



In the Footsteps of Saint Patrick:  
Pilgrimage to

# IRELAND

& Northern Ireland  
with Fr. Daniel Gifford & Fr. Tom Gardner



## July 21 - 29, 2025

**\$5,578 per person**  
from Moline (MLI)

*\*All pricing based on double occupancy.  
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Shrine of Our Lady of Knock

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## Your Pilgrimages Includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- Airport taxes and fuel surcharges
- 7 nights accommodation at centrally located first class hotels as follows: (or similar):
  - 2 nights: Jul 22 – 24: Leonardo Hotel, Belfast
  - 1 night: Jul 24 – 25: Armagh City Hotel, Armagh
  - 1 night: July 25 – 26: Knock House Hotel, Knock
  - 1 night: Jul 26 – 27: Clayton Hotel Galway, Galway
  - 2 nights: Jul 27 – 29: The Morgan Hotel, Dublin

- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Wine with dinners
- Transfers as per itinerary
- Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- Wireless headsets where needed
- Assistance of a professional local Catholic Guide
- Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- Mass daily & Spiritual activities
- Luggage handling (1 piece per person)
- Flight bag & Digital PDF confirmation of all travel documents

## Sample Daily Itinerary

### **Day 1, Mon, Jul 21: Depart for Dublin**

Depart from your hometown for your overnight flight(s) to Ireland. Meals will be served on board.

### **Day 2, Tue, Jul 22: Welcome to Dublin – Belfast**

Upon arrival into Dublin, you will be greeted by your tour guide and driver. Start your journey to Belfast. On the way, visit St Peter's Church Drogheda. St Peter's Roman Catholic Church was constructed in 1884 using local limestone. The site previously housed a church built in 1791 and parts of that structure were incorporated into the present building, which boasts an impressive Gothic architectural style. Inside, visitors can view fine sculptures, a spectacular marble high altar and more than 40 stained glass windows. The church is also famous for housing the shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett, who is credited with bringing Jesuits to Drogheda. Pope Paul VI declared him a saint in 1973, and his preserved head forms the centrepiece of the shrine. Upon arrival, enjoy a panoramic tour of Belfast. A guided city tour will bring you to the leaning Albert Memorial Clock tower and the Opera House, which is one of Belfast's great landmarks. Your tour will pass by the City Hall, the Opera house, The Crown Bar (dates from 1885), Queens University and the Botanical Gardens. Some tours will take in a visit to the Harland and Wolfe Shipyard, where the Titanic was built and launched in 1912. A visit to the Shankill and Falls road will be of interest as it will give the visitor an indication of how life was in Belfast during the troubles. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Belfast.

### **Day 3, Wed, Jul 23: Belfast - Bangor**

This morning visit Titanic Belfast. Located in the heart of Belfast, the Titanic Belfast recreates the story of the world's most famous ship in an iconic, six floor building right beside the historic site of the original ship's construction. Opened in April 2012 to coincide with the centenary of its launch, the self-guided journey begins on entering the building's giant atrium, where the visitor is surrounded by the four 'ship's hull' shaped wings which house the Titanic Experience. As you journey through the nine large galleries of the interactive exhibition, you will uncover the true story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900's, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and subsequent place in history. Spend the afternoon in Bangor. Group will celebrate Mass at a local church. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Belfast.

### **Day 4, Thu, Jul 24: Belfast to Armagh**

This morning journey south to Downpatrick. Visit the Saint Patrick Centre. St Patrick is known worldwide as the patron saint of Ireland. As the main destination on the Saint Patrick Driving Trail which runs from Armagh to Bangor, the centre welcomes the casual leisure traveller, student groups on educational trips, and those with a knowledge of St. Patrick that want to explore more detail about his background. It features an interpretative exhibition which tells the fascinating story of Ireland's Patron Saint. Continue with a visit of Down Cathedral. Down Cathedral overlooking Downpatrick, stands close to what is believed to be the mortal remains of Patrick, the Patron saint of Ireland. The Cathedral is impressive inside and has a wonderful organ and a very interesting seating arrangement. Mass at a local church. Continue to Armagh and visit St Patrick's Cathedral. St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral is an imposing site, perched on the hilltop in Armagh and dominating its skyline. The church was begun in 1840, but because of the intervening famine years, not completed until 1873. The cathedral was designed and built in Neo Gothic style from pale limestone, with large twin spires dominating the approach up flight after flight of steps. Sculptured statuary forms a unique arch over the main entrance. There is a rich Austrian oak woodwork and an Irish granite altar. The painted ceiling is ornate. The walls are painted with rich colours that blend easily with the stained glass windows. Armagh is the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Armagh.

### **Day 5, Fri, Jul 25: Armagh to Knock**

This morning depart Armagh and journey to Knock. On arrival enjoy a tour of Knock Shrine. The Shrine is situated in the plains of East Mayo and is one of the world's leading Marian shrines. On August 21, 1879, fifteen men, women and children witnessed an Apparition of Mary. We will visit the Basilica, the largest church in Ireland. Knock is a very popular pilgrimage destination, and in 1979 Saint John Paul II visited this holy place. After Mass, we will have time for private prayer at the shrine, followed by free time for lunch and shopping on your own. Mass will be celebrated in one of the chapels or churches in Knock. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Knock.

### **Day 6, Sat, Jul 26: Knock to Galway**

This morning depart Knock and journey to Galway. En-route, journey through Connemara and visit Kylemore Abbey which is stunningly located in the Kylemore Pass in Connemara. Mitchell Henry built the House in 1868, after having spent his honeymoon in the area. One of Kylemore Abbey's most famous features is its miniature cathedral, built in 1870 and known locally as the Gothic church. Today, the abbey is home to the Irish order of Benedictine nuns. Facilities at Kylemore include a visitor centre, an exhibition housed in the main reception rooms of the house and a video which takes the visitor through the history of the house and its occupants. The Gothic church is available to visit and as a venue for choir groups to sing in. If time allows, guests can also visit the Kylemore Abbey Victorian Walled Garden was laid out in 1867 and took three years to complete. A bus service provided from the front door of the Abbey directly to the garden and is the only permitted means of access. Mass at a local church or Kylemore Abbey. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Galway.

### **Day 7, Sun, Jul 27: Galway to Dublin**

This morning, depart Galway and journey to Dublin. On arrival, enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin. Pass by the General Post Office on the city's main streets, O'Connell Street, Custom House, and Phoenix Park, the largest city park in Europe. On the other side of the river are Georgian squares characterized by colorful doors, Grafton Street and Trinity College. Time permitting, we will visit the ancient library containing over 20,000 manuscripts. Today we will also visit St. Patrick's Anglican Cathedral, built in 1213. This Gothic Cathedral has a splendid interior, with some beautiful tombs and monuments. The ornate stained glass windows can be found in the Chancel. Continue with a visit of Trinity College and the Book of Kells. Trinity was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth 1 on grounds confiscated from an Augustinian priory and is the oldest university in Ireland. The Campanile, erected in 1852, was built on what is believed to be the centre of the monastery. Built to further the education of the ruling Anglo-Irish families, restrictions were imposed to prevent Catholic from attending courses. These restrictions were not fully lifted until the 1970's. Trinity however admitted women in 1902, earlier than most British universities. Visitors will be able to admire Parliament Square and its 18th Century edifices. The inter-denominational Church is very much worth a visit. Mass will be celebrated at a local church. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Dublin.

### **Day 8, Mon, Jul 28: Wicklow**

Today, journey into the Wicklow Mountains and visit Glendalough. This ancient monastic city, established in the 6th-century by St. Kevin, is in the heart of "the valley of the two lakes." It was a very important centre of learning as well as a pilgrimage destination. There are many legends concerning St. Kevin and he is often compared to St. Francis of Assisi. Enjoy a guided tour of the site. See the Round Tower, the ruins of the Cathedral, and "St. Kevin's Kitchen" that is surrounded by an old cemetery. Mass at a local church. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Dublin.

### **Day 9, Tue, Jul 29: Dublin to USA**

This morning, we will transfer to Dublin Airport for your return flight(s) home.