

## *Saint Meinrad* *Graduate Theology Programs* *2017 Pilgrimage to Ireland*

### **Day 1: Monday, October 23, 2017, USA / DUBLIN**

Pilgrims are welcomed at an international airport for our departing flight to the Emerald Isle aboard a wide-bodied jet, arriving the next morning. Meals are served on board.

### **Day 2: Tuesday 10/24, DUBLIN / DOWNPATRICK / BELFAST**

Upon our arrival in Dublin, we meet our full-time tour escort, board our private coach, and proceed north to Downpatrick. We stop in for a visit at the **St. Patrick's Centre**, where Dr. Tim Campbell will speak on St. Patrick's vision. Then, we visit the **Down Cathedral**, the historical burial place of Saint Patrick and visit his **grave**. We continue to Belfast and proceed to **Mass at Saint Malachy's Church** (subject to confirmation), the 3rd oldest Catholic Church in the city of Belfast. It's ecclesiastical style was inspired by the Tudor period but its fan vaulted ceilings are an architectural adaptation from the Henry VII Chapel in Westminster Abbey. The church boasts the largest bell in Belfast which sounds at least three times daily. After Mass, we check in at our hotel (the Europa) for a welcome dinner and overnight.

**[B,D]**



### **Day 3: Wednesday 10/25, BELFAST / ARMAGH / BELFAST**

This morning we awake to sights and sounds of the Emerald Isle. Our first stop will be in Armagh, a city southwest of Belfast that actually dates back to the time of St. Patrick. The city boasts two cathedrals, both are called St. Patrick's Cathedral, but on opposing hills. The cathedral is neo-gothic with mosaic walls and the most visually striking of the two. We will visit and celebrate morning **Mass at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral** (subject to confirmation). Then, we make our way northeast to Belfast to **tour the city** and visit the **Titanic Museum**, master-planned over 185 acres of the heritage site where the Titanic was designed and built. We spend time at the Museum before we return to our hotel. This evening, join friends or enjoy a private sampling of the delicious culinary delights of the Irish as **dinner is on your own**. Overnight in Belfast. **[B]**



### **Day 4: Thursday 10/26, BELFAST / GIANTS CAUSEWAY / DERRY**

**Giant's Causeway** is a unique geological landscape that is truly unlike any place else on earth. The causeway's interlocking hexagonal columns, resulting from the basaltic lava of an ancient volcanic eruption 6 million years ago, forever changed County Antrim's northern coast, earning it the prestige of a "Unesco World Heritage Site"

title. Reading and hearing about the causeway does not begin to offer any realistic glimpse into this natural phenomenon. Only seeing is believing! Therefore, we shall "see". From there, we travel southeast to Derry (or Londonderry), a city steeped in history. Between 1613 and 1618, 400 workers built what would become the last of Ireland's walled cities. We will **walk the walls** before we proceed to the impressive **St. Columb's Cathedral** that dates back between 1628 and 1633. The Chapter House in the cathedral contains the 17th-century locks and keys of the city. Our day concludes with **Mass** followed by our Derry hotel check in (Everglades), dinner and overnight. **[B,D]**



### Day 5: Friday 10/27, DERRY / KNOCK / CROAGH PATRICK / WESTPORT

We begin in Knock at the **basilica and shrine**. It was here in 1879 that the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, John the Evangelist, angels, and Jesus (as the Lamb of God) appeared. That apparition was witnessed by 15 people (men, women, and children of varying ages). In 1979, John Paul II visited the shrine and offered the most precious Papal gift called the Golden Rose, which signifies a place of special devotion and reverence. **Mass** will be celebrated here (subject to confirmation). From there, we proceed to **Croagh Patrick**, Ireland's Holy Mountain. Here St. Patrick, in the year 441 AD, spent the forty days of Lent in prayer and fasting. Then, we complete today's journey as we arrive in beautiful Westport, where we check in at our hotel (Hotel Westport) for dinner and overnight. **[B,D]**



### Day 6: Saturday 10/28, WESTPORT / CONNEMARA / KYLEMORE / WESTPORT

We travel through the Connemara region to **Kylemore Abbey**, a gothic castle on the shores of Kylemore Lough (lake), deep in County Galway. We visit the Abbey and spend time on the grounds exploring the quiet beauty, the little church, the gardens, and the wonderful gift shop full of Irish treasures. **Mass** will be celebrated at the little church (subject to confirmation). We return to Westport where the remainder of the day is free to explore independently. This evening, wander the streets of Westport and sample authentic Irish fare at the restaurant of your choice as **dinner**

**is on your own.** After dinner, choose from the endless options of pubs occupying every other storefront and enjoy a glass of Guinness or a mug of Irish ale. The city boasts one of the most well-known and visited pubs around, Matt Malloy's. Many of the pubs, including Matt Malloy's, have traditional Irish music and/or dancing as well. Overnight in Westport. **[B]**

### Day 7: Sunday 10/29, WESTPORT / GALWAY / CLIFFS OF MOHER / BUNRATTY / LIMERICK



We board our coach this morning and travel to **Galway to celebrate Mass** (subject to confirmation). You will have **free time** to explore on your own or take an optional walking tour with the escort to explore Galway city. Galway is a vibrant cultural experience packed with street artists, magicians and musicians, restaurants, shops, and more. Next, we make our way to the incredible **Cliffs of Moher**, one of Ireland's most stunning locations where you stand in awe of the natural beauty of giant ramparts against the aggressive might of the Atlantic Ocean. In some places the cliffs rise over 700 feet and stretch for almost 5 miles. We visit **O'Briens Tower**

(weather permitting), a viewing vantage point located on the highest cliff. This evening, we will attend **Bunratty Castle's festive Medieval Banquet**, a traditional-Irish dinner experience with story-telling and song. We check in at our hotel in Limerick (Clarion) for an overnight. **[B,D]**

### Day 8: Monday 10/30, LIMERICK / DINGLE / GALLARUS ORATORY / LIMERICK

**Mass** this morning will be at **St. John's Cathedral** (subject to confirmation). The cathedral is the tallest church in Ireland. Then, be prepared today to see some of the most spectacular scenery in Ireland. While the metaphorical battle still rages over which is preferred, the Ring of Kerry or the Dingle Peninsula, the Dingle Peninsula is shorter and allows visitors to see the unspoiled beauty along winding Sleah Head Drive. We proceed south to Dingle, a city on the peninsula that thrusts out into the Atlantic Ocean to claim Ireland's most westerly point. We pass through **Slea Head** on the southwestern extremity of the peninsula. See the ancient stone beehive huts of pre-historic settlers and extensive panoramas giving mere glimpses of God's majestic hand in the landscapes of the Emerald Isle. Next, we proceed to **Gallarus Oratory**, an ancient dry stone construction whose longevity testifies to the skill of its builders. Held together completely by the weight of stones (no mortar) the building has withstood wind and rain for over 1300 years. It is typical of the type of church in which St. Patrick himself worshipped. Today's traveling concludes as we return to Limerick for dinner and overnight. **[B,D]**



### Day 9: Tuesday 10/31, LIMERICK / GOUGANE BARRE PARK / CORK

**Gougane Barra Park** offers a scenic backdrop where towering hills collide with the tranquil beauty of Gougane Barra Lake on the shores of the River Lee. **St. Finbarr's Oratory** is uniquely positioned there to afford guests the opportunity to enjoy the majestic landscape in a prayerful, peaceful environment conducive to intimate one-on-one time with Jesus. Just behind the Oratory are the remains of St. Finbarr's Monastery from the 6<sup>th</sup>-century. After spending some time at Gougane Barra Park and St. Finbarr's Oratory, we continue our journey to Cork, Ireland's 3<sup>rd</sup> most populated city following Dublin and Belfast. Cork City is a 6th-century monastic settlement, urbanized sometime between 915-922 when a trading port was founded by the Vikings, has always been an important seaport. Today, the city boasts two cathedrals, an opera house, the English Market, and the grounds of University College Cork. **Mass** will be celebrated at the **Cathedral of St. Mary & St. Anne** (subject to confirmation). There will be free time to explore independently or visit the English Market before we check in at our hotel in Cork (Rochestown Park) for dinner and overnight. **[B,D]**



### Day 10: Wednesday 11/1, CORK / ROCK OF CASHEL / DUBLIN

We bid farewell to Cork today and move toward the Rock of Cashel, an impressive medieval complex called "The Acropolis of Ancient Ireland." The **Rock of Cashel** is one of the most spectacular archeological sites in Ireland. Dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> century, it was originally used as a fortress. Mighty stone walls encircle a complete round tower, a roofless abbey, a 12th-century Romanesque chapel, and numerous other buildings and high crosses. From there, we continue through the midland counties to Dublin, Ireland's capital city. Dublin has all the attractions of a modern city, combined with the beauty and heritage of the past. Elegant shops, hotels, galleries, coffee houses and a stunning variety of restaurants have sprung up on almost every street in the capital. The group will enjoy a **city tour by bus**, where we see the statue-lined O'Connell Street,



Georgian Squares, Phoenix Park, and St. Patrick's Cathedral. We will stop at **St. Mary's Pro Cathedral** (subject to confirmation) for **Mass**. We check in at our hotel in Dublin (Academy Plaza) for dinner and overnight. **[B,D]**

**Day 11: Thursday 11/2, DUBLIN / WICKLOW / GLENDALOUGH / DUBLIN**

Glendalough (*pronounced Glen-doll-lock*), home of the **monastery** established by St Kevin in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, is our first stop today. St Kevin was born in 498, of royal blood, but rejected his life of privilege and instead chose to live as a hermit in a cave in Glendalough. He founded the monastery and also went on to create a center of learning devoted to the care of the sick and the copying and illumination of manuscripts. Amid the **remains of this monastic settlement**, one can feel the powerful sense of peace and tranquility. From there, we visit and celebrate Mass at St. Kevin's Parish Church (subject to confirmation). Then, we return to Dublin. There will be **free time** this afternoon to explore the capital city, shop, or spend quiet time soaking in the sites and culture of Ireland. **For anyone interested, there will be an OPTIONAL tour (\$xx per person) of Trinity College Library and the opportunity to admire the 1200-year-old "Book of Kells"**. This evening, we gather at the hotel to board our coach for the short drive to **The Merry Ploughboy Pub**, where we enjoy a fun, farewell dinner to the sounds of traditional Irish music and dance. Overnight in Dublin. **[B,D]**

**Day 12: Friday, 11/3, 2017, DUBLIN / USA**

This morning we begin our journey back to the United States. We take arrive home inspired by holiness of the saints and the grandeur of God's majestic landscape. **[B]**