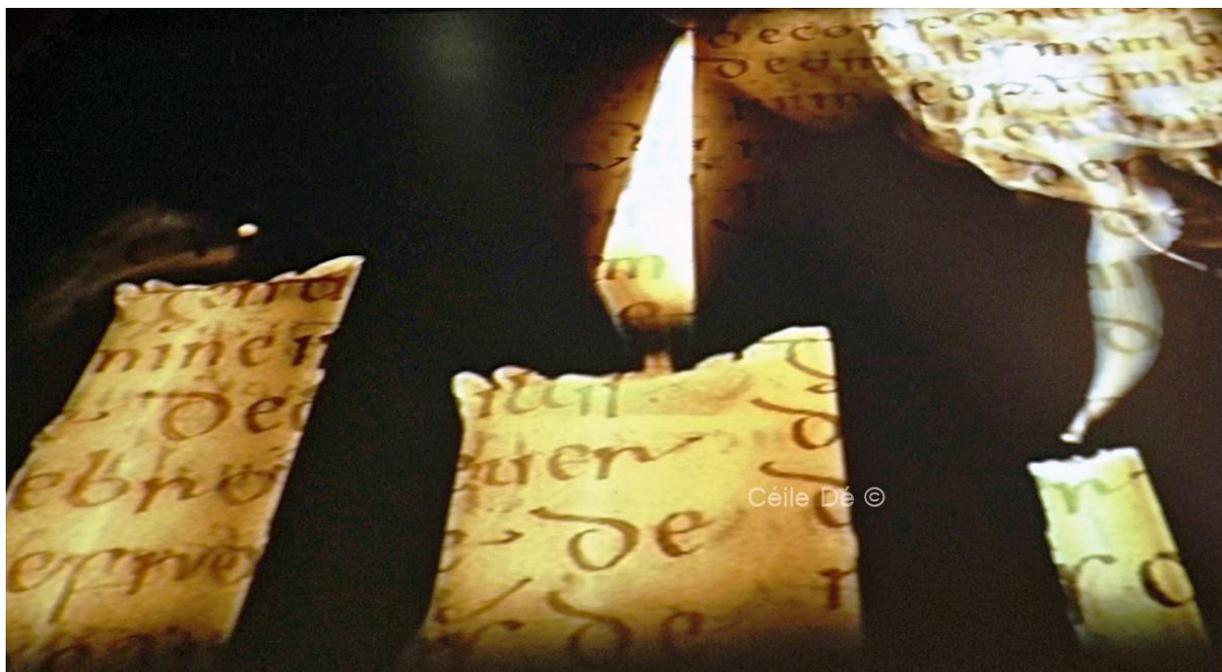


In the Footsteps of Saint Patrick and the Celtic Saints A Pilgrimage to Ireland and Brittany

Dates: October 2 - October 15, 2016

Leaders: Marcus Losack, Stanley and Laurie McKinnon



Grace Episcopal Church invites you to come with us on a special Pilgrimage visiting many of the sacred sites associated with St Patrick in Ireland and Brittany. This exciting program is being organized by Marcus Losack, Stanley McKinnon and Laurie McKinnon. We invite you to join us on this pilgrimage to explore Celtic Spirituality and our own faith journey in the footsteps of St. Patrick, St Columbanus and the Celtic Saints of Brittany.

Marcus is an experienced Pilgrimage Leader and teacher who has published four books on the Origins of St Patrick including an historic and new translation of St Patrick's Letters, co-authored with John Luce, former professor of Classics and Public Orator at Trinity College, Dublin. Marcus has a specialized ministry in Pilgrimage and Celtic Spirituality. We will travel together as prayerful and caring pilgrims, exploring the treasures of the Celtic Tradition and deepening our own sense of spirituality, wisdom and community as we gain inspiration from St Patrick's Story and his writings. During this pilgrimage we will visit ancient sites that honor and recall the Life, Legacy and Mission of Saint Patrick and the Celtic Saints of Brittany.

For Registrations please contact Bay Greenhill at bay@gracesiloam.org

Pilgrimage Itinerary

Sunday, October 2: Depart USA (O/N on board) (DB)

Monday, October 3: ARRIVE DUBLIN, IRELAND. 8:30 am. We meet as a group with our pilgrimage leaders at Dublin Airport, Arrivals Hall (**Terminal 2**) at 8.30am to board our private coach. First stop **Newgrange Visitor's Centre** with a visit to Newgrange - Neolithic Monument dated 3200 BCE designed to mark the rising sun at the **Winter Solstice**. After lunch we will see the famous **Celtic High Crosses at Monasterboice** then travel via Belfast to our hotel in **Bangor** Northern Ireland. Check in and rest time before gathering for Introductions and Dinner. Overnight, Marine Court Hotel, Bangor (**D**)

Tuesday, October 4: SAUL CHURCH & DOWNPATRICK: We travel by coach and the short distance by ferry across the beautiful **Strangford Lough** to **Saul and Downpatrick**. Morning Prayers at **Saul Church** – a place that reminds us of simplicity and new beginnings - built on the ancient site where St Patrick founded his first Church in Ireland in 432 CE – in a barn given by the local chieftain. We travel the short distance to **Downpatrick Cathedral** and the **memorial tomb** of St Patrick. Lunch will be at the **St Patrick's Centre** and meeting with Dr Tim Campbell, the Director who will guide us through the exhibition. We return to our hotel for 7pm Dinner and Reflections on the Day. O/N Marine Court Hotel, Bangor (**BLD**)

Wednesday, October 5: BANGOR, County Down. 8am Breakfast 9.30am depart for visit to **Bangor Abbey and Museum** on the ancient site of the famous early Irish Monastery associated with **St Malachy of Armagh**. It was from here that **St. Columbanus** left for Brittany in 595 CE. After lunch we will visit **St. Columbanus Church** to meet with author and poet Marsden Fitzsimons, who has developed links between **Bangor and Brittany**, together with other places in Europe associated with St Columbanus and the Irish Tradition. 7pm Dinner at hotel with Reflections on the Day. O/N Marine Court Hotel, Bangor (**BLD**)

Thursday, October 6: ARMAGH: Today we travel to **Armagh**, the ancient ecclesiastical capital of Ireland. We visit **St Patrick's Cathedral** (Church of Ireland) site of the famous monastery said to have been founded by St Patrick in the fifth century, where the **Book of Armagh** was written by scribes in the 8th century. At **Navan Fort** - ancient and significant pre-historic site we meet with **Rev Grace Clunie**, author of two books on Celtic Spirituality and Director of the **Centre for Celtic Spirituality**. We will walk to admire the **ancient Hill of 'Ard Macha'** the royal seat of the **High Kings of Ulster** and astronomical site closely associated with the Goddess Macha and **the Heroes of Ulster Mythology**. 4 pm Transfer to **Drogheda** for 7pm Dinner O/N Boyne Valley Hotel, Drogheda, Co Louth (**BLD**)

Friday October 7: SLANE and THE HILL OF TARA: After breakfast and check out, we visit **The Hill of Slane** where St Patrick kindled the **Pascal Fire** proceeding to the enchanted **Hill of Tara**, seat of the ancient **Irish High Kings** and Druids. Here we shall gather and reflect on the significance of the autumnal equinox and other sacred seasons of the year. There will be free time for lunch at Tara in **McGuire's Restaurant** and craft shop. Return to Hotel for 5pm Presentation **"Saint Patrick and the French Connection"** (Marcus) 7pm Dinner O/N Boyne valley Hotel, Drogheda, County Louth (**BD**)

Saturday, October 8: 8am Breakfast and check out followed by a full day visit to **Dublin** to see the intriguing pre-historic and early Christian, Celtic treasures in the **National Museum, Kildare Street** with some free time to explore Dublin and optional activities including **Trinity College (Book of Kells Exhibition-From Darkness to Light)** and **St Patrick's Cathedral**. 5 pm Transfer for 7pm Dinner and O/N Grand Hotel, Wicklow, Co Wicklow **(BD)**

Sunday, October 9: 8.30am Breakfast 9.30am Depart for 10.30am Morning Eucharist at **Saint Patrick's Church, Greystones** (or **St Patrick's Church, Powerscourt/Enniskerry**). 1pm Lunch at the Glendalough Hotel followed by visit to the Glendalough Visitor's centre with exhibition and video then short guided tour of St Kevin's Monastic City. **1600 hrs** we depart Glendalough and transfer to **Rosslare Port** for **18.00hrs** sailing to **Brittany, France**. We have our own private cabins for this exciting overnight ferry crossing to France. **O/N FERRY** from Rosslare to Cherbourg, Brittany **(B)**

Monday, October 10: BRITTANY. Ferry arrives at **Cherbourg** 14.00pm. Transfer with visit to **Mont Dol and Saint Samson's Cathedral, Dol de Bretagne** en route to La Goueniere for visit to the ancient site where **Chateau de Bonaban** is now located. According to a local tradition, this is the site of the family home from which St Patrick was taken captive by Irish pirates, before he was taken to Ireland and sold slavery when he was 16 years old. We walk together along the recently planted **Saint Patrick's Esplanade** to the **Marian Grotto at Bois Renou** a short ten minutes along a good path and meet local members of the **Memoires Saint Patrick Association**. 8pm Dinner at a local Restaurant in La Gouesniere, After dinner we transfer to our nearby hotel for check in and O/N Hotel Tirel Guerin **(D)**.

Tuesday, October 11: ST. COULOMB and SAINT-MALO: First we pass by the little fishing port of **Cancale**. Irish pirates are said to have landed at Cancale before they crept up through the ancient **Forest of Quokelunde** to attack the estate owned by St Patrick's father, Calpurnius. We proceed along the coast road to the **Pilgrim Cross** that marks the place where **St Columbanus** landed in France and then visit St Coulomb with **prayers in the Church of St Coulomb**. Continuing along the coast road we arrive at the Old walled city of **St Malo** with free time for lunch and shopping. In the afternoon we visit **Alet**, site of the ancient Roman port and military base for the **Legion of Mars** at the time of St Patrick, with remains of an early church and **Solidor Tower**. Return to hotel for 7pm Dinner and reflections on the day O/N Hotel Tirel Guerin **(BD)**

Wednesday October 12: BROCELIANDE, PAIMPONT & DINAN: After breakfast we travel to the enchanted **Forest of Broceliande** – long associated with **King Arthur, the Knights of the Round Table and the Quest for the Holy Grail**. We visit the ancient **Abbey of Paimpont** and the **Church of St Nonnine**, known as **L'Eglise de Sant Graal**. Lunch at Paimpont. In the afternoon we discover the delights of **Becherel** a small village famous for its myriad of second hand book shops 7pm Dinner. O/N Hotel Tirel Guerin. **(BD)**

Thursday October 13: 7am Breakfast. 8am check out and depart for visit to **Mont St Michel**, Unesco World Heritage Site. The first church on this island - that predated the famous **Benedictine Abbey** - was founded by St Aubert in the seventh century. Free time for lunch at Mont St Michel. In the afternoon we journey from **Brittany to Normandy** for 2.30pm visit the famous **Bayeux Tapestry Exhibition**, before we proceed on our journey to the World War II Memorial at **Omaha Beach and American Cemetary**. **Prayers of thanksgiving and remembrance in the**

cemetery. We will leave Omaha Beach at 1800 hrs en route to Cherbourg for a **19.30** check in and **21.30** departure overnight ferry crossing to **Rosslare, Ireland.**
O/N Ferry (**B**)



Friday October 14: RETURN TO IRELAND: We arrive in Ireland at 15.30 and transfer by our private coach to our hotel on the sea front in Bray for 7 pm **Farewell Dinner and Pilgrimage Closures** O/N Best Western Esplanade Hotel, Bray, Co Wicklow (**D**)

Saturday October 15: 6.30 am Early Breakfast “on the run” with transfer to **Dublin Airport** for departure and **same day return to USA.**

Please Note: Spaces are limited to 24 persons so please book early to avoid disappointment. Our daily schedule will include a brief gathering for prayer and reflection in the mornings before breakfast (whenever possible) and again in the evening with reflections on our experiences each day. Laurie McKinnon will offer morning or evening meditations with yoga for those who wish to participate.

COST: \$2,950 per person sharing. **Single room supplement \$700** (subject to availability). **\$500 deposit** is required from each person to secure a place. **Because of current exchange rates, a discount of \$450 per person is offered for those who pay their fees in full before March 31, 2016.**

The cost includes accommodation at hotels specified for the itinerary with all land transportation by private coach from arrival to departure, ferry tickets, entrance to all sites, museums and visitor centers, fees for guides as required, management fees. Meals include a full Irish or Breton breakfast every morning, except on the ferry crossings, where pilgrims are responsible for their own meals. Except on ferry crossing, all dinners are included (the restaurant at Maison Tirel Guerin is world famous. Dinners are exceptional French cuisine. There are various cafes and restaurants on board the ferry where breakfast and dinner can be taken. Meals provided are highlighted in bold (key: **B** = breakfast, **L** = lunch **D** = Dinner).