

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

17
DAYS

The Way of Mercy

THE TRADITION OF MERCY DUBLIN TO AUSTRALIA:
ENNIS TO SINGLETON 1875 AND OUR MERCY FOUNDATIONS

Embark on a soulful 15-day Irish spiritual journey, drawing inspiration from Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy in 1831. Traverse Dublin's sacred sites and the serene landscapes of Glendalough and the Ring of Kerry, immersing yourself in Ireland's rich religious legacy. Marvel at the majestic Cliffs of Moher, pilgrimage to the Holy Shrine of Knock. This pilgrimage covers seven captivating cities of Ireland, instrumental in building the foundations of our Christian faith.

DEPARTS THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2024 • 14 NIGHTS / 17 DAYS

Dublin (3 Nights) / Wicklow (1) / Cork (2) / Tralee (3) / Galway (1) /
Knock (1) / Belfast (3)

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the genuine pilgrim experience

harvest
journeys



pilgrim highlights

- + Explore Dublin's iconic landmarks, including Trinity College, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and the Mercy Convent.
- + Delve into the serene landscapes of Glendalough and the Ring of Kerry.
- + Marvel at the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher, a natural wonder overlooking the tempestuous Atlantic Ocean.
- + Spiritually encounter the Holy Shrine of Knock, a site of a miraculous apparition in 1879.
- + Cruise to enchanting Devenish Island, immersing yourself in its history dating back to the 6th century.

SYMBOLS

(B) = Breakfast (L) = Lunch (D) = Dinner

DAY 1: THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2024 - DEPART FOR IRELAND

DAY 2: FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER - ARRIVE DUBLIN

Cead Mile Failte – Welcome to Ireland!

On arrival in **Dublin** we will be met by our Irish guide and transferred by coach directly to **Coolock House**. Continue on to visit the **Presentation Convent** before checking in to our hotel.

Dublin overnight (D)

DAY 3: SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER - DUBLIN

Our morning sightseeing tour will include statue-lined **O'Connell Street** as we drive around and view some of the city's elegant **Georgian Squares**. Visit the **Trinity College Library**, home of the famous 8th century **Book of Kells** and onwards to **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, Ireland's largest Cathedral made famous by its former dean Jonathan Swift, author of 'Gulliver's Travels'.

We continue to **Dublin Post Office** and on to **St. Mary's Pro-cathedral**. The original, partially completed facade was replaced by the present imposing neo-Romanesque structure by Sir Thomas Dean in 1868.

Dublin overnight (BD)

DAY 4: SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER - DUBLIN

Travel out today to **Dun Laoghaire** – the port where many sisters left for Australia and where Catherine McAuley opened a convalescence house for sick sisters.

We enjoy some free time here before continuing to the **Mercy Convent** in Baggot Street, the first house of **Mother Catherine McAuley**, founder of the Sisters of Mercy. This is where the determined **Mary MacKillop** met with the inflexible Bishop Quinn of Bathurst on Oct 10, 1874 who wanted the Sisters kept under his diocesan control (visit under own arrangements). Today we also visit St Theresa's Church.

Dublin overnight (BD)

DAY 5: MONDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER – VIA GLENDALOUGH TO WICKLOW

This morning we depart for **Kildare**, which Ireland's best known woman saint, St Brigid, is closely associated with. Visit **St Brigid's Cathedral** (subject to availability) reputed to be the site of a co-ed monastery headed by St Brigid in the 5th century and see a '**healing well**' of St Brigid.

Continue on to the holy town of **Glendalough** – 'Valley of the two lakes'. This renowned place of pilgrimage is the site of the monastic settlement founded in the 6th century by **St Kevin** – a man of noble stock. Coming here to be alone as an ascetic contemplative monk, his prayerful inspiration ironically attracted many others and thus the community of Glendalough springs from a hermitage. From a simple beginning, the site grew to become famous as a centre of learning throughout Europe. Standing for 600 years it was destroyed in 1398. Our visit here in

Glendalough is focused on the remains at both the upper and the lower lakes in the valley. The upper site is simpler and more in fitting with his life as a hermit, whereas the lower one has the more famous monastic monuments – one of Ireland's best preserved **Round Towers**, a roofless Cathedral, **St Kevin's kitchen** and the diminutive Priest House over the **Saint's tomb-shrine**.

Travel on to **Wicklow**, the birthplace of Bishop Murray where we will check in to our hotel.

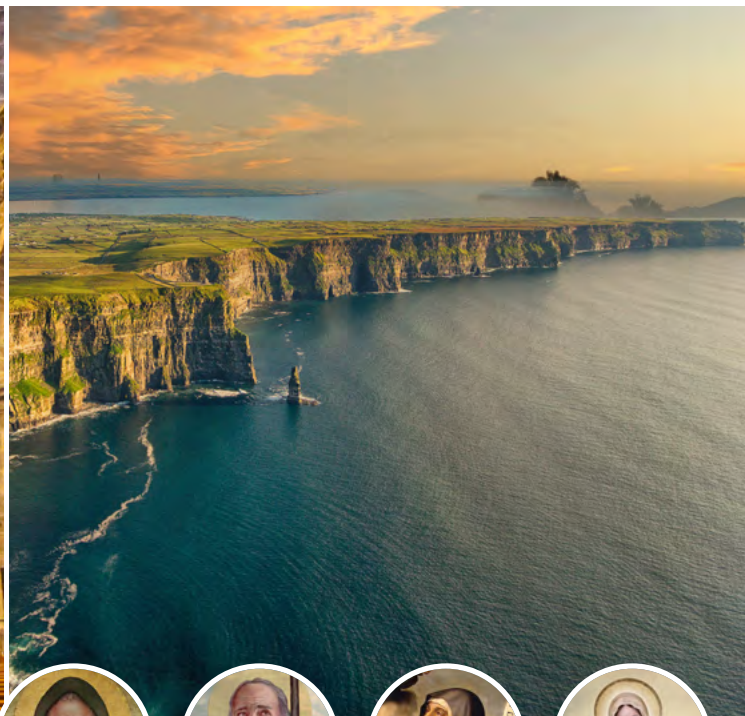
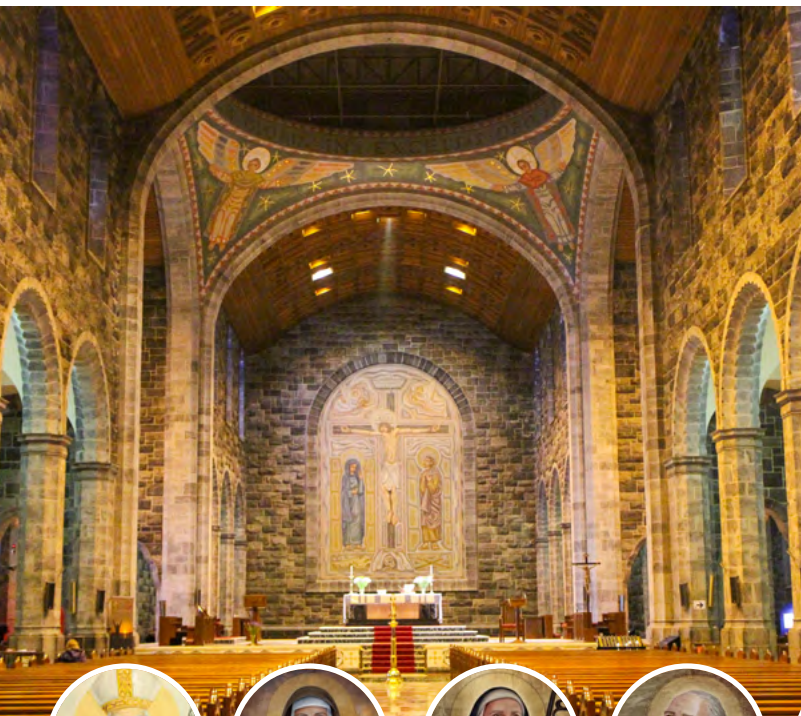
Wicklow overnight (BD)

DAY 6: TUESDAY 1ST OCTOBER - VIA WATERFORD TO CORK

Our journey this morning brings us to beautiful **Waterford**, home of the world-famous crystal, and the place where the Christian Brothers began. Waterford is the oldest city in Ireland. A walled city of Viking origin, it retains much of its medieval character together with the graceful buildings from its 18th century expansion. Like Kilkenny, Waterford feels medieval, with narrow alleyways leading off many of the larger streets. Reginald's Tower marks the city's Viking heart and the surrounding area is particularly attractive. Georgian times left a legacy of fine houses and commercial buildings particularly around The Mall, George's street and O'Connell Street.

Before departing we visit the **Waterford Crystal** showroom. Continue to the remote coastal village of **Ardmore** in honour of **St Declan**. He was miraculously guided here on a return voyage from Wales in the 5th century. Today, a number of intriguing sites remain from this monastic city, pointing to a devotion that stood the test of time. Among other sites we come to **St Declan's Well**, a shallow basin where pilgrims came to bathe their hands and feet. Finally we arrive in **Cork**.

Cork overnight (BD)



St Patrick



St Mary MacKillop



St Brigid



St Kevin



St Declan



St Brendan



St Anne



St Mary

DAY 7: WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER – ROCK OF CASHEL & BALLYGRIFFIN

Our day begins at the foreboding **Rock of Cashel**, an impressive great rock rising abruptly from the plain of the Golden Vale, on which stands Ireland's first Romanesque Church (11th century). St. Patrick visited the rock in 450 AD, while Brian Boru was crowned the first high King of Ireland here in the tenth century. We explore this unique landmark including **Cormac's Chapel**, which retains traces of Ireland's earliest frescoes.

Continue on to the Nano Nagle Centre at **Ballygriffin** before returning to Cork where we enter the **Cathedral of St Mary & St Anne**.

Dine out this evening at one of Cork's many restaurants (own arrangements).

Cork overnight (B)

DAY 8: THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER - KILLARNEY & TRALEE

Departing Cork, we make a stop at the **Blarney Castle**, one of Ireland's most historic castles. We have a chance to kiss the **Blarney Stone** – will you dangle from the Castle ramparts to acquire the 'gift of the gab'?

Journey on through the rugged **Derrynasaggart Mountains** towards the popular resort town of **Killarney** with its horse-drawn jaunting cars and singing pubs.

Continue on to charming **Tralee** to check-in to our hotel before dinner.

Tralee overnight (BD)

DAY 9: FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER - RING OF KERRY

Continue west to the mystical **Ring of Kerry**, enjoying the breathtaking views of the sea and mountains unfolding before our very eyes.

Highlights include a spectacular photographic opportunity at **Ladies View** and visiting the **Muckross House and Gardens**.

We return to our hotel in time for dinner.

Tralee overnight (BD)

DAY 10: SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER - DINGLE PENINSULA

Journey via Milltown and Castlemaine to the **Dingle Peninsula**, the northernmost of the five fingers projecting out into the Atlantic Ocean. Here we find a vast number of Christian sites mainly belonging to the cult of **St Brendan** the famous navigator who was born nearby at Andfert (484), including **St Brendan's Well**. We travel along the coast road past Inch to **Slea Head**, the most westerly point in Europe. We join the ancient pilgrim traffic of old and visit the 12th century **Church at Kilmalkedar** and the famous **Gallarus Oratory** built without mortar in fine masonry. Visit the **beehive huts** and spend some time in the lively fishing port of **Dingle**. Passing the 3000-foot **Mt Brandon** we journey back to our hotel.

Tralee overnight (BD)

DAY 11: SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER - VIA LIMERICK & CLIFFS OF MOHER TO GALWAY

A wonderful day of surprises awaits us as we journey north today through picturesque **Adare**, renowned for its pretty thatched cottages.

On to the city of **Limerick**, setting of 'Angela's Ashes', where we see the 12th century **St Mary's Cathedral** among other sites. Enroute we will have a stop at **Ennis**, another town springing from monastic origins.

Now sit back and enjoy our afternoon's drive, which will take us through the Clare Coast along the majestic 668-foot **Cliffs of Moher**, a five-mile

stretch of the darkest sandstone draping sheer to the tempestuous Atlantic Ocean. On through the floral wonders of **Burren to Galway** the 'City of Tribes'.

Galway overnight (BD)

DAY 12: MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER - GALWAY TO KNOCK

We begin our day visiting the lovely **Galway Cathedral** and hear about the infamous **Lynch Stone**.

Departing Galway, we travel north to **Knock**. On arrival we celebrate Mass at the Marian Shrine in the **Church of Apparitions** where Our Lady appeared in 1879 on a wet rainy night. We will enjoy a tour of the shrine's highlights with the possibility to enter the afternoon's schedule of events centred around the parish.

Continue to our hotel for check-in before dinner

Knock overnight (BD)

IN FOCUS:

Holy Shrine of Knock

On the evening of 21 August 1879, the eve of the Octave of the Assumption, the parish church of Knock, County Mayo, was the scene of an apparition of the Blessed Virgin, St Joseph and St John the Evangelist. The vision lasted two hours and was witnessed by a large number of people. When it became known, people began to come to Knock in large numbers. Among the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to the Shrine in 1979 (the Centenary anniversary), was the first Pope to set foot on Irish soil, Pope St John Paul II.



The Pope announced to the estimated quarter-of-a-million pilgrims gathered for the ceremony that the church at Knock would be henceforth known as the Basilica of Our Lady, Queen of Ireland. He presented a Golden Rose to the shrine as a witness of his own gratitude to Mary, mother of the heavenly and earthly church. St Teresa of Calcutta also visited here in 1993.

DAY 13: TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER – KNOCK TO BELFAST (VIA DEVENISH ISLAND)

We depart Knock today, travelling across into Northern Ireland. We arrive in Fermanagh and embark on a Devenish Island cruise. Once moored at **Devenish Island**, you can disembark and learn about its history dating back to the 6th Century, including the best preserved **Round Tower** in Ireland, **Augustinian Abbey, church ruins, ancient graveyards and high cross.**

Once we return to Fermanagh we continue onto Belfast, the Capital and the largest city in Northern Ireland, and the second largest city in Ireland.

Belfast overnight (BD)

DAY 14: WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER - VIA DOWNPATRICK TO BELFAST

We make our morning journey south to **Downpatrick**, where St Patrick first come to Ireland, see the Cathedral, **the grave of St Patrick and his altar stone** and the “Mass Rock” (outdoors). Here we walk in the footsteps of St Patrick.

Belfast overnight (BD)

DAY 15: THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER - BELFAST

This morning we will embark on an in-depth tour of **Belfast**. The city began as a small hamlet along the mouth of the Lagan River and has continued

to redevelop into a cultural hub. Highlights of our tour include viewing **City Hall**, Albert Memorial Clock Tower; Opera House; City Hall; Queens University.

In the afternoon we visit “**Titanic Belfast**”, which was named the **World’s Leading Tourist Attraction** in 2016. Visit this amazing site where the Titanic was built, exploring the Titanic story.

For our final night on pilgrimage, we will enjoy a special celebration dinner.

Belfast overnight (BD)

DAY 16: FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER - DEPART IRELAND

Today we will be transferred to Dublin airport for our homebound flight connections. (B)

DAY 17: SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER - ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

TOUR CODE	PV2454
STARTS	Thurs 26 September 2024
FINISHES	Sat 12 October 2024
AIR & LAND COST	AUD \$11840 (twin share) *
SINGLE ROOM	AUD \$2190 Supplement
PREPAID TIPS	AUD \$260 per person

** Costs have been based on prices as at December 2023 and must remain subject to possible change in the event of significant exchange rate variations, tax increases or minimum group size (35) factors beyond Harvest's control. Refer to Harvest Booking Terms & Conditions for more details. All details of sightseeing listed and order of daily arrangements must remain subject to change due to any unforeseen circumstances, which may arise, or at the discretion of the pilgrimage leadership. This overview is based on the standard pilgrimage departure and return dates. Please refer to your personal flight itinerary for more specific details or amendments pertaining to your travel.*

INCLUSIONS

ACCOMMODATION & MEALS: Based on Superior Standard / 4-Star accommodation • 13 Dinners / 14 Full Breakfasts

TOURING & TRANSPORTATION: Deluxe Air Conditioned Coach touring • Professional Local Guides • Sightseeing and Entrance Fees.

OTHER: Fully Escorted by Tour Coordinator • Porterage at hotels • Harvest Backpack, Pilgrim Journal and Travel Wallet.



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