

World Meeting of Families 2018
The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World!
Pilgrimage #1 (7 days / 5 nights)

The World Meeting of Families is an historic moment of grace and a font of spiritual formation. Our faith journey through Ireland, often called the “real Holy Land,” will give us opportunity to come closer to God and gratefully consider the sacrifices and dedication of those who came before. As we visit the sites of the early Christian Church in Ireland, we will renew our commitment to the roots of our Catholic faith. The Masses and meditations we celebrate along the way will draw us together as a community and will remind us of our blessings and the call to stewardship as followers of Jesus Christ.

Day 1: Tuesday, August 21: Departure from the USA

Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown. Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You. – St. Brendan the Navigator

Our Pilgrimage begins with an overnight flight to Dublin, Ireland.

Day 2: Wednesday, August 22: Arrive Dublin

Where there is sorrow, there is holy ground (Oscar Wilde, De Profundis).

Welcome to vibrant, soulful Dublin! Upon arrival, we’ll transfer to the city center to enjoy a panoramic tour of Ireland’s capital. Dublin is situated at the mouth of the River Liffey which divides the city into north and south. Our tour begins with the north side, where we follow O’Connell Street, a main thoroughfare. We’ll see the General Post Office (GPO), the Custom House (a neoclassical 18th century building housing several departments of local government), and Phoenix Park, one of the largest parks in Europe with its large areas of grassland, and (since the 17th century) a herd of wild deer. Along the south side of the river, we’ll see sophisticated areas with shops and historic homes, including those of Oscar Wilde and Bram Stoker, a few of Ireland’s world-famous writers. This part of the city is also dominated by Trinity College, home to the Book of Kells, a splendidly illuminated version of the Christian Gospels dating from the 9th century. The 680-page work displays such incredible workmanship, including extraordinary colors derived from shellfish, beetles’ wings, and crushed pearls, that some historians feel it contains all the designs to be found in Celtic art. Trinity College faces the medieval district where Dublin Castle and two Anglican Cathedrals can be found. We continue to our hotel for check-in. We enjoy the balance of the day at the World Meeting of Families Congress. Tonight, we return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

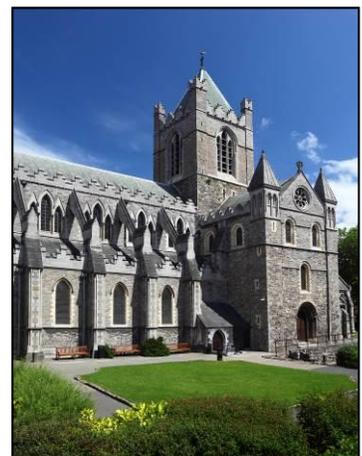
Day 3: Thursday, August 23: World Meeting of Families Congress

“He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.” Acts. 10:2

Today, we have the full day at the World Meeting of Families Congress. Tonight, dinner is served at the hotel. Overnight at our hotel.

Day 4: Friday, August 24: World Meeting of Families Congress

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6

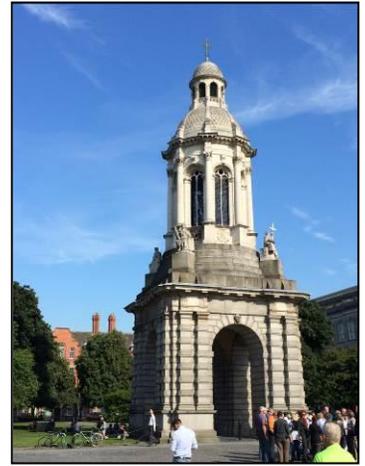


Today, we have the full day at the World Meeting of Families Congress. Tonight, we enjoy an evening of traditional Irish entertainment and dinner at the Merry Ploughboys Pub. After dinner, we return to our hotel for overnight.

Day 5: Saturday, August 25: Dublin

"He watched over me before I knew Him and before I learned sense or even distinguished between good and evil." St. Patrick

After breakfast, we visit St. Patrick's Cathedral. St Patrick's is the National Cathedral of Ireland and is built on the site where St Patrick preached. There was a small church on the site which was still in existence when the Anglo-Normans arrived. This church was replaced with a stone church in 1191 and it was further remodeled in 1225 to the same design as Salisbury Cathedral. Ireland's first university was founded at St. Patrick's in 1320 and intermittently operated for 200 years. St Patrick's is Gothic in style and its splendid interior is adorned with funeral monuments, such as The Boyle Family Memorial and the grave of Dean Jonathan Swift. Swift was dean here until his death in 1745. The Chancel has ornate stained-glass windows, and spectacular choir stalls, once used by the knights of St Patrick adjoin the Altar. The massive west towers, houses a large peal of bells whose ringing tones are so much part of the character of Dublin. Next, we visit historic Trinity College. Trinity was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth 1st 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 center of the monastery. Built to further the education of the ruling Anglo-Irish families, restrictions were imposed to prevent Catholics from attending courses. These restrictions were not fully lifted until the 1970's. Trinity however admitted women in 1902, earlier than most British universities. Most of the main buildings off the main square were built during the Georgian period, some of which replaced older buildings. Within its walls, you will be able to admire Parliament Square and its 18th Century edifices. Trinity College has had many famous students such as Jonathan Swift and Samuel Beckett who later became a lecturer in French at the university. This evening, we attend an evening event that will include international family stories, international and Irish musicians, singers, groups and cultural acts to perform in a large stadium venue in the city center. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.



Day 6: Sunday, August 26: Dublin/Closing Mass of World Meeting of Families 2018

"I would like an abundance of peace. I would like full vessels of charity. I would like rich treasures of mercy. I would like cheerfulness to preside over me." St. Brigid of Kildare

After breakfast, we have the full day for independent sightseeing and exploration of Dublin. Later this afternoon, we attend the closing Mass of World Meeting of Families before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight.



Day 7: Monday, August 27: Depart for Home

"Our loved ones merit our complete attention. Jesus is our model in this, for whenever people approached to speak with him, he would meet their gaze, directly, and lovingly." Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)

After a final Irish breakfast, we transfer to the Dublin Airport for our departure flight home.

This experience of the universal Church has deepened our call to love and serve our individual families, our parish community, and the world. A new journey begins!

