

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Pilgrimage Facts

Dates:

13th—20th February 2010

Cost: £700 Half Board**Age restrictions:** 16—29**Led by:** Fr. Paul Maddison**Accommodation:**

Hotels and Hostels

Flights:

Scheduled from Heathrow

Inviting:

Young People and youth leaders

Pilgrimage details

- Meet with Christians from the Holy Land
- Visit the Holy Places
- Experience the difficulties faced by Jews, Christians and Moslems as they strive for peace
- Make contacts and friends from another country and culture
- Bring the bible to life with sights and sounds and smells!
- Visit our twin diocese in solidarity and hope.

See for yourself!

Our impression of the Middle East is shaped by media reports and imagination. We can easily think of a region in turmoil and violence and forget the beauty of the land and the strong desire for peace of those who live there.

Since the Diocese of East Anglia has been twinned with the Diocese of Jerusalem well over 100 people have visited and made contact with various communities in the land of Jesus. Parishes have been linked, schools have organized exchange visits, even Christmas cards have been sent and received. All these things have given to our Christian brothers and sisters—along with many others—a sense of hope and a reminder that they are not forgotten.

The purpose of our pilgrimage is two-fold.

Is it safe?????

Going on pilgrimage has always been a risky business, in the Middle Ages many people went on pilgrimage only once in their lifetime. This trip is being organized with the help and assistance of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, our twin Diocese and by Fr Paul Maddison, parish priest of St Ives. The Latin Patriarchate want to make sure that each and every group from East Anglia has a safe and successful pilgrimage and does

everything in its power to make such trips go well. Fr Paul has been to the Holy Land over 30 times in the last five years, often with small groups. His local knowledge and contacts with local clergy and guides means that he can check situations on a daily basis and rearrange the timetable accordingly. No journey is without risks but those risks can be minimized. Also sometimes it is necessary to take the risk of doing something be-

Firstly to visit the places associated with the life of Jesus, something that will bring the scriptures alive for us and bring us into closer contact with the truth of our faith. Secondly, to express solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters who live their faith amidst great difficulty and hardship.

Christians in the Holy Land now only number 1.8% of the total popula-

tion, yet their influence and desire for peace is strong. Our visits to them give them hope and allow us to see for ourselves the reality of the situation. Those who have been often return having had a truly life changing experience. Would you like to become part of that? This trip is your chance to see for yourself the hope that exists in a land torn by conflict.



The separation wall passing close to Jerusalem

“My visit to the Holy Land changed my whole perception of the situation in the Middle East”

cause the risk of not doing it is greater. If we don't take the risk of visiting the Christian communities in the Holy Land, they will feel more isolated, more of them will decide to leave and there may well be no Christians in the Land of Jesus in 20 years time.

Provisional Programme

Saturday 13th February

We will depart from one of the London airports on the morning scheduled flight to Tel Aviv, arriving late afternoon. After clearing immigration and customs we will meet our guide and bus and will be taken to the Mount of Beatitudes hostel just outside Tiberias for our evening meal and overnight accommodation.

Sunday 14th February

We will begin our first day of pilgrimage with Mass on the shore of the lake of Galilee where Jesus shared breakfast with his disciples after his resurrection. After spending some time here we then visit the site of the feeding of the five thousand. We will then visit the town of Capernaum, central to the ministry of Jesus in this area; after which we will enjoy a boat ride across the lake and then stop for lunch at a local Arab restaurant. After lunch we will visit the Jordan River Baptismal site; here there will be the opportunity to renew our baptismal vows and to relax. We return to our hotel for our evening meal and overnight accommodation.



Monday 15th February

After breakfast we travel to Nazareth where we celebrate Mass in the house of Mary, the site of the annunciation. We will then tour Nazareth, visiting the site of Joseph's workshop and the synagogue where Jesus preached. We will call at Mary's well and then break for lunch. After lunch we will travel to Mount Tabor, the traditional site of the transfiguration; after a taxi ride to the top of the mountain we will visit the church and enjoy the spectacular views. We return to our hotel for our evening meal and overnight accommodation.

Tuesday 16th February

Before breakfast we have Mass on the Mount of Beatitudes. After Mass we will leave to travel along the Jordan valley to Jericho. We will arrive in Jericho and have a tour of the city along with the opportunity to see the mountain where Jesus spent his fast of 40 days and nights. After our tour we will stop at the Temptation Restaurant for lunch and shopping. After lunch we will leave for the Dead Sea where the brave can enjoy a swim and the faint-hearted can enjoy an ice cream! Then we will travel to the Bethlehem Hotel in Bethlehem for our evening meal and overnight accommodation.

The Sea of Galilee where Jesus and his disciples spent so much of their time together.

Wednesday 17th February

After Breakfast we visit the Church of the Nativity where we will celebrate Mass. Then we will walk to Bethlehem University to visit the campus, meet the students and staff and enjoy lunch in the Hotel Management School. After lunch we will go to the Shepherd's fields, here there will be the opportunity to visit a local co-operative souvenir shop; nearly 70 families make and sell their work here. We return to our hotel for our evening meal and overnight accommodation.

Thursday 18th February

After breakfast the coach will take us for a full day walking tour of Jerusalem. We will visit the Mount of Olives, starting at the church of the Our Father and then re-tracing the steps of Jesus on the first Palm Sunday. We will walk down to the church of Dominus Flevit (the Lord wept) where we will celebrate Mass and enjoy the panoramic view over the Old City. Then we will walk to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations, visit the cave of betrayal and the "tomb of the virgin". Then we will visit Mount Zion, seeing the Upper Room, the tomb of King David and the site of the Dormition of our Lady. We will finish the morning with a visit to the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu, the site of Caiaphas' house.

After a break for lunch we visit the church of St Anne built near the pool of Bethesda and then we will follow the way of the cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We will tour the church and then walk through the souk to Jaffa gate where the Coach will meet us and take us back to Bethlehem for our evening meal and overnight accommodation.

Friday 19th February

After breakfast, we will travel to celebrate Sunday Mass with the community in one of the local villages. After Mass we will have coffee with the parishioners and the opportunity to meet with the priest and families of the parish. There will be the chance to explore the parish and then enjoy lunch. After lunch we will return to our hotel for packing and in the evening have a splendid meal in a local Bedouin restaurant.

Saturday 20th February

After breakfast we leave the hotel and visit the town of Ain Karem, the birthplace of John the Baptist. Here we will celebrate Mass before driving on to Abu Gosh, the site of Emmaus. After visiting the 12th century Crusader church we will drive to the convent of Our Lady to enjoy the views back to Jerusalem and to have our final lunch. We will then make our way to the airport where we will catch the evening flight to London.

What do I need to do next?

Please complete and return the enclosed booking form to the Diocesan Youth Office by 1st July 2009. A deposit of £150 is also required with the returned booking form. When all booking forms are in, we will arrange a meeting with Fr Paul who will talk with us about our hopes and expectations for the trip. You will also be given a handout called "Information for pilgrims". This is an important document as it deals with

practical issues such as money, health and security. The cost of £700 may seem a lot but we have been repeatedly amazed at people's generosity in supporting young people's pilgrimages. You might consider asking your parish if they would help in sponsoring part of your costs or you might like to organize a fund-raising event. (Please contact the diocesan youth office if you would like a list of fundraising ideas.) All this helps to raise awareness of

the trip and also of the links we have with the Christians of the Holy Land.

If you have any questions, then please get in touch with Hamish at the Youth Office or with Fr Paul.

Contact Information

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