

Ireland: A Celtic Pilgrimage

With visits to Clonmacnoise, Kells, Downpatrick, Down Cathedral,
the cliffs of Kilkee, the Hills of Slane and Tara, Belfast and Dublin.



with

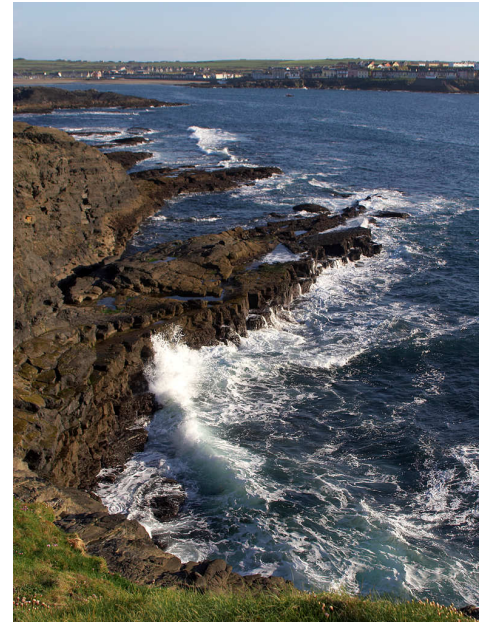
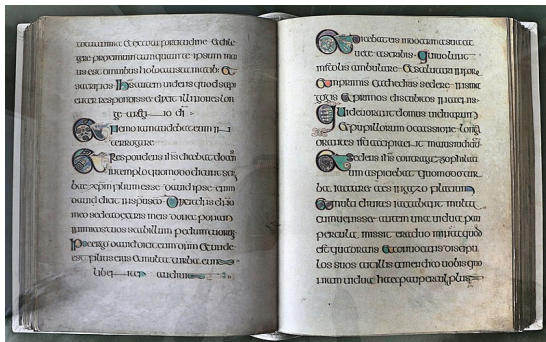
Advent Episcopal Church

Hosted By

Canon Timothy Dombek

September 11 - 22, 2022

\$4399 from Phoenix



Thin Places are ports in the storm of life, where the pilgrims can move closer to the God they seek, where one leaves that which is familiar and journeys into the Divine Presence. They are stopping places where men and women are given pause to wonder about what lies beyond the mundane rituals, the grief, trials and boredom of our day-to-day life. They probe to the core of the human heart and open the pathway that leads to satisfying the familiar hungers and yearnings common to all people on earth, the hunger to be connected, to be a part of something greater, to be loved, to find peace. May your spirit soar as you begin your journey into Thin Places.

~Mindie Burgoyne
Walking Through Thin Places

An Alternative Way To Travel With Someone You Can Trust

In the Steps of the Celtic Saints...

Christians from all denominations have been inspired and amazed at the rediscovery of the story of how the Gospel came to Ireland and from Ireland to the British Isles. In September 2022, you are invited to join Canon Timothy Dombek and others who travel with us for a twelve-day trip to the birthplace of Celtic Christianity—Ireland, A Celtic pilgrimage. Visit the preeminent places that fostered the Celtic mission that spread throughout the present-day United Kingdom.

We will look at why this Celtic expression of Christianity is so exciting and relevant for today, and why the hierarchy of the church struggled with insights that we are now embracing again. You are invited to join Canon Timothy Dombek, on this pilgrimage of Ireland, the birthplace of Celtic Christianity. Together, let us walk in the steps of the Celtic saints who spread Christianity across Celtic lands from the early fifth and sixth centuries.

Stops include: Clonmacnoise; founded in 544 by Saint Ciarán, the location of this monastery along the River Shannon helped it become a strategic center of religion, learning, craftsmanship, and trade by the 9th century. Visited by scholars from all over Europe it became one of the most famous places in Ireland. Other historic places we'll visit include, Kilrush, known as "the Church of the Woods," to hear the stories of St. Columba and St. Brendan; the cliffs of Kilkee; Craggaunowen and the Hill of Slane, where St. Patrick lit the Paschal fire in 433; the town of Kells, where the Book of Kells was written; Down Cathedral in Downpatrick, the traditional burial site of St. Patrick, St. Brigid, and St. Columba; the Hill of Tara; Dunluce and Corrymeela; ending with full days in Belfast and Dublin, from which we fly home.

On this amazing journey, we'll experience the stories of those saints and rulers *while visiting those places* and other sacred spots—"thin places"—where heaven touched the earth. As well as hearing the stories appropriate to our journeying, we will discover the larger story of how the Gospel went from Roman held Britain to Ireland, and then spread further, through many parts of Europe. Through storytelling, we'll meet some of the characters and saints of Ireland, held in such affection, that have deeply imprinted Christianity in Europe and beyond.

On our pilgrimage, we'll be accompanied by the Reverend Simon Airey, a priest, professional storyteller, and a member of the Northumbria Community. Simon has been molded by these stories for over 20 years. An Anglican priest who pastors three churches, Simon lives on the wild marches where England meets Wales with his wife, two children, and a variety of animals.

If your trip begins from a place other than Arizona, please contact Betty Ann Buckley from ALPHA Tours by email, alphatours@gmail.com to arrange roundtrip airfare from your nearest major airport. Betty Ann is VERY responsive to email and can arrange your alternative travel quite handily. For more information, including incidental costs and requirements, explore this brochure or call Canon Timothy Dombek at Advent Episcopal Church, (623) 584-0350 or timothy@adventaz.org

You are invited to join us for the trip of a lifetime, as we explore together the ancient roots of Celtic Christianity in beautiful, historic, yet still vibrant Ireland.

Why travel in Ireland?

- ◆ Its historical complexity and religious significance in the story of Christianity
- ◆ Its captivating natural beauty
- ◆ Its artistic achievements, range, and depth—particularly in literature
- ◆ And to experience the kindness, warmth, and welcoming nature of the Irish people.



Ireland: A Celtic Pilgrimage

Hosted By

The Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek

With

Storyteller, The Rev. Simon Airey



September 11 - 22, 2022 \$4399* from Phoenix

Day 1 & 2 Begin your journey by boarding your aircraft for the international flight. Enjoy dinner, breakfast and a movie on the overnight flight to Ireland. Upon arrival, board the air conditioned coach for the West of Ireland. Visit Clonmacnoise; the perfect setting to begin the story of the Irish Saints and the remarkable spread of the Gospel from this place to much of Europe. Arrive in the Ennis area for two overnights. *Note check-in may not be available until 3pm.*

Day 3 Clare

Travel to the town of Kilrush, known as the "Church of the Woods." Hear the stories of St Brendan and St Columba. And enjoy the Atlantic coast of Ireland and the iconic Cliffs of Kilkee.

Day 4 Clare to Trim

Visit Craggaunowen, seeing the 16th century castle and a living past experience of the life in the Bronze Age. Continue to the Hill of Slane to hear the story of the Easter Fire; the turning point in St Patrick's mission. Arrive in Trim for two overnights.

Day 5 Boyne Valley

Visit the town of Kells and see the monastic site where the famous book of Kells was written. Continue to the Hill of Tara, the legendary, ancient seat of the High Kings of Ireland and an important site since the late Stone Age.

Day 6 Trim to Belfast

In Downpatrick visit Down Cathedral, possible burial site of St. Patrick, St. Bridget and St. Columba. Visit the reconstruction at Saul on the site of St Patrick's first church. Explore the inspiring remains of the Nendrum Monastic Site on the banks of Strangford Loch before continuing to Belfast for three overnights.

Day 7: Dunluce and Corrymeela

Travel to the North Antrim Coast today and visit the atmospheric remains of Dunluce Castle perched over the sea. Enjoy an afternoon visit to Corrymeela, a community committed to reconciliation in Northern Ireland and throughout the world.

Day 8: Belfast

Enjoy a **panoramic tour of Belfast** where you will pass by some of Belfast's historical sites, including the Political Murals and Peace Lines, the City Hall, Albert Memorial Clock, Crown Liquor Saloon and Titanic. Along the way, learn the wealth of history and facts and figures of this wonderful city. Visit Crumlin Road Gaol and learn about life inside the former prison. Visit Titanic Belfast and learn of the world's most famous ship.

Day 9: Dublin

Depart Belfast for Dublin. Subject to availability, visit Bru na Boinne & Newgrange. In the afternoon visit Guinness Storehouse and discover what goes into the making of a pint of Guinness.

Day 10: Wicklow & Kildare

Travel to Wicklow and visit Glendalough Visitor Centre & Monastic Site. Glendalough originated from the Irish "Gleann Dá Locha", which translates as "The valley of the two lakes". It was here that St. Kevin, son of the king of Leinster, founded a monastery in the 6th century. Continue to neighboring Kildare where St Brigid was the most powerful Christian Leader in Ireland for many years and kept the gospel fire constantly burning in the heart of Ireland. See the Cathedral & Round Tower which dates back to 1223. Return to Dublin.

Day 11: Dublin

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin seeing the General Post Office, Phoenix Park, Merrion Square and Dublin Castle. Visit Trinity College & Book of Kells. Within its walls, admire Parliament Square and its 18th Century edifices. After some free time in the afternoon gather for a special farewell dinner with storytelling and folk music in a local Irish pub.

Day 12: Farewell

Depart Dublin for the flight home.

You will see all of the above sites during your Irish Pilgrimage. Flexibility in the itinerary may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances, such as airline, hotel schedules and local conditions.

COVID-19

At this time we do not the exact future effects of COVID-19 on tourism in Ireland and the UK. We hope that all attractions and hotels will reopen and continue to operate in 2022. We appreciate your flexibility.

Although it is clear that all travelers must be fully vaccinated and have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of boarding the plane, it is not certain at this time of other tests and requirements which may also be the traveler's responsibility. Thank you for your patience and understanding as the world returns to travel after a pandemic.

Your Irish Pilgrimage Includes:

- ▶ Roundtrip air from Phoenix
- ▶ Superior tourist class hotels
- ▶ Full Irish cooked breakfasts
- ▶ Driver/Guide
- ▶ Deluxe Motorcoach
- ▶ Evening Dinners
- ▶ Entrance Fees
- ▶ Taxes

Alpha Christian TourS, Inc.

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Passenger 1

As It Appears On Your Passport

Title _____ Name on Badge _____

Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. If different than above

Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____

Email: _____

Passenger 2

As It Appears On Your Passport

Title _____ Name on Badge _____

Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. If different than above

Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Departure Date: _____

Departure City: _____

Please Register Me For: _____ IR/091122

_____ Basic Program \$4399* from Phoenix

Email our office about flying from a city near you.

Roommate _____

Assign single room** _____ Assign a roommate** _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Telephone: _____

Please send a photocopy of the picture page of your passport to the ACTS Office with your registration form. Note: All correspondence (including airline tickets) will be sent by Email. Please print clearly.

E-Mail: _____

For Office Use:

Dep & Check #: _____ Date Recvd: _____

AGREEMENT: Registration constitutes acceptance of this agreement by the passengers.

PAYMENT: A \$500 per person deposit is required for registration. Full payment is due 130 days before departure. Full payment must accompany registrations inside 130 days of departure. Registrations made less than 35 days before departure require a \$75 Late Registration Fee. Late payments will be charged a \$50 late fee. In an effort to maintain lower costs credit cards are not accepted. Canceled checks serve as receipt of payment. Travel Insurance is recommended and information will be provided upon registration. ACTS reserves the right to add a surcharge if the dollar declines by more than 5% against the Euro based on foreign exchange rates in effect on 08/21.

AIRLINES: Air transportation will be provided using economy class aboard IAATA and ARC carriers with APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, unchangeable tickets for groups of 10 or more with the same itinerary. Flight times are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. Alpha Christian TourS, Inc. accepts no responsibility for airline delays and will not reimburse any expenses caused by such delays. Airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded after purchased.

*** NOT INCLUDED IN THE BASIC PRICE:** Love Offering for the Drivers/Guides (40-50 Euros suggested), any Airline baggage charges (50 lb. limit), lunches, beverages at meals, laundry, passports, COVID-19 related tests and requirements and personal items are not included. ACTS reserves the right to add imposed fuel surcharges.

****ACCOMMODATIONS:** Hotel rooms are based upon double occupancy. ACTS will provide single rooms at an additional charge of \$150 per night if available. Upon request, ACTS will attempt to assign (but cannot guarantee) a roommate. There are a limited number of single rooms available at this price. If itinerary changes necessitate extra nights there will be an additional charge (Single ~ \$200, Double ~ \$150). Single rooms are often smaller than double rooms.

CANCELLATION FEES: 100% of tour cost is refundable by the Optional Travel Insurance Program, provided the premium has been paid and the reason for cancellation is insurable. Non-refundable airline tickets and cancellations which force your roommate into a single room will be assessed as additional cancellation fees. The following cancellation fees apply to those who do not take Travel Insurance. Up to 130 days before departure ~ \$100. 129 - 91 days ~ \$500. 90 - 46 days ~ 50% of total trip cost. 45 days to departure ~ 100% trip cost. No refund for any service not used. Travel Insurance is recommended.

FIT FOR TRAVEL: Most foreign countries do not conform to the USA Disabilities Act standard. Passengers registering for the trip accept responsibility for being in good health and able to walk on the tour. Many of the sites are not accessible to the physically challenged, who may find the tour limiting in their experiences. ACTS assumes no responsibility for a passenger's inability to fully participate in the tour.

DEVIATIONS: Deviations must be submitted in writing and are subject to a \$150.00/person assessment fee. Transfers for deviating passengers are not included.

NOTICE: Except where otherwise stated ACTS works only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall ACTS be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. ACTS assumes no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers of service. ACTS does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Similarly without limiting the foregoing, passenger agrees to hold ACTS harmless for any defect in any vehicle, plane, boat, bus, car, van or other vehicle, act of war or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, strikes or labor unrest or any Act of God or for any other act of any third party. North Carolina law will be applicable to any dispute which arises out of or concerns this brochure or your tour.

For information or questions contact:

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