



# HOLY SPIRIT IRISH PILGRIMAGE

*with* **Monsignor Edward Dillon**  
*and* **Harry O'Donoghue**

**JULY 3-12, 2017**

**\$2,589.00** per person sharing (land only)

**C**ome and enjoy the beauty and splendor of Ireland with Monsignor Edward Dillon and Harry O'Donoghue as they embark on their very first Irish Pilgrimage. Our journey will take us from Dublin, Ireland's Capital, to the vibrant University City of Galway and on to Westport and Donegal in the rugged northwest. We'll tour monastic sites, historic castles and ancient ruins while absorbing the beauty of the Irish countryside. Along the way we'll visit Galway, Cong, Westport, Knock, Sligo, Donegal, and Trim, as well as quaint Irish market towns and villages. Monsignor Dillon will offer daily mass and Harry will regale us with some lively evening sing-alongs. We'll attend a Traditional Irish House Party in Dublin, see Clonmacnoise, a large monastic ruins overlooking the Shannon river, stop by a working sheep farm, visit the splendid Norman Castle at Trim and enjoy an easy pace and full sightseeing itinerary. We'll stay at finely appointed Irish hotels, including the 5 star Lough Eske Castle Hotel, voted best hotel in Ireland by Conde Naste Traveler readers.

## **PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

**Deposit: \$589.00 per person**

Full or partial payments accepted on our 'keep it easy' plan. Call for details.

**Final payment due by April 4, 2017**

*Tour price based on double occupancy*

For questions or information contact:

Harry: 912.398.2276 or Traci: 912.220.9101

hodmusic@aol.com | Reservation forms available at [harrydonoghue.com](http://harrydonoghue.com)

## **TOUR INCLUDES**

Exclusive transport by luxury motor coach with Owen, our driver/guide

Seven nights in luxury four star Irish Hotels.

Two nights in the five star Lough Eske Castle Hotel

Full Irish breakfast daily

Table d'hôte dinners (6)

Dublin House party with dinner and entertainment.

Visits and admission fees to:

St. Patrick's Cathedral, Clonmacnoise, Galway Cathedral, Kilmacduagh, Ardbaun Sheep Farm w/ tea and scones, Holy Shrine at Knock, Drumcliff Churchyard, Slieve League Cliffs, Triona Design, Lough Erne cruise with lunch, Trim Castle, Mellifont Abbey, Hill of Slane

Hotel portorage, service charges and government taxes.

Gratuities to driver/guide.

Complimentary O'Donoghue flight bag.

## **NOT INCLUDED:**

**Airfare** (Tour begins and ends at Dublin Airport. Starting date July 3. Ending Date July 12.)

Travel Insurance (Highly Recommended)

Single Supplement (Limited) \$625.00

**HARRYDONOGHUE.COM**

# Holy Spirit Irish Pilgrimage Itinerary

**JULY 3.** A warm Irish 'hello' awaits you as our adventure begins in the lobby of The Camden Court Hotel in Dublin City at 2.00PM. The distance from Dublin airport is 12 kilometers and is easily accessible by taxi or 16A bus, however we do offer one transfer from Dublin airport to our hotel at 12.00PM. After check in we'll introduce ourselves and then embark on a coach tour of Dublin. Our driver/guide Owen Mohan will point out some of Dublin's famous landmarks before we visit St. Patrick's Cathedral. Built between 1220 and 1260, St Patrick's is one of the few remaining Medieval Dublin buildings and is the largest Cathedral in Ireland. Author Jonathan Swift of Gulliver's Travels fame was Dean here in the 1700's and is one of many buried on site. After our visit we'll have some free time before our evening dinner and entertainment at the Irish House Party.

**Camden Court Hotel (B)**

**JULY 4.** Today begins with a hearty Irish breakfast after which we set off to Clonmacnoise, an early Christian site founded by St.Ciarán in the mid-6th century on the eastern bank of the River Shannon, and perhaps a suitable spot for Monsignor Dillon to say mass. The site includes the ruins of a cathedral, seven churches (10th - 13th century), two round towers, three high crosses and the largest collection of early Christian grave slabs in Western Europe. Afterward we'll stop in Ballinasloe for a stretch of the legs and perhaps some lunch. Then it's on to Galway, City of the Tribes. We'll have a quick tour around town, and visit Galway Cathedral, situated on the banks of the Corrib River. The Cathedral is the most recently built of Europe's stone Cathedrals; construction began in 1958 on the site of the old city prison. Dinner will be in our hotel tonight followed by a performance by Harry, with a nod to July 4th celebrations back in the States.

**Salthill Hotel (D,B)**

**JULY 5.** After breakfast this morning we leave to visit the monastic ruins of Kilmacduagh, near Gort in County Galway. Founded by St. Coleman in the 7th Century. The site features several churches and the tallest Round Tower in Ireland (the tower has a noticeable lean). We then head off to Rathbaun Farm, a working sheep farm just north of Slieve Aughty. People have been engaged in sheep farming in this area for centuries and here we'll enjoy fresh baked scones and tea, a tour of the farm, and see a working sheepdog demonstration. After our visit we'll drive back to Galway to allow time to explore this University City and tonight is free to enjoy dinner in one of the many music pubs and fine restaurants on offer.

**Salthill Hotel (D,B)**

**JULY 6.** This morning after breakfast we head north towards Westport in County Mayo. Our journey will take us over some of Ireland's most rugged landscape to the quaint village of Cong, location of the famous 1950's movie, The Quiet Man, starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. Here we'll have time to browse, enjoy a bite to eat or perhaps visit the Royal Augustinian Abbey of Cong. Built in the 12th century the abbey boasts some of the finest examples of early architecture in Ireland. We will continue on then to the lovely town of Westport, overlooking Clew Bay, Clare Island and the wild Atlantic Ocean. Westport is a bustling town filled with coffee shops, pubs and restaurants and is popular with both locals and tourists. Our hotel sits in the centre of town. We will dine in our hotel this evening followed by a get together and perhaps a few songs.

**Westport Plaza Hotel (D,B)**

**JULY 7.** Today is a free day. You may choose to enjoy a spa day at the hotel or wander around town for some exploration. Golf or horse riding can be arranged and for the brave of heart a hike up Croagh Patrick, Ireland's Holy Mountain may be in order. For those who want to join us our coach will depart at 1.30PM (returning shortly after 5.00PM) for a scenic drive to Achill Island, the largest island off the coast of Ireland and hereditary home to the O'Malley's. On a fair day this part of the world is stunning and we'll travel to the dramatic Keel Beach, (weather permitting) the most westerly beach in Mayo. Tonight is also free to enjoy dinner in one of the town's fine restaurants or music pubs.

**Westport Plaza Hotel (B)**

**JULY 8.** This morning after another full Irish breakfast we'll leave Westport and drive to the Holy Shrine at Knock where in 1879 fifteen villagers witnessed the apparition of Our Lady, St. Joseph, St. John the Evangelist, a cross and a lamb, on an altar at the gable wall of the parish church. We will participate in the celebration of mass here like millions of pilgrims before us. Our journey continues to Sligo town, a coastal seaport and capitol of the Northwest, which sits in the shadow of Benbulbin, Ireland's only tabletop mountain. As we leave town we will stop to visit the grave of William Butler Yeats, Ireland's National Poet. He is buried in the churchyard at Drumcliff. Our scenic drive continues to our hotel just outside of Donegal town. The Lough Eske Castle Hotel was voted best in Ireland by Conde Naste Traveler readers in 2015. We will dine in the beautiful hotel restaurant this evening, followed by a performance by Harry.

**Lough Eske Castle Hotel (D,B)**

**JULY 9.** This morning after an amazing Irish breakfast we head west out along the scenic coastal road, through Killybegs, Ireland's premier commercial fishing port, usually filled with foreign fishing vessels. We then travel to the stunning Slieve League Cliffs, the highest marine cliffs in Europe. Here we'll see the rare flora and fauna that inhabit this unspoiled landscape. After our visit to the cliffs we'll drive to the small town of Ardara where we'll visit Triona Design, a small family run business dedicated to keeping the Donegal Tweed tradition alive. If time allows we'll stop in Donegal town, a lively market town and seat of the O'Donnell's until the 17th century. We'll dine once again tonight in our hotel, followed by a get together to trade stories and songs.

**Lough Eske Castle Hotel (D,B)**

**JULY 10.** We bid farewell to Donegal this morning after breakfast for a scenic cruise on Lough Erne in County Fermanagh, complete with tea and scones. Then it's on in a south eastern direction towards Trim in County Meath. Along the way we'll stop for lunch and enjoy a tour of Trim Castle upon arrival. The castle is a fine example of a Norman castle and is the largest in Ireland. Hugh De Lacy began construction in 1192 and work would continue for thirty years. Major scenes in the movie Braveheart were shot here. Our hotel sits directly across from the castle and we'll dine in the hotel restaurant this evening.

**Trim Castle Hotel (D,B)**

**JULY 11.** After another hearty Irish breakfast we depart this morning for a tour of Mellifont Abbey in the Boyne Valley. Mellifont was the first Cistercian Monastery in Ireland, founded in 1142 by St Malachy of Armagh. Its most unusual feature is the octagonal Lavabo. The Visitor Centre houses an interesting exhibition on the work of masons in the middle ages with fine examples of their craft on display. Perhaps Monsignor Dillon will celebrate mass in this stunning location. Afterwards we will journey to the small village of Slane for a visit to Slane Castle, home to the Mountcharles family. We'll enjoy a tour of this still lived in home and perhaps enjoy lunch in the small coffee shop. Then it's up to the Hill of Slane for our last visit on the Island of Saints and Scholars. It was on this site in 432 AD that St. Patrick lit the fire of Christianity in Ireland and it's a beautiful setting on a clear day. We will arrive back at our hotel with plenty of time to relax and pack. Dinner is again in our hotel this evening followed by a song of parting.

**Trim Castle Hotel (D,B)**

**JULY 12.** All too soon our adventure in Ireland has come to an end. This morning we transfer to Dublin Airport with plenty of time for check in, security clearance, claiming your VAT refund and any last minute shopping at the Shannon Duty Free Shops. Full United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) pre-clearance formalities are conducted before departure. For those who plan to stay on for a few days, rental cars and shuttle coaches are available at Dublin Airport.