

# Celtic Britain & Ireland Pilgrimage

with Optional Oberammergau Extension

29th April – 21st / 23rd May 2020

Escorted by  
Rev Dr Rob & Andrea McFarlane

**Celtic Britain is a rich source of spirituality, theology and ways of being church. The pre-Christian Celtic culture of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and western England was one of stunning art, standing stones and a focus on the natural world. This carried over into Christianity, producing small-scale scattered missionary monasteries, illuminated manuscripts, sacred gold treasures, distinct spirituality and the inspiration given to us by pioneers, such as St Patrick and St Columba of Iona.**

Rob and Andrea have previously led study tours tracing the growth of early Christianity from Jordan and Israel, through Turkey, then on to Greece, Malta and Italy. Their journey now continues westwards to the origins of Christianity in Britain, as a distinct form of Christianity arose after the end of the Roman Empire. Their Celtic Britain tour also shifts from being a "study tour" to a "pilgrimage".

"Wow factor" highlights of this pilgrimage include mini-retreats on both Iona and Lindisfarne (Holy Island); visits to see the Book of Kells in Dublin and the Lindisfarne Gospels in London; Glendalough Monastery in Ireland; the St Patrick Centre in Downpatrick (Northern Ireland); key sites for the Scottish Reformation in Edinburgh; major Gothic cathedrals in Durham, York, Canterbury and Salisbury; and the pre-Christian sites of Newgrange (Ireland), Stonehenge and Glastonbury. The itinerary also visits the Titanic Museum in Belfast and the Giant's Causeway.

The Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany (optional extension) has been performed since 1634, initially as a thank offering by the residents of the village of Oberammergau after being spared from the bubonic plague. Now performed every 10 years, it is both moving in itself and as a retelling of the final days of Christ's life.



**Rob McFarlane** is Presbyterian Ministry Leader with the Uniting Church in the Parramatta Nepean Presbytery (Western Sydney). He is highly experienced as an adult educator, Biblical scholar and

occasional archaeologist. As a Uniting Church minister, he combines these academic insights with spiritual and missional reflection, especially Fresh Expressions of church. This combination is a unique feature of his tours. Rob has previously led five study tours in the Middle East and Mediterranean.

**Andrea McFarlane** is an academic and researcher in early childhood educational leadership at Macquarie University. She has been co-leader with Rob on three previous tours. Andrea brings organisational and community-building strengths to the group.

## DAY 1: Wed 29th April Depart Australia

We depart Australia this evening on our Emirates flight to Dubai with our onwards connection to Dublin.

## DAY 2: Thu 30th April Arrive Dublin

Upon arrival at Dublin airport we pass through customs and immigration to the arrivals hall. We will be met by our tour guide who will escort us to the coach. We will depart from the airport for central Dublin for a panoramic guided tour of the city. Later we will arrive to our hotel, our home for the next four nights. We enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant tonight. (D)

## DAY 3: Fri 1st May Trinity College, Book of Kells, National Museum of Ireland

This morning we will make our way on foot to Trinity College where a visit and guided tour has been arranged. We will have an opportunity to view the Book of Kells as part of this tour. Next, we make our way, also by foot, to the National Museum of Ireland. The rest of the day has been left free for our own personal exploration. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (BD)

## DAY 4: Sat 2nd May Glendalough

After breakfast we depart for our journey to Glendalough. On arrival we will meet our guide for our day of touring in and around Glendalough. Later we transfer back to Dublin for dinner and overnight. (BD)

## DAY 5: Sun 3rd May Newgrange, Knowth, Hills of Tara and Slane

Today our full day of touring includes visits to Newgrange, Knowth, the Hill of Tara and the Hill of Slane. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Dublin. (BD)

## DAY 6: Mon 4th May Dublin to Belfast

After breakfast and check out, we start our journey towards Belfast. Enroute we visit the Ballynoe Stone Circle, St Patrick Visitor Centre in Downpatrick, Down Cathedral, Saul Church and, if time allows, Inch Abbey. Upon arrival to Belfast we will be taken to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (BD)

## DAY 7: Tue 5th May Giant's Causeway, Titanic Museum

Today we take the drive north of Belfast to the Giant's Causeway where a visit has been arranged. Later, we re-join the coach and return to Belfast and visit the Titanic Museum before we return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (BD)

## DAY 8: Wed 6th May Northern Ireland to Scotland

After breakfast and check out, we depart the hotel and transfer to the port. After unloading the coach we will be taken by shuttle bus to the ferry. As we will be travelling as foot passengers, we will need to carry our luggage at times. Our ferry will sail from Belfast to Cairnryan, a journey time of around two and half hours. Upon arrival in Cairnryan, we will meet our new coach and driver and head towards Glasgow. Enroute, visits will be made to St Mungo's Cathedral and St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art. We have a one night stay in Glasgow tonight with dinner at the hotel. (BD)

## DAY 9: Thu 7th May Glasgow to the Isle of Mull

Today we depart for the start of our journey towards the Isle of Mull through the Trossachs National Park. At Oban we will board a ferry to Craignure on the Isle of Mull. Once on the island we take the short drive to the Isle of Mull Hotel, our accommodation for the next two nights. We enjoy dinner at the hotel tonight. (BD)

## DAY 10: Fri 8th May Iona

An early breakfast today before we join the coach and make the drive across the Isle of Mull to Fionnphort where we will join the foot passenger ferry to Iona. The day will be spent on Iona. At the end of the day, we take the ferry back to Fionnphort and join the coach for the transfer back across the Isle of Mull to our hotel. (BD)

## DAY 11: Sat 9th May Isle of Mull to Edinburgh

This morning we make the short journey to the port in Craignure and take the ferry to Oban. After disembarking the ferry we start the journey towards Edinburgh – another opportunity to appreciate the beautiful Scottish countryside. On arrival in Edinburgh we will be taken to our hotel where we will stay for the next two nights. Dinner at the hotel. (BD)

## DAY 12: Sun 10th May Edinburgh

This morning we make our way to St Giles' Cathedral for morning service. There will also be the opportunity to visit Greyfriars Kirk and, if time permits, the Museum of Scotland. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (BD)

## DAY 13: Mon 11th May Edinburgh to Beal

Our last stop before we leave Edinburgh is Edinburgh Castle, where a visit has been arranged. After the visit we commence our journey towards Beal, with a visit to Rosslyn Chapel enroute. Upon arrival to Beal we will be taken to our hotel. Dinner and overnight in Beal. (BD)



**DAY 14: Tue 12th May Holy Island**

Today will be spent on Lindisfarne – Holy Island. The programme for the day will be determined once the tide times are known. Dinner tonight will be served in the hotel restaurant. (BD)

**DAY 15: Wed 13th May Beal to York**

After breakfast and check out we will depart for York, stopping enroute in Durham for a visit to the Durham Cathedral. On arrival in York we will visit the York Cathedral before arriving to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (BD)

**DAY 16: Thu 14th May York to London**

Before leaving York today we make a visit to the Jorvik Viking Centre. Afterwards we continue towards London, when, upon arrival, we will transfer to our hotel, the Millennium Gloucester, for a three night stay. Dinner is served in the hotel restaurant. (BD)

**DAY 17: Fri 15th May London**

Today we will use Travelcards to travel around London. Visits have been arranged to the British Museum and the British Library. Dinner tonight at the hotel. (BD)

**DAY 18: Sat 16th May Kent**

Today we take a journey towards Kent and Canterbury. On arrival to Canterbury we will visit the Canterbury Cathedral. We then travel to Lullingstone Villa for a visit. Afterwards we transfer back to London for dinner and overnight. (BD)

**DAY 19: Sun 17th May London to Wells**

We commence our journey west towards Wells. Enroute we will have the opportunity to attend Sunday worship at Salisbury Cathedral. After the service, a visit will be made to the Chapter House and, time permitting, to Old Sarum. We re-join the coach and continue the journey to Wells, stopping on our way to visit Stonehenge. On arrival in Wells we will be taken to the Swan Hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (BD)

**DAY 20: Mon 18th May Wells to London**

Today we will spend time in Glastonbury before heading back towards London. Here we will visit Glastonbury Tor, Glastonbury Abbey and Chalice Well. On the way back to London we will have a brief visit to the Avebury Stone Circle. On arrival in London we will be taken to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (BD)

**DAY 21: Tue 19th May London**

Today is a free day for us to explore London at our own leisure. Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant tonight. (BD)

**DAY 22: Wed 20th May Depart London**

After breakfast and check out we will transfer to London Heathrow airport for our flights home or onwards to Munich for those taking the Oberammergau extension. (B)

**Day 23: Thu 21st May Arrive Australia**

We arrive home this evening with wonderful and lasting memories of our journey. **\*\*Itinerary subject to change\*\***

**TOTAL ESTIMATED PACKAGE PRICES (per person twin share):**

**AUD\$11,390\*** per person (twin share)

\* Conditions apply. Subject to change. Price is based on minimum of 25 paying participants.

**OPTIONAL 2 NIGHT OBERAMMERGAU PACKAGE: 20-22 May**

\*Price is subject to change and will be known once participant numbers are determined and performance tickets and accommodation are sourced.

**AUD\$1,790\*** per person (twin share)

**\*\*Oberammergau – Fly to Munich and enjoy a two night package to enjoy this decennial event in the picturesque Bavarian Alps. Watch the Passion of the Cross and be part of this historical tradition, where the town comes to life and revels in all its splendour.**

Optional Single Room Supplement:

**AUD\$3,095**

Optional Single Room Supplement:

**AUD\$325**

**PROPOSED UK HOTELS (OR SIMILAR):**

<b>Dublin</b>	Trinity City Hotel	4 nights
<b>Belfast</b>	Holiday Inn	2 nights
<b>Glasgow</b>	The Apex Hotel	1 night
<b>Mull (Iona)</b>	Isle of Mull Hotel	2 nights
<b>Edinburgh</b>	Novotel Edinburgh Centre	2 nights
<b>Beal (Lindisfarne)</b>	The Lindisfarne Inn	2 nights
<b>York</b>	Novotel York Centre	1 night
<b>London</b>	Millennium Gloucester Hotel	3 nights
<b>Wells (Glastonbury)</b>	Swan Hotel	1 night
<b>London</b>	Millennium Gloucester Hotel	2 nights

**UK PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Return economy class airfares from Sydney / Dubai / Dublin & London / Dubai / Sydney with Emirates including airport & departure taxes
- 20 nights' hotel accommodation including daily buffet breakfasts & dinners throughout
- Comprehensive sightseeing tours as mentioned in the itinerary with the services of a local professional English speaking guide on Day 2 only
- Transfers and transportation throughout in a luxury air-conditioned coach as mentioned in the itinerary except for Days 2, 12, 17 & 21 (no coach on these days)

- Ferry transportation as mentioned in the itinerary
- One day London Travelcard
- Entrance fees to museums and all sights as mentioned in the itinerary
- Tips, gratuities & portage throughout

**OBERAMMERGAU PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 2 nights in a four star hotel
- Four Star entry ticket for the Passion Play Oberammergau 2020
- Three course meal during the 3 hour performance break
- One text book given on the day of the performance
- Tourism taxes, shuttle transportation with local buses to and from the performance
- One way economy class flight from London to Munich
- Emirates flight home: Munich / Dubai / Sydney (instead of main group return flight from London)

**ALL PRICES EXCLUDE:**

- Beverages with meals
- Meals not mentioned above
- Single supplement
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, room service etc.
- Any services not listed in 'Price Includes' above



### WHAT TO DO NEXT:

1. Register your interest and request a booking form from Rob, Andrea or the team at Olive Tree Travel
2. To secure your place, a deposit of \$1000 per person is required by 7th June 2019
3. Subsequent deposits will be required (will advise with advance notice)
4. Full payment will be required by 27th February 2020.

### WHO TO CONTACT:

**Rev Dr Robert McFarlane**  
0400 825 739  
rjmcfarlane@hotmail.com



### Olive Tree Travel

Suite 1, level 1  
230 Balaclava Road, North Caulfield VIC 3161  
T: +61 3 8488 9696 or 1300 55 08 30  
info@olivetreetravel.com.au  
www.olivetreetravel.com.au



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