



IRELAND PILGRIMAGE

Experience a pilgrimage journey like no other!

Mercy International Association is delighted to be hosting a **guided pilgrimage journey** exploring some of the ancient Celtic sites, the beautiful Irish landscape and many of the early Mercy foundations in Ireland that were established during Catherine's life.

This tour is open to all in our Mercy world and will commence at 10am on Friday the 19th June and conclude on Sunday 28th June at approximately 4.00pm. A draft outline of the pilgrimage follows.



Cost: €2200.00 per person which includes meals, accommodation at 3-4 star Hotels or B&B facilities (single rooms rather than shared), travel around Ireland, entrance to activities, donations and tips.

Registration: a deposit of €500.00 is required to secure a place on this pilgrimage. Once 12 people have registered the pilgrimage will be confirmed and the deposit is then non-refundable.

Streams of Mercy Pilgrimage - Draft Itinerary

Friday 19 June - Sunday 28 June

Day 1: Friday 19 June: 10am: Gather at Mercy International Centre to meet your travelling companions, recall the Mercy story and explore the theme of pilgrimage from both Scriptural and Irish perspectives. Overnight in Dublin.



Day 2: Saturday 20th

June: Depart for the ancient pilgrimage site of Glendalough, home of St Kevin. Enjoy a tour of the Monastic site and Visitor Centre before having some

free time (with a packed lunch) to explore the area at your leisure. The group will then travel to Carlow, the foundation led by Frances Warde, and learn a little of her story. Overnight is in Carlow.

Day 3: Sunday 21st June: Drive to Johnstown Castle and have lunch at the Castle Cafe before some time to explore the beautiful grounds of this castle. The afternoon stop is at Our Lady's Island in Wexford which is the oldest Marian shrine in Ireland, before journeying to Waterford for the night.

Day 4: Monday 22nd June: Spend the morning exploring Waterford at your leisure before a 1pm departure. We will drive along the coastline to Kinsale and Cork where we will spend the night.

Day 5: Tuesday 23rd June: A day trip to the picturesque Ring of Kerry and Killarney National Park is planned for this day before returning to Cork for a second night.

Day 6: Wednesday 24th June: Depart Cork for Charleville and visit the "third house" of the Sisters of Mercy. After lunch in Charleville, travel to Limerick where Elizabeth Moore established the foundation in 1837 and stay overnight in Limerick.

Day 7: Thursday 25th June: Depart Limerick for Ennis and hear about the Sisters' work in Ennis before travelling up the Wild Atlantic Way to the Cliffs of Moher, a breathtaking highlight. After plenty of time to explore the Cliffs, travel to Galway for the night through the dramatic Burren landscape.

Day 8: Friday 26th June: Depart Galway for the remote town of Clifden in the Connemara region, and visit the burial site of Sr Teresa White, who established the foundation in Galway, and hear a little of her life story. Stop for lunch at the historic Kylemore Abbey before returning to Galway by a different route through Connemara. Overnight again in Galway.

Day 9: Saturday 27th June: Depart Galway for Clonmacnoise, the monastic site of St Ciaran that includes some very impressive High Crosses. The town of Birr is a short trip away where we will hear the stories of Catherine's arrival there and the foundation that was established. In the afternoon we will return to Mercy International Centre in Dublin and include a stop at Tullamore, Mary Anne Doyle's foundation.

Day 10: Sunday 28th June: Today is an opportunity to reflect on the pilgrimage. Workshops will weave the learnings and the blessings of the time together and enable the experience to be deepened. Closing ritual to conclude at 4.00pm.

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Those who are completing all three programmes will have priority for accommodation at Mercy International Centre.

For more information contact Anna Nicholls on heritage@mercyinternational.ie