive Dublin

### From the Hill of Slane... where it all began... to the ancient spiritual center of Ireland, Clonmacnoise, where Ireland's kings are laid to rest...

Our journey begins immediately upon arrival at Dublin Airport. We will depart the airport travelling directly to the **Hill of Slane** where it all began in 433 A.D. when **St. Patrick** lit the Paschal Fire in defiance of the pagan High King Loegaire.

The king, who resided at Tara, forbade any other fires being lit within view of Tara during the Beltaine Festival (Spring Equinox). Loegaire is described in the highly mythicized 7<sup>th</sup> century *Life of Patrick* as “a great king, fierce and pagan, emperor of the barbarians.” After many attempts to have **St. Patrick** killed and after receiving the saint's warning to accept the faith or die, Loegaire converted and was baptized. Here is where Catholic Ireland began, and where we meet the current bishop of Meath, Michael Smith, and receive a blessing for the pilgrims and the pilgrimage as it begins.





The **Hill of Tara** (*photo, left*), was the coronation place of Ireland's pre-Christian kings. These kings did not inherit the throne, they won it in battle or were chosen for it. To complete the historical significance of **St. Patrick** and the conversion of Loegaire, we will travel to the Hill of Tara, stopping along the way for lunch. During our visit to Tara, we will note a number of large earthworks. Some of these are inside an even larger iron-age Hill Fort, along with two linked ring-shaped earthworks (Cormac's House and the Royal Seat). A 1.5-foot pillar stone believed to be the **Lia Fail** or **Stone of Destiny** is located on the Royal Seat. Legend says that the Lia Fail was used as an inauguration stone for the Kings of Ireland and that it would roar if the true King stood upon it. Enjoy the mystical Hill of Tara and see a tomb older than the Egyptian pyramids!

From the ancient Hills of Slane and Tara where the kings were crowned, we will travel through the Boyne Valley to Ireland's spiritual center, **Clonmacnoise**, where the kings were buried.

## Boyne Valley

Travelling through the valley takes us back 5000 years as the passage tombs of Newgrange (the Stonehenge of Ireland), Knowth and Dowth, one of Europe's most dazzling megalithic sites, are located here. We will search the horizon for glimpses of the sites. Clonmacnoise is an ancient place where time stands still. This is a sixth-century monastic site, located on the banks of the River Shannon, home to three high crosses, a cathedral, seven churches and two round towers. This great monastery was founded in 548–9 by St. Ciarán, who studied under St. Finian at the famous Clonard Abbey. The strategic location of the monastery—at a crossroads between the major east-west land route through the bogs of central Ireland and the River Shannon—helped it become a major center of religion, craftsmanship and trade by the 9th century.

Clonmacnoise (*photo, right*) flourished for 600 years as a center of learning excellence and produced the finest Celtic art and many illuminated manuscripts, including the Annals of Tighernach (11th century) and the Book of the Dun Cow (12th century).

The surrounding area is a microcosm of landscapes. These include the Shannon callows (type of wetland), eskers (long winding ridges of stratified sand and gravel), and boglands both preserved and cutaway, that are home to rare plants and animals.

After touring Clonmacnoise, we continue to our lodgings for the next two nights, located in Furbogh, at the four-star Connemara Coast Hotel, a waterfront property. Here we will attend a Welcome Mass and dinner. The history of this site is steeped in hospitality traced back to 1839, when it was a two-story residence that hosted fashionable parties where visitors engaged in cultural debates, entertainment and such local activities as fishing, hunting and shooting.



The views from the hotel (*photo, left*) are stunning examples of Ireland's scenery — the green of the pastures and the blue of the Northern Atlantic Ocean. You can even walk in the sand barefoot only steps away from the hotel. Overnight in Furbogh, County of Galway.



## Day 2: Saturday, August 3, 2019 Knock Shrine — A visit with Mary, our Mother...

After breakfast, we will board the bus for the drive to Knock to attend a private Mass (possibly with the Bishop Emeritus of County Meath) in the **Apparition Chapel** at this site of a Marian apparition in 1879. Here we encounter Our Lady and implore her blessings on our pilgrimage.



It was here that 15 witnesses watched the **Apparition of Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelizer** for two hours, reciting the Rosary. Their testimonies were ruled trustworthy and satisfactory by the Commission of Enquiry in October of 1879. While here, you may obtain a container of Holy Water or purchase other religious souvenirs, read the original testimonies and hand-written letters by those cured at Knock, explore the churches including the “Apparition Mosaic” in the Basilica or walk around the meandering paths in the Shrine grounds and gardens.

After lunch, we will depart Knock for **Ballintubber Abbey** (*photo, below right*), founded by **St. Patrick** when he brought Christianity to Ireland in 441 A.D. The Ballintubber Abbey is an example of the heroic struggle of the Irish people to keep the faith in spite of

dungeons, fire and sword.

Mass has been said at the Abbey without a break since its foundation, over 800 years! It has survived fires in 1265 and 1653, the Penal Laws from 1660–1896, and the disastrous famine of 1847. Close by is the well where **St. Patrick** baptized his converts in the district, with a stone alongside bearing the supposed imprint of the saint’s knee. Lunch will be at Corley’s Abbey Lodge across the way from Ballintubber Abbey.

We leave Ballintubber Abbey and travel to **Cong** (*photo, below left*). Cong features a ruined medieval abbey, Cong Abbey, where Rory O’Connor, the last High King of Ireland, spent his last years.



It also is the origin of the Cross of Cong – the one made for the father of the man who built Ballintubber Abbey. The Cross of Cong is now on display in the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin.

There is also a High Cross in the village. Cong is famous for being the filming location of the award-winning film of 1952, *The Quiet Man*, featuring John Wayne and Maureen O’Hara. The village has not changed much since 1952, except for the addition of a statue of John Wayne.

Then we will take a short drive to the city of **Galway**, which is the third

largest city in Ireland. Galway is a vibrant seaside city full of culture, history, entertainment and a bustling café and restaurant district.

We will visit the Latin Quarter (*photo, right*), known for its live Irish music scene and for being the most beautiful part of Galway. The Latin Quarter has restaurants, pubs and many shops of traditional Irish wares.

We will have several hours of free time to take in the sights and sounds, shop and enjoy dinner on your own. After dinner, we will return to our beautiful coastal hotel, only a short ten-minute drive away. Overnight in Furbogh, County of Galway.



### Day 3: Sunday, August 4, 2019 Inishmore Island – Doolin – Cliffs of Moher and on to Tralee...

*“Twas the truth in her eyes ever dawning, that made me love Mary, the Rose of Tralee.”* —Traditional Irish song



After Sunday Mass and breakfast, we depart for Rossaveal, where we will ferry to the **Aran Islands**. We will visit **Island Inishmore**, the largest of the three islands.

It is the location of **Fort of Dun Aengus**, the best-known of several prehistoric hill forts on the island that sits on the edge of a 100-meter-high cliff (*photo, left*) – described by George Petrie, the great Irish scholar and the father of Irish archaeology; as “the most magnificent barbaric monument in Europe.”

What we will also find here is the greatest monastery of **St. Enda**. St. Enda brought Christianity to the Aran Islands in the fifth

century and was the founder of the first well-organized monasteries in Ireland, preparing the ground for the great **St. Finian of Clonard**, another father of Irish monasticism, who lived a generation later. This little holy island (with a total area of just twelve square miles) always had about ten monasteries and has been revered by Christians as “an Irish Athos,” referring to Mount Athos in Greece, an important center of Orthodox monasticism. Inishmore (*photo, right*) grew into a celebrated center of holiness and learning. St. Enda, its first abbot, initially had around 150 disciples, and with time trained and instructed a host of future saints on this island. Today, it's an island of limestone and green grass with a maze of crisscrossing stone walls.



We will depart the island and ferry in a different direction for the rare view of the **Cliffs of Moher** (*photo, below*) from the water before reaching the mainland town of Doolin. One of Ireland's most famous sights, the Cliffs of Moher are entirely vertical, and the cliff edge is abrupt, so the best view is from the water.



On a clear day the views looking up from our boat are tremendous – the majestic cliffs before us, and westwards, the Aran Islands etched on the horizon. Looking out to the infinite ocean beyond, imagine this mighty horizon back in the day of majestic sailing galleons, conquering armies and pioneering spirits! There is little left to remind us of that time – but the indomitable force of the sea remains unchanged and timeless in its power.

From the cliffs, we proceed south to the town of **Tralee** (*photo, below*) as we head toward the **Ring of Kerry**. Our home for the night is the four-star Rose Hotel in Tralee, where we will have dinner.

Both the town and the hotel are known for The Rose of Tralee, an international festival that is a global celebration of Irish culture, with the heart of the festival being the selection of a rose from amongst young women of Irish descent from all over the world. The festival was inspired by an old Irish song bearing the same name:

*“She was lovely and fair as the rose of the summer,  
Yet 'twas not her beauty alone that won me;  
Oh no, 'twas the truth in her eyes ever dawning,  
That made me love Mary, the Rose of Tralee.”*

Overnight in Tralee.



## Day 4: Monday, August 5, 2019 – Skellig Michael and the Ring of Kerry – “St. Michael, defend us in battle” ... a monastery dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel

This morning, after breakfast at the hotel, we begin our drive along the road called the **Ring of Kerry** (*photo, right*) to Valentia Island, one of the most westerly points of Ireland. There we will visit the **Tower at Bray Head, St. Brendan's Well**, and the **Skellig Experience** at the Visitors Center.

An alternative to visiting Valentia Island is to head back to the sea and board small boats for a magnificent and extraordinary trip to **Sceilg Mhichil** or **Skellig Michael**. This is an optional excursion at an additional expense for the pilgrim (anticipated cost is €130 per person). For those interested, we will make the reservations and arrange for box lunches.



### Skellig Michael

Skellig Michael, dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, was home to one of the earliest monastic settlements that became a refuge for those seeking to connect with the divine.

The first small group of monks, led by **St. Fiona**, arrived in 1046 A.D. and were seeking isolation and seclusion that supported their vision that through hardship and prayer they would become closer to God.



It is a remarkable testament to the faith, devotion, skill, hard work and perseverance of the monks, all in a celebration of God. Only a dozen monks resided at the monastery at any given time. The infrastructure, buildings and water purification system took generations to complete, using inventive methods of dry-stone construction and hand-hewing the rocks to build the three separate staircases of 670 steps (*photo, left*) each that wind up to the summit where the monastery was built. In addition, on the highest peak on the island, they built beehive huts (*photo, below*) for hermits, which shielded them from the harsh weather atop the rock. The terraces and walls are still intact and are fine examples of early Christian architecture.

While abandoned in the 12th century, Skellig Michael is a testimony to a unique way of life that still attracts pilgrims from around the world seeking the divine at this remote place at the edge of the world. It is also the most westerly sacred site in Europe and the end point of a line of ancient pilgrimage places in Europe. This line runs from Palestine through to Greece, Italy, France and finally, Ireland. It is known as the Apollo/ St Michael axis, as it is believed to have been known thousands of years before Christianity.

Skellig Michael was a place of refuge for numerous Catholics during Penal Times (1607–1920), as their rights and beliefs were being suppressed by the government powers of that time.

In more recent years, Skellig Michael found fame as the filming location for the Star Wars enterprise, episodes seven and eight. (It is where Luke Skywalker is living when found by Rae in her search for instruction and understanding of the Jedi ways.)

In addition, Skellig Michael was awarded the title of a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1996.





Upon leaving Valentia Island (*photo, left*), we will drive the other side of **The Ring of Kerry** to our lodgings for the night in Blarney. The Ring of Kerry follows a trail through a part of the mystical and unspoiled region of Ireland that has attracted visitors for hundreds of years. It is a photographer's paradise – wildlife, river, coastland and forest – stunning scenery that changes as the light dances to the tune of the incoming Atlantic weather. Due to its location facing the mighty Atlantic Ocean, the Ring of Kerry also has some of Europe's finest beaches. In addition, it provides an amazing insight into the ancient heritage of Ireland – as it is home to Iron Age Forts, the Ogham Stones, old monasteries and a landscape carved out of rock by the last Ice Age 10,000 years ago.

Along our drive we will stop in Killarney to visit with the friars at **Franciscan Friary** to attend Mass. The original friars settled in Killarney in 1780, establishing a school for boys. The church is renowned for its architecture, its altar and stained-glass windows, and for being a place of peace and calm.

Thereafter, we will have dinner in downtown Killarney (*photo, right*) with Irish music before continuing our journey to our lodgings for the night, the four-star Blarney Hotel and Golf Resort, set among 164 acres of the beautiful wooded Shournagh Valley. Overnight in Blarney



### **Day 5: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 – Blarney Castle – Rock of Castle – Holy Cross Monastery –The stone that some believe is “Jacob’s pillow,” and the seat of the High Kings of Munster**

After breakfast, we will travel to nearby **Blarney Castle**, established in 950 A.D. although the current structure was built in 1446, to kiss the **Blarney Stone** and gain the gift of eloquence!

#### **Legend of the Blarney Stone**



The legend tells the story that in 1602, Cormac Teige MacCarthy, Lord of Blarney, was under considerable pressure from Queen Elizabeth and Sir George Carew, her Deputy in Cork. Carew suspected MacCarthy of plotting against the Queen and wanted him to swear allegiance and hand over legal tenure of his lands. Every demand of the English Queen was met with protestations of undying loyalty, flattering references and suggestions that he "seemed very inclinable to the notion." Nothing, however, was actually moving forward and Carew complained of his "fair words and soft speech." On the receipt of yet another MacCarthy letter, Queen Elizabeth exclaimed, "This is all Blarney; what he says, he never means!" And so, the word slipped into the English language and the rest is history...

The origin of the Stone itself is quite a mystery. Some say it was Jacob's Pillow, the stone used as a pillow by the Israelite patriarch Jacob at the place later called Bet-El. As Jacob had a vision in his sleep, he then consecrated the stone to God. Legend has it that the stone was brought to Ireland by the prophet Jeremiah. Here it became the Lia Fail or "Fatal Stone," used as an oracular throne of Irish kings. It was also said to be the deathbed pillow of St. Columba on the island of Iona. Legend says it was then removed to mainland Scotland, where it served as the prophetic power of royal succession, the Stone of Destiny. When Cormac MacCarthy, King of Munster, sent five thousand men to support Robert the Bruce in his defeat of the English at Bannockburn in 1314, a portion of the historic Stone was given by the Scots in gratitude – and returned to Ireland. Still others say it may be a stone brought back to Ireland from the Crusades – the "Stone of Ezel" behind which David hid on Jonathan's advice when he fled from his enemy, Saul. A few claim it was the stone that gushed water when struck by Moses. Whatever the truth of its origin, it has a permanent place in the lore of Ireland.



Once all who wish to kiss the Blarney Stone have done so, we will head to the **Rock of Cashel** (*photo, above*). This rock rises dramatically from the flat countryside and is crowned by a group of buildings, both ecclesiastical and royal, including a round tower and a 13<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque Chapel. It's huge, it's complex, it's iconic and there is nothing like it anywhere else in the world.

The Rock of Cashel contains one of the most remarkable collections of Celtic art and medieval architecture to be found anywhere in Europe. It is more formally known as St. Patrick's Rock, and also known as Cashel of the Kings. It is reputedly the site of the conversion of Aenghus the King of Munster by **St. Patrick** in the fifth century A.D. Long before the Norman invasion, the Rock of Cashel was the seat of the High Kings of Munster. Most of the buildings on the current site date from the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries when the rock was gifted to the church. It is also the setting of the fictitious *Sister Fidelma Mysteries*, medieval whodunits by author Peter Tremayne.

After lunch on your own in Cashel, we head to **Holy Cross Abbey** located in County Tipperary, founded in 1168 for the Benedictines by Donal O'Brien, King of Munster, and transferred about 1182 to the Cistercians. A **relic of the True cross** (*photo, left*) was brought by the widow of King John, Plantagenet Queen Isabella of Angouleme around 1233. The Abbey became a place of great medieval pilgrimage, and with the Reformation, also a rallying-point for the dispossessed and victims of religious persecution. It was a symbol and inspiration for the defense of the Catholic faith, resistance and the struggle for freedom.



After touring Holy Cross Abbey, we head to Wicklow and our home for the night, the Glenview Hotel, a four-star hotel built in 1914. Originally used as a cottage, hunting lodge and guesthouse, today it welcomes many national and international celebrities including actors, world leaders, musicians and athletes. Dinner will be at the hotel. Overnight in Wicklow.

**Day 6: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 – Glendalough and Wicklow and on to Northern Ireland... “A narrow valley encircled with granite crags” that became a great seat of monastic learning**

Glendalough is set in prime hiking territory in the heart of the beautiful **Wicklow Mountains National Park** (*photos, left and right*). This scenic narrow valley,

encircled with granite crags, is home to one of Ireland’s most beautiful early Christian sites.

Founded by **St. Kevin** in the 6th century, this monastic “city” rivalled Clonmacnoise as a seat of learning, with its soaring 33m-tall round tower and cluster of Romanesque churches. The name means “valley of the two lakes,” and the main monastic site at the eastern end of the valley contains several significant monuments.



### Glendalough

The Gateway to Glendalough is perhaps one of the most important as it is unique to Ireland. The building was originally two-storied, probably with a timber roof. Inside, on the west wall, is a cross-inscribed stone. Visitors entering from the road still pass through this arched entrance, walking on some of the original stone paving.

By the end of the eighth century, the monastery employed up to 1000 laypeople to help grow crops and tend livestock. Monasteries were wealthy. In addition to stores of treasure, most monasteries maintained substantial stocks of food and were able to survive periodic famines. Such rich sites were often plundered. Glendalough’s remote location made it an easy target, and between 775 and 1095 it was plundered many times by both local tribes and Norse invaders. Usually the churches and houses were burned, but each time the monastery was rebuilt.

The eventual decline of Glendalough’s monastery was not due to invaders, but rather to a shift in political power. When Glendalough was annexed to the diocese of Dublin in 1152, its importance declined. Despite this, the place has retained a spiritual significance.

**Laragh** (*photo, right*), the little village only minutes away from Glendalough, is where we will enjoy lunch on our own and take in the scenic beauty of the hills and mountains that rise from the valley. The area is known as a center for recreational mountain activities for hillwalkers, hikers, motorcyclists and cyclists, as well as birdwatchers who come here to look for the great spotted woodpecker, Ireland’s newest species, that breeds here.



After lunch, we continue to **Armagh**, “**the city of saints and scholars**,” arriving in Northern Ireland. (Note that the currency will change from euros to British sterling pounds.) Northern Ireland has the highest percentage of church goers in all of the EU, both Protestants and Catholics, like the bible belt in the United States. Armagh served as the spiritual center of Ireland for over 1500 years and the seat of both Catholic and Protestant archbishops. It also served as an educational center since the time of **St. Patrick** due to it being believed that St. Patrick decreed that only those educated at Armagh could spread the gospel.

On our way to Armagh, we will stop at **Powerscourt Garden**, a 68-room mansion (*photo, right*), with 800 years of history. It is also home to beautifully landscaped gardens (*photo, left*) and the highest waterfall in Ireland. The mansion contains a tea room, eateries and a variety of shopping opportunities.



In Armagh, we will be staying at the Armagh City Hotel which is situated on an elevated position overlooking the magnificent ancient city and has on its doorstep the city’s two cathedrals, beautiful Georgian architecture and great independent boutiques. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Armagh.



**Day 7: Thursday, August 8, 2019 – Belfast...Miracles: stories of healing and survival.... The shipyard where the *Titanic* was built and a special visit with an order of Adoration nuns...**

After breakfast, we continue our journey, travelling to **Belfast** (*photo, right*) to meet **Brendan Rogers**, who resides on a hill overlooking the city. We are all called by God to serve Him in our own unique way and Brendan Rogers is no different. However, his commission and his story are quite unusual.

Following a series of strange, even mystical occurrences, he travelled to San Giovanni Rotondo, the home of **St. Padre Pio**. There he was singled out by one of the custodian friars of that pilgrimage site and given a first-class relic of the saint, a piece of cloth that was once a bandage around the saint’s heart. He was told that with this relic he would bless and heal many, and he has carried it with him ever since, carrying out his mission with impressive results. Brendan is the custodian of the relic and remains available to anyone who calls on him.

We will attend Mass with Brendan in his chapel and perhaps hear the wonderful stories of healing and peace those who have called upon him have received.



After our time with Brendan we head back to Belfast to drive by the **Titanic quarter** on our way to lunch with the **Belfast Adoration Sisters** (*photo, left*). Yes, the *Titanic* was built here in the shipyards of Belfast. The “Ship of Dreams” made Belfast’s dock the major trading post that it is today, improving infrastructure and the workforce in the region. We will have lunch with the Sisters, hearing their stories – some of the sisters were famous Irish women living in secular society, then experienced a conversion.



We will end the day with a driving tour of two major streets in Belfast lined with **murals** (*photos, below*) depicting a time of civil war, just 40 years ago, that gripped this city.

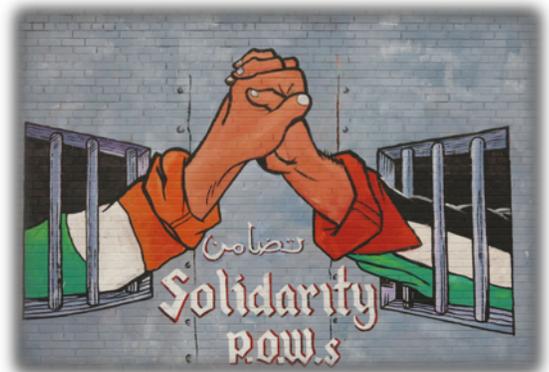
In 1921, the Republic of Ireland was declared an independent state while Northern Ireland remained under British control. Violence erupted between some citizens who wanted to reunite with Ireland and citizens who preferred to remain under Britain. This violence continued until the 1980s. During the conflict, paramilitary groups, both Republicans (Nationalists) and Loyalists (Unionists) emerged, spreading violence across Northern Ireland. Almost 2,000 murals have

been erected depicting these conflicts, the complicated history and the culture in this city.

We will also drive by the two St. Patrick Cathedrals in town, one that is Catholic and one that is Protestant.



Time permitting, we will stop for a brief visit. Dinner will be at one of Kevin’s “family favorite” Irish restaurants, Digbys, just outside of Armagh on our way back from Belfast. We will be in for a treat! Overnight in Armagh.



**Day 8: Friday, August 9, 2019 – Armagh, to Downpatrick to Drogheda and Silverstream Benedictine Priory... a visit to the shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett, the last Roman Catholic martyr to die in England...**



This morning after breakfast, we walk to **St Patrick Cathedral** (*photo, above*) to attend Mass. Afterwards, we will tour the city of Armagh, Kevin Turley's hometown. He will treat us to a special tour of his city and enlighten us about its unique history and spiritual significance.

We depart Armagh and head to Downpatrick, the city of St. Patrick. We will have lunch here followed by a visit to **Down Cathedral, Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity**, that is believed to be near the burial place of **St. Patrick, St. Brigid and St. Columba**.



Prior to the cathedral, several monasteries existed here from as early as the 6<sup>th</sup> century through the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when the monasteries were dissolved (the monks left in 1538). In 1609, James I granted a Charter to establish a dean and chapter here, and while still a ruined site, bishops were consecrated within its walls. Even among desolation, the faith remained strong. It wasn't until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century that the cathedral was completed.

After our visit to the cathedral, we will travel through Boyne Valley again to **Drogheda** and **St. Peter's Church** (*photo, right*) and the **National Shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett**, the first Irish saint to be canonized in 700 years. **St. Oliver Plunkett** was the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. His witness to decision-making based on conscience, trust and service provides a real challenge for this and every age. He maintained his duties in Ireland in the face of English persecution and was eventually arrested, tried for treason and executed in England. He became the last Roman Catholic martyr to die in England.

The **Relic of the Head** has had quite the journey being faithfully preserved and protected by a community of resourceful and devoted Dominican nuns at Siena convent in Drogheda throughout the difficulties of Penal Times. During the war of independence, armed republican forces were positioned in defense of the relic. Thousands of pilgrims visit the **National Shrine of St. Oliver** (*photo, right*) each month, making it one of the most popular attractions in Ireland. Coming from all counties of Ireland and various parts of the world, some come as sightseers, but many go away with an admiration for the loyalty in faith of those who have gone before us. Many come to kneel and pray for peace and reconciliation in Ireland, before the Shrine of our patron saint for this cause in Ireland.





Our next encounter is with the monks of **Silverstream Priory**, situated amidst pasture land and forest in the eastern reaches of County Meath. Silverstream Priory was founded in 2012 by an American, Father Mark Kirby, at the invitation of the Most Reverend Michael Smith, Bishop of Meath, and canonically erected as an autonomous monastery of diocesan right on February 25, 2017. Praying and working in the enclosure of the monastery, the monks of Silverstream keep at heart the sanctification of priests laboring in the vineyard of



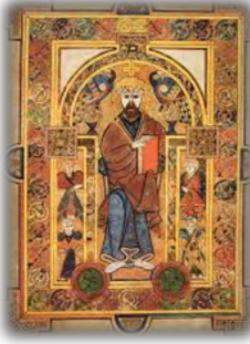
the Lord. They undertake various works compatible with their monastic vocation, notably the development of the land and gardens, hospitality to the clergy in need of a spiritual respite, scholarly work, and publishing. The monks will greet us, then we will join them for Vespers followed by a private reflection.

After our visit we will head to our accommodations, Trinity College, located in the heart of **Dublin**. After check-in, you will have time to rest and have dinner on your own. Overnight in Dublin

### TRINITY COLLEGE

Trinity College (*photo, below*) is one of the seven ancient universities of Britain and Ireland, as well as Ireland's oldest surviving university. Trinity College is widely considered the most prestigious university in Ireland and amongst the most elite in Europe, principally due to its extensive history, reputation for social elitism and unique relationship with both the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. It was founded by Queen Elizabeth I in 1592. The Library of Trinity College is a legal deposit library for Ireland and Great Britain, containing over 6.2 million printed volumes and significant quantities of manuscripts, including the famous Book of Kells.





**Day 9: Saturday, August 10, 2019 – Dublin Northside: The finest and most famous of illuminated manuscripts:**

**The Book of Kells, containing the four Gospels, painted in the 800s... and the shrine of the Venerable Matt Talbot, an alcoholic who gave up drink to live a holy life and died in 1925... he intercedes for all addicts...**

After breakfast at the hotel, we walk over to the library to view **The Book of Kells**.

### The Book of Kells

It is one of the finest and most famous, and also one of the latest, of a group of illuminated manuscripts in what is known as the Insular style, produced from the late 6th through the early 9th centuries in monasteries in Ireland, Scotland and England. While the exact origin of the manuscript is the subject of considerable debate, it is certain that it was produced by Columban monks closely associated with the community at Iona. The book contains the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (through Chapter 17), preceded by prefaces, summaries and concordances of Gospel passages. Today, it consists of 340 vellum leaves, or folios. The text is written in black, red, purple, and yellow ink accompanied by many full-page miniatures, while smaller painted decorations appear throughout the text in unprecedented quantities. The decoration of the book is famous for combining intricate detail with bold and energetic compositions. The illustrations feature a broad range of colors, with purple, lilac, red, pink, green, and yellow being the colors most often used. Earlier manuscripts tend toward more narrow palettes. The original bejeweled cover and other sections are missing and believed to have been lost when it was stolen in 1007. It has been determined that it was at the Abbey of Kells in the 12th century as evidenced by land charters pertaining to the Abbey that are copied onto what were blank pages of the book. This was a common practice in the medieval period.

From Trinity College, we will take a short walk to O'Connell Street, the city's main thoroughfare, to visit one of the most famous buildings in Ireland, the **General Post Office** (*photo, below left*). It was one of the last of the great Georgian public buildings erected in the capital, opening to the public on January 6, 1818.



During the Easter Rising of 1916, the General Post Office served as the headquarters of the uprising's leaders. It was from outside this building on April 24, 1916, that Patrick Pearse read out the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. The building remains a symbol of Irish nationalism although, despite its fame, ground rent for the building continued to be paid to English and American landlords until the 1980s.

From the General Post Office, we proceed to the "heart" of the city and an active house of God, **St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral** (*photo, below right*), just a short four-minute walk away. Few buildings have such a close association with significant moments in the political and religious



history of Ireland as the Pro-Cathedral. Presidents, government officials and foreign ambassadors come to the Pro-Cathedral on great national occasions. The Lord Mayor and the County Council come to extend Christmas greetings to the Archbishop on behalf of the citizens of Dublin. The people of Dublin know it affectionately as the 'Pro' and, in an echo of earlier days, there are residents in the neighborhood who still refer to it as "the chapel in Marlborough Street." Every day there is a constant stream of people dropping in to light a candle and say a quiet prayer.



Another short walk brings us to **Our Lady of Lourdes Church** on Sean McDermott Street Lower, where we will visit the **Shrine of Venerable Matt Talbot** (*icon, left*). He was one of 12 children born to an alcoholic father who died quite early. All the men in the family became alcoholics. He started down the same path at age 12. When he was 28, he found a priest and "took the pledge" off alcohol and persisted, never touching alcohol again. His resolve was maintained by a new life of much prayer, daily Mass, Rosary, hard work and much penance. He died of heart failure enroute to his beloved church on June 7, 1925. Penitential chains were found on his body after his death. Many miracles, especially those of people freed of addictions, have been attributed to his intercession.

The last stop on our walking tour of Dublin is the **Garden of Remembrance (photo, left)** at **St. Michan's Church**. It is a large sunken garden that features a pool in the shape of a non-denominational cross designed to be inclusive of all religions, creeds and colors. The floor of the cross is lined with mosaics of shattered swords and broken shields – echoing the rituals of ancient clans who would break their weapons at the end of battle and throw them into the rivers or large bodies of water to symbolize the end of a conflict. It commemorates all Irish uprisings and rebellions from 1798 through Ireland's more recent civil war. We will have lunch along our walk. Dinner will be on your own in the city of Dublin after our walking tour, allowing time to explore, shop or to just enjoy some solitude. Overnight in Dublin.



**Day 10: Sunday August 11, 2019 – Dublin Southside: A church under the patronage of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, in central Dublin and a walk along Dublin's historic quays... to the jail where many leaders of the Irish rebellion were imprisoned... and our final dinner**

*“The Church has ‘died’ many times, yet it always rises again for it is the beloved Bride of a God no grave could ever hold.”*

After breakfast, we continue to explore the **City of Dublin**. Our first stop today is **St. Stephen's Green (photo, right)**, a short walk from Trinity College. Cared for by the Office of Public Works, the park is an important public resource in the area, and provides an oasis of beautiful green calm in the middle of a bustling city. Its four centuries of history are eventful and complex, involving such important figures as Arthur Guinness, 1st Baron Ardilaun, and Countess Constance Markievicz. The park itself hosts a large number of important sculptural monuments to Irish history. Many species of birds and plants also call the park their home. We will wander through the park over to Newman University Church located across the street.



The Parish of **Newman University Church (photo, left)** is under the patronage of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom. Opened in 1856, it was initially attached to the neighboring Catholic University and later to Harrington Street parish. In October of 1974, it was established as a parish Church itself. This historic and beautiful Church has been a distinctive landmark in Dublin's city center for over 150 years and a place where the faith of the people of the parish community and beyond has been, and continues to be, celebrated.



A walk alongside the historic Dublin quays takes us past many historic buildings before we come to a world-famous landmark— one so loved by Dubliners that they protested on the streets when a plan was hatched to remove it abroad.

No trip to Ireland would be complete without a stop at the famous Guinness brewery. So, to the **St James Gate** area we travel to tour **Guinness Storehouse** where we will learn what goes into making a pint of Guinness and how the Guinness company shaped the city of Dublin. The company is the largest brewer of stout in the world. It owns the buildings in which the brewery is located as well as many streets of housing for brewery employees and offices associated with the brewery. It also operates its own power plant.

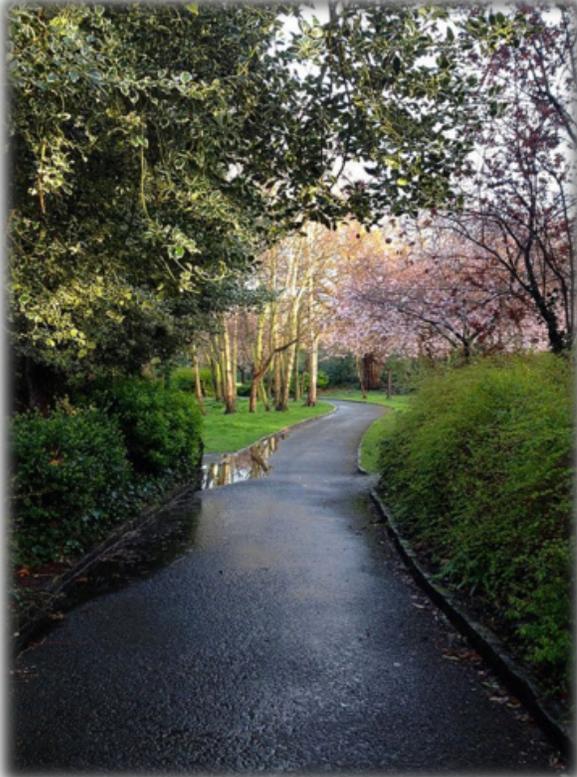


**St. James Gate (photo, above right)** in Dublin is also the traditional main starting point for Irish pilgrims to begin their journey on the **El Camino de Santiago** (Way of St. James) that is comprised of different routes that wind through France, Spain and Portugal. Many pilgrims get their traditional documents stamped either at the Guinness Storehouse or St. James Church.



After tasting a pint of the Guinness and lunch at the Brazen Head, Ireland's oldest pub, we head to **Kilmainham Gaol (Jail)**. Today the building symbolizes the tradition of militant and constitutional nationalism from the rebellion of 1798 to the Irish Civil War of 1922-23.

Leaders of the rebellions of 1798, 1803, 1848, 1867 and 1916 were detained and in some cases executed at this famous jail. Many members of the Irish Republican movement during the Anglo-Irish War (1919 – 21) were also detained in Kilmainham Gaol, guarded by British troops. Names such as Henry Joy McCracken, Robert Emmet, Anne Devlin, Charles Stewart Parnell and the leaders of the 1916 rebellion will always be associated with the building. It should not be forgotten, however, that as a county *gaol*, Kilmainham held thousands of ordinary men, women and children as well. Their crimes ranged from petty offences such as stealing food to more serious crimes such as murder or rape. Convicts from many parts of Ireland were held here for long periods waiting to be transported to Australia.



Back through Dublin we travel by bus to **Merrion Square**, one of the city’s finest surviving squares. It was first laid out in 1762 and completed by the end of the 1800’s. Today most of the houses are used as offices. However, at one time it was residential, and several notable celebrities resided here, such as writer Oscar Wilde (*photo of his statue in Merrion Square, above*), who lived in No. 1; poet W.B. Yeats lived at No. 82, and Daniel O’Connell at No. 58. Fashion and interior designer Sybil Connolly lived in No. 71.

The British Embassy was based for a time in No. 39. The Embassies of France and Slovakia are currently based on the south side of the square. Along Merrion Row we will find old traditional Irish pubs – for example, O’Donoghues, featuring musicians and pints of Irish stout!

We will enjoy our farewell Dinner in Dublin’s famous Shelbourne Hotel (*photos, below*). During dinner, we will introduce you to some of our Irish friends whose passion in their work for the Church are the flickering flames of the ancient pascal fire lit centuries ago by St. Patrick. We reflect on what they share about current faith issues in Ireland and on the encounters we have had, realizing that the ruins and relics are contemporary artifacts, living icons that show the way through the recent death and burial of Catholic Ireland to its resurrection and rebirth. As we have discovered, the faith of the Irish runs deep and has survived even the harshest of circumstances, including martyrdom. And still it endures. Overnight in Dublin



*The Church has “died” many times, yet it always rises again for it is the beloved Bride of a God no grave could ever hold.*

**Day 11: Monday August 12, 2019 – As we depart, we keep Ireland and her people, her saints and scholars, in our hearts....**

After breakfast, we depart for Dublin Airport. A group transfer will be arranged to the airport for your return home. After exchanging good-byes, we bid farewell to all our fellow pilgrims until we meet again.

***"Slán agus beannacht Dé leat"*** (“Goodbye and blessings of God” in Gaelic)



## Pilgrimage Overview

### Furbogh, County of Galway

- Spend two (2) nights at four-star coastal Connemara Coast Hotel
- Journey begins where it all began, at the Hill of Slane, where St. Patrick lit the first Paschal Fire
- Travel to Hill of Tara, the coronation place of the pre-Christian kings
- Pass through Boyne Valley travelling back 5000 years viewing the megalithic sites of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth
- Visit Clonmacnoise, the ancient spiritual center founded in 548, where the kings were buried
- Attend private Mass at the Apparition Chapel in Knock
- Tour Ballintubber Abbey where Mass has been said every day for 800 years
- Explore the town of Cong, where *The Quiet Man* starring John Wayne was filmed, and home of the Cross of Cong



### Tralee

- Spend one (1) night at the four-star Rose Hotel in Tralee
- Ferry to the Aran Islands to tour one of the best-known prehistoric hill forts and the greatest monastery of St. Enda at Island Inishmore
- Enjoy the incredible view of the Cliffs of Moher from both a boat and then from land.



### Blarney

- Spend one (1) night in Blarney at four-star Blarney Hotel and Golf Resort
- Explore Valentia Island, one of the most western points of Ireland and visit the Tower at Bray Head, St. Brendan's Well, and the Skellig Experience at the Visitors Center, or wonder at the innovative construction methods by the early monks to survive in the harsh elements at Skellig Michael by visiting the island
- Driving tour of part of the Ring of Kerry, home to Iron Age Forts, the Ogham Stones, old monasteries and diverse natural landscape carved out of rock by the last Ice Age
- Kiss the Blarney Stone and gain the gift of eloquence at Blarney Castle
- Attend Mass at Franciscan Friary, known for its magnificent altar and stained-glass windows, in Killarney



### Wicklow

- Spend one (1) night in Wicklow at the four-star Glenview Hotel
- Visit the Rock of Cashel, including a 13<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque Chapel known for housing one of the more remarkable collections of Celtic art and medieval architecture in all of Europe
- Tour Holy Cross Abbey, founded in 1168, a rallying point for the dispossessed and victims of religious persecution
- Wander through Glendalough in the heart of Wicklow Mountains National Park, an early monastic “city” of learning and spirituality, and enjoy lunch in the little mountain village of Laragh
- Walk among the trails of Powerscourt Gardens to the highest waterfall in Ireland



### Armagh

- Spend two (2) nights in Armagh at the three-star Armagh City Hotel
- Arrive in Armagh, the “city of saints and scholars,” seat of both Catholic and Protestant archbishops
- Attend private Mass with Brendan Rogers, custodian of a first-class relic of St. Padre Pio
- Driving tour through Titanic quarter of Belfast and streets lined with murals depicting the conflicts, complicated history and culture of the city of Belfast
- Enjoy tea with the Belfast Adoration Sisters
- Attend Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Armagh
- Tour Down Cathedral, believed to be near burial place of St. Patrick, St. Brigid and St. Columba
- Visit the National Shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett, the first Irish saint to be canonized in 700 years
- Attend Vespers with the monks of Silverstream Priory followed by a period of reflection



## Dublin

- Spend three (3) nights in Dublin at Trinity College, Ireland's oldest surviving university and home to the Library that serves as the legal deposit library for Ireland and Great Britain
- View the famous Book of Kells, the finest and most famous of manuscripts of the four Gospels
- Walking tour to famous landmarks of spiritual and political significance: General Post Office, St. Mary's Pro Cathedral, Our Lady of Lourdes Church and the Shrine of Venerable Matt Talbot, Garden of Remembrance at St. Michan's Church
- Wander through Dublin visiting St. Stephen's Green, Newman University Church, along the quay to St. James Gate area, Kilmainham Goal and Merrion Square
- Tour Guinness Storehouse and learn what goes into making a pint of Guinness, and of course, have a taste
- Farewell dinner at Dublin's famous Shelbourne Hotel



## Cost

**Land Package** – \$4,125.00 per participant, based on double occupancy. This pricing does not include airfare.

**\$4,125.00**

**Regular price per person**

**\$ 130.00**

**Cash discount for payment by cash or check\***

**\$3,995.00**

**Cash Discount price (double occupancy)**

- **Discount price for payment by cash or check (savings of \$130.00) – \$3,995.00.** \*For installment payments made by cash or check, the discount will be applied to the final payment.
- **Single Room Supplement – \$600.00** Please note: there is a limited number of single rooms available.
- **Meals** – ten (10) breakfasts, five (5) lunches, and seven (7) dinners included. (Note: Bottled water and house wine will be available with meals).
- **Bus** – Private, first-class motor coach bus and all group transfers are included.
- **Taxes and Fees** – All local taxes, porter fees, and porter tips are included. Bus driver tips are not included.
- **Entrance Fees** – All entrance fees are included.
- **Arrival Transfers** – There will be one (1) group transfer upon arrival at Dublin Airport (Airport Code DUB) on **Friday, August 2, 2019**. To be included in this group transfer, please ensure your flight arrives into Dublin Airport before 12:00 noon.
- **Departure Transfers** – There will be one (1) group transfer from the Dublin hotel to Dublin Airport upon departure **Monday, August 12, 2019**. To be included in the group transfer, please ensure that your flight departure time is no earlier than 10:00 am.

## This Pilgrimage does not include:

- Airfare to and from Ireland
- Airport transfers (for those not arriving within specified time frames to participate in the group transfers)
- Meals not specifically identified
- Gratuities payable to bus drivers
- Other personal expenses, included but not limited to laundry services, internet services, mini-bar in hotel rooms, et cetera
- Items not specifically mentioned in the pilgrimage description literature



St. Columba Monastery

## Additional Information

- A **non-refundable deposit** of \$500.00 per participant is required at the time of booking. Please make all payments payable to Inside the Vatican. If you prefer to wire funds, please contact our office.
- *Classic Pilgrimage*: Our **August 2 – 12, 2019 Pilgrimage to Ireland** is part of our boutique line of *Classic Pilgrimages* – carefully budgeted for families, couples and single travelers so that they can experience the unique qualities of Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages at our most affordable price, without sacrificing the integrity and style of an Inside the Vatican Pilgrimage.
- In addition, Kevin Turley, well-known Catholic writer (he writes under the name K.V. Turley), Dr. Robert Moynihan, Founder and Editor of *Inside the Vatican* magazine, and Deborah Tomlinson, President of Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages, will be traveling with the pilgrims for the entire pilgrimage.
- Although taxis will be provided for long distances in Dublin and Belfast, our schedule will necessitate walking several blocks at different times while on pilgrimage. We will accommodate in these situations, if needed, by ordering a taxi at the participant's expense.

*We will make every effort to adhere to the printed program and itinerary. On rare occasions, it may be necessary to adjust arrangements due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control (including such circumstances as the weather, acts of God, airline schedule changes, hotel requisitions, political disturbances or transportation mechanical problems). Should such adjustment be necessary, a substitution will be made to the best of our abilities.*

**Join Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages for this once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage!**

For more information or to reserve your spot, contact our US Office at +1-202-536-4555 or email us at [pilgrimages@InsideTheVatican.com](mailto:pilgrimages@InsideTheVatican.com)



# Terms & Conditions

## Ireland – Saints and Scholars

### August 2 – 12, 2019

**Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages, Inside the Vatican, Inc., its employees, shareholders, officers and directors are collectively referred to herein as "ITVP."**

**Household:** ITVP defines household as those participants who dwell under the same roof and have the same address for at least 6 months per year.

**Rates and Payments:** Rates are based on applicable rates as of January, 2019. If foreign exchange rates apply and if they change, we will invoice participants accordingly.

**Land Package—\$4,125.00** - Does not include airfare.

**1st Payment: \$500.00 non-refundable deposit** – Due at time of booking.

**2nd Payment:** Due **June 2, 2019**, 60 days from departure.

**Single Supplement fee — \$600.00, if applicable.** Due with 2nd payment.

**Cash Discount:** A discount of **\$130.00** for payment in full made by cash or check will be applied to the Land Package Cost, making the final cost **\$3,995.00**. Installment payment plans: if each payment is made by cash or check, the cash discount of **\$130.00** will be applied to the final installment.

**Reservations and Payment Schedule:** A \$500.00 per participant, **non-refundable deposit** is due at the time of booking. Balance is due 60 days prior to departure. If your reservation is received less than 60 days prior to departure, then full payment is due at the time of booking. Receipt of your **non-refundable** deposit shall act as your agreement to and understanding of these terms and conditions. Fax, internet, e-mail or phone reservations are welcome. The non-refundable deposit and/or payment in full must be received within 7 days of booking or reservation will cancel. **A contract is made when your reservation and payment are accepted by ITVP and any dispute shall be governed by Virginia law.**

**Form of Payment:** Bank/Certified Checks, Money Orders, ACH or Wire Transfers (please fax a copy of bank confirmation when wiring funds) are accepted forms of payment at any time. Personal checks are acceptable if received more than 30 days prior to departure date. You may also make Direct Credit Card Payments to ITVP (Discover, Visa and Master Card). Every reservation must be accompanied by a signed Registration Form. Returned checks will incur a \$50.00 service fee. In case of computer or human billing error, we reserve the right to re-invoice participants with corrected billing.

**Transfers:** Two (2) group transfers to and from Dublin Airport (DUB) is included. Only participants whose flights arrive into Dublin before noon on **Friday, August 2, 2019** and depart Dublin Airport no earlier than 10:00 am on **Monday, August 12, 2019** will be included in the group transfers. It is the responsibility of a participant to notify ITVP of any flight delays. If the participant's flight is delayed and this delay causes the participant to miss the scheduled group transfer, the cost and arrangement of transfer from the airport to the hotel or location of the tour bus becomes the participant's responsibility. Individual transfers to and from the airport are not included in this package. Although ITVP can book an individual transfer to the airport upon request, the participant is financially responsible for that transfer.

**Flight Schedule:** Land Package participants are responsible for purchasing their own tickets to arrive into Dublin Airport on Friday, August 2, 2019, and depart Dublin Airport on Monday, August 12, 2019 after 10:00 a.m. Should a participant encounter a flight delay/cancellation, it is the participant's responsibility to notify ITVP.

**Insurance:** Travel insurance is not included in the Land Package; however, we strongly recommend that you consider purchasing it.

**Travel Documents:** All travel documents are the responsibility of the participant. A valid passport is required for travel to Ireland and **must remain valid for at least 6 months after your departure date from the United States.** For passport holders from other countries other than the United States, you are responsible for determining the required travel documents. ITVP will not be responsible for any delays, damages and/or losses, including missed portions of the pilgrimage, due to improper travel documentation. Cancellations due to lack of appropriate documents will incur the usual penalties.

**U.S. State Department & Other Agencies:** From time to time the U.S. State Department ([www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)) and the Center for Disease Control ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) and other government agencies and departments issue travel advisories or warnings for one or more of the destinations that you may be visiting on tour. We encourage you to contact these agencies directly to obtain the most current information. ITVP cannot change the cancellation terms or conditions based on the issuance of any such warning or advisory or the occurrence of any terror, problems or ill health, or other incident in one or more of the places this tour is scheduled to visit. All cancellation penalties must remain in full force and effect as outlined on this form. Travel insurance may or may not cover these possible causes for cancellations.

**Photography:** Agents of ITVP may take photographs or videos of its trips and trip participants. Participants grant ITVP permission to do so and allow ITVP to use such photos and videos for promotional or commercial use without payment of any fees or royalties. These photos will be available on our photo website [InsideTheVaticanPhotos.com](http://InsideTheVaticanPhotos.com) following the pilgrimage. A code is required to download these photos from Inside the Vatican's photo gallery. The code will be provided after the pilgrimage.

**Private Rooms and Single Supplement:** A limited number of single rooms are available at the single supplement rate. If the allotted number of single rooms is booked, any additional single rooms that we may be able to book, if available, incur a fee in addition to the Single Supplement fee.

**Cancellations and Refunds:** Cancellations must be received in writing in order for any refunds to be issued, and will be processed according to the date the written notice is received. Although a verbal cancellation is also appreciated, it **will not** be accepted as official notice. Please mail the cancellation notice to the address below. In the event of cancellation, monies will be refunded **minus the cancellation fee**. The cancellation fee will be calculated as follows:

- 60 days prior to departure: \$500.00 per participant deposit
- 59 to 30 days prior to departure: \$500 per participant deposit and 50% of total cost\*
- 29 days or less prior to departure: 100% of total cost\*

\*Cost includes: Land Package and single supplement, if applicable.

If you purchase travel insurance, it may cover the amount remaining after refund, depending on the circumstances of the cancellation and the conditions of the policy. Check with your travel insurance provider, if applicable.

**Tour Cancellation by ITVP:** On rare occasions a pilgrimage may have to be cancelled due to lack of participation. In such a case, ITVP's sole responsibility is to provide a full refund. ITVP is not responsible and does not assume responsibility for any additional costs or any

fees relating to the issuance and/or cancellation of air tickets or other arrangements not made through ITVP. Cancellations due to state advisories and/or state warnings, acts of war, terrorism, acts of God, natural disaster or any other circumstance outside the control of ITVP, are not the fault of ITVP. Great effort will be made to accommodate transfers to another trip or to revise the itinerary; however, cancellation for any of these reasons will not be eligible for a refund.

**Room Service and Other Extraneous Charges:** Room Service and extraneous charges not expressly listed as part of the Pilgrimage Package are not included. Should a participant request room service, or any other extraneous charge, including, but not limited to, mini bar, laundry services, internet charges or pay-per-view, the participant will be financially responsible for those charges to be paid at the time of check-out. If these charges are not paid at check-out, ITVP will bill the participant accordingly.

**Luggage:** Baggage is at owner's risk throughout the tour.

**Airfare:** No airfare is included in the cost of this package. To obtain assistance purchasing airfare, please contact our office.

**Gratuities:** Gratuities are not included. The recommended daily gratuity per person is (3) euro for the escort, (2) euro for the driver and (1) euro for the tour guide.

**Health Requirements:** This pilgrimage requires significant walking. Any medical conditions or special equipment needs must be listed on the registration form. ITVP is not responsible for any medical condition that occurs prior to, during or after the pilgrimage.

**Final Package:** A final package containing documents, applicable airline ticket information, local contact information, a pilgrim book, and travel tips will be mailed to each participant approximately one (1) to two (2) weeks prior to departure. Upon receipt of your documents, you are responsible to check your itinerary, spelling of your name, dates, times and other important information to ensure their validity. Should your final documents have any errors, it is the participant's responsibility to contact ITVP immediately. Documents, including tickets, are not guaranteed if final payment and booking forms are not received by the deadline.

**Unused Services:** There will be **no refund** for any unused portions of the pilgrimage. Refunds will not be made to participants who miss any part of the pilgrimage for any cause whatsoever.

**Itinerary:** Although ITVP and its agents and representatives will make every effort to adhere to the printed program and itinerary, on rare occasions it may be necessary to adjust arrangements due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control (including, but not limited to, such circumstances as weather, acts of God, airline schedule change, hotel requisitions, political disturbances, or transportation mechanical problems). Should such adjustments be necessary, substitutions will be made to the best of our abilities. A refund will not be given. Any additional costs necessitated by such changes are the full responsibility of the participant. We do not guarantee preferred seating at events.

**Printing Disclaimer:** ITVP is not responsible for typographical or printing errors including errors in trip cost. We reserve the right to re-invoice or correct billing at any time.

# Ireland Pilgrimage, "Saints and Scholars," with Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages

August 2 - 12, 2019

## REGISTRATION FORM

**Price:**  Land Package \$4,125.00  Single Supplement \$600.00 – Does not include airfare.

Cash discount price for payment by cash or check: \$3,995.00\*

\*Payment made by installment: when all installments are made by cash or check, the cash discount of \$130.00 will be applied to the final installment.

**Name as it appears on your passport:** *(Enclose a copy of the picture page of your passport with this form.)*

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name you prefer** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **Country** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Number** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Office** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Passport Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date and Place of birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Will you be traveling with a working cell phone? If yes, please provide the number:**

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel Accommodation:**  Single  Double/Twin  Triple  Matrimonial

**Name of Roommate** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dietary Restrictions** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical Limitations:** *(Please check all that apply)*  difficulty walking long distances  
 difficulty standing  difficulty climbing stairs  medical conditions  other  
 none **Do You Use:**  walker  cane

**Please Explain:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Numbers** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I have received, read and agree to the Terms and Conditions for the **Ireland Pilgrimage, "Saints and Scholars," August 2 - 12, 2019**, as well as the Pricing Terms, Payment Terms, and the "Release" outlined on the right side of this Registration Form. I also agree that Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages cannot be held liable for any injury or loss sustained during the pilgrimage. I agree to the cancellation terms and penalties.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness (a non-family member) Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness (print name)** \_\_\_\_\_

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**For more information or to reserve your spot, contact our US Office at 1-202-536-4555 or email us at [pilgrimages@InsideTheVatican.com](mailto:pilgrimages@InsideTheVatican.com)**

*Revised: November 2018*



Dear Sir or Madame,

Thank you for taking the time to read about the greatly anticipated **Ireland Pilgrimage, "Saints and Scholars," August 2 - 12, 2019**, being offered by Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages.

To join us, please mail the completed forms indicated below, along with the appropriate selected payment, to our U.S. office to reserve your space. Space is very limited for this pilgrimage, so if you would like to join, we recommend you contact us as soon as possible, either by email at [pilgrimages@insidethevatican.com](mailto:pilgrimages@insidethevatican.com) or by calling our office at 202-536-4555, to have a space reserved for you. We will hold your space for seven (7) days until we receive your registration information and payment.

Please mail the following items to the address below:

1. **Registration Form:** Each participant is required to complete a registration form and include a copy of the picture page of his or her passport.
2. **Non-refundable deposit:** Check for \$500.00 per participant, made payable to *Inside the Vatican*. If you prefer to wire funds, please contact our office.
3. **Cash Discount:** to take advantage of the Cash Discount, you must pay the full amount of \$3,995.00 per participant by cash or check made payable to *Inside the Vatican*. For payment made by installments, the cash discount will be applied to the final installment, as long as each installment is made by cash or check.

**Inside the Vatican**  
14 W Main Street  
Front Royal, VA 22630

**IMPORTANT NOTE: \*\*\*PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR FLIGHT UNTIL OUR OFFICE GIVES THE FINAL CLEARANCE THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH PILGRIMS TO REACH THE MINIMUM REQUIRED NUMBER OF 15.** When booking your airline flights into Dublin Airport (airport code DUB), it is recommended to arrive the day before, to allow time to rest from your travels. I will be happy to assist you in booking this extra night. If you do not plan to arrive a day early, it is best to arrive to the airport by 11 a.m., or earlier, if possible, on Friday, **August 2, 2019**. We will meet you at the airport to board the luxury bus and begin our journey together. For your return home, please book your flight for **Monday, August 12, 2019** out of Dublin Airport. We will be staying at Trinity College in Dublin on our last night of pilgrimage. Once you have booked your airline reservation, please forward a copy to our office via email or U.S. mail. If you need assistance with your airline flight arrangements, just let us know and we will be happy to assist you.

Should you have any questions about the pilgrimage, feel free to call us directly at 202-536-4555. If you would like to reserve your spot after business hours, simply send us an email to [pilgrimages@InsideTheVatican.com](mailto:pilgrimages@InsideTheVatican.com), and we will respond to you on the next business day. Please let us know how we can assist you in joining this pilgrimage!

Lily Keats  
Executive Assistant  
Inside the Vatican