

# Join Father Steven Walker on a pilgrimage through Ireland - August 3 - 14, 2018 -



- Daily Mass in the Beautiful Churches of Ireland
- Beautiful Four Star Hotels in *Galway, Killarney and Dublin*
- Private Motor-Coach, Private Guides & Authentic Irish Fare

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Galway City • Knock • Croagh Patrick • The Cliffs of Moher  
Killarney • Skellig Michael • Blarney Castle  
The Rock of Cashel • Glendalough • Dublin • Hill of Tara

*With an optional four-day prelude to St. Patrick's Purgatory*

## About ProRome, your Pilgrimage Operator

*ProRome was born in 2014. Our goal is to enrich those who travel with us.*

*Our tours are unique! Four star hotels, private tours, history lectures, daily Mass, great food, wine and good company are just the beginning.*

*Our trips are unparalleled in personality and filled with charm all the way through.*



## ITINERARY BEGINS

### Friday, August 3

Today our flight Aer Lingus HS 20 departs from Washington Dulles at 5:15 PM.

### Saturday, August 4

Our plane touches down in Dublin at 5:15 AM. Fáilte go hÉireann! Welcome to Ireland! After collecting our bags we'll be greeted by our tour director Joe Long and then board a private motor-coach for Galway. First stop? An Irish pub for a hearty Irish breakfast and a Guinness. We're then off to Clonmacnoise, one of Ireland's most important monastic sites. In a stunning setting, 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.

After visiting this ancient monastery we're off to our Galway hotel, the lovely four-star Park House Hotel and Restaurant. Here we'll meet the rest of the group and enjoy a wonderful welcome dinner together.



### Sunday, August 5

After breakfast we'll board the bus and depart for Croagh Patrick. Nearly fifteen-hundred years ago St. Patrick climbed this very mountain, fasting for forty days and forty nights. He did so in order to be *more like Christ*. Ever since St. Patrick's time the tradition of climbing Croagh Patrick has been continued, handed down from generation to generation. Today, we will become a part of that great living tradition.

Before embarking on this 2500-foot climb Father will celebrate Mass for us at a nearby chapel. Asking God for the grace of holy perseverance we will then start the hike. After prayer and relaxation at the top we then head back down the mountain, board the bus and return home. A full dinner is in order for us at the hotel, and then, for those of us who can manage, a pint at the pub!

### Monday, August 6

Today we will visit Knock and the shrine situated in the plains of East Mayo, which is one of the world's leading Marian shrines. On August 21, 1879 fifteen men, women and children witnessed an Apparition of Mary. Ever since this event millions of pilgrims have visited Knock, Pope St. John Paul II among them! On the way home we will enjoy a cruise on Corrib Lake, the largest lake in the Republic of Ireland. It is also the best way to see Galway and its surroundings. After the cruise we're back to the hotel for dinner and bed.

### Tuesday, August 7

Today we will enjoy a walking tour of Galway city. First we will visit Galway Cathedral, the largest Catholic church in Galway. The cathedral is located on Nun's Island, on the west bank of the River Corrib near Salmon Weir Bridge. It was the last large church in Ireland to be made from stone, and features a huge octagonal dome that complements the skyline of the City of Galway.

After Mass at the Cathedral we'll then visit the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas of Myra. A place of great importance in Gaelic history this church dates back to the 14th century. There is a legend that says that Christopher Columbus himself worshiped here while sojourning in Galway. Interestingly enough, the patron of this church (Nicholas of Myra) is the also the patron saint of seafarers.

We'll then continue our walking tour of Galway city, visiting some of its most beautiful and important sites. Tonight is a free evening - feel free to join us at the pub, go shopping or head home back to the hotel to catch up on sleep.





*To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history.*

*To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe.*

- Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

## Wednesday, August 8

Today we depart for Killarney. On the way there we will stop for a few hours at one of Ireland's most spectacular sites, the Cliffs of Moher.

Jutting some 700 feet out of the frigid North Atlantic the Cliffs of Moher are nearly 6 miles long and offer some of the finest views in all of Ireland. On a clear day one can see the Aran Islands as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara far across Galway bay. We'll then continue on to Killarney, our home in southwestern Ireland. After checking in at the four-star Lake Hotel, situated right on the lake, we'll then head over to St. Mary's Cathedral for Mass. Following Mass we'll rendezvous at the hotel for dinner.



## Thursday, August 9

Today we will enjoy a motor-coach tour of the Ring of Kerry, the most famous route in all of Ireland. The great beauty of this hidden corner of Ireland will astonish you!

Nearing lunch time we'll make our way to the Portmagee marina. As we enjoy our lunch we'll gaze out over the water towards a great island of stone that seems to be reaching out for heaven itself: Skellig Michael.

Skellig Michael's sacred history dates back nearly fifteen-hundred years. Following St. Patrick's great missionary work in Ireland many men responded to God's call to holiness. One of these men was named Fionan. One day Fionan decided to make this island of rock, which lay 8 miles off of the sturdy shore of Ireland, his home. Many men followed him and their ancient settlement, built completely out of stone, can still be seen today. Our boat tour will circumnavigate Skellig Michael, allowing us to experience the wild and wonderful nature of this island - without the climb. After this little adventure we're back on firm land and headed home to Killarney for dinner.

## Friday, August 10

After morning breakfast and Mass we will depart for Cork county to visit Blarney Castle, the ancient stronghold of the McCarthy's, the Lords of Muskerry. It is one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles, and indeed one of the strongest fortresses in Munster. Built in 1446, Blarney Castle is famous for its Blarney stone or the Stone of Eloquence, which is traditionally believed to have the power to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who kiss it. We'll then continue to Blarney Woollen Mills which houses a large selection of Irish products. Here we will enjoy lunch and some free time. After that we'll head back home for a free evening in Killarney.

## Saturday, August 11

Today we bid farewell to Killarney and make our way east towards Dublin, stopping at one of Ireland's most important historic sites, the Rock of Cashel.

The Rock of Cashel towers over the town of Cashel from its perch on a 200-foot high outcrop of limestone. Once the seat of the Kings of Munster, St. Patrick visited the rock in 450 AD and Brian Boru was crowned the first high King of Ireland here in the tenth century. We'll tour this great site and then board the bus again for Glendalough.

Glendalough is home to one of the most important monastic sites in Ireland. This early Christian monastic settlement was founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century and from this developed the 'Monastic City'. Here we will celebrate holy Mass and then board the bus again and depart for our final stop: Dublin. Our hotel in Dublin is the brand-new four-star Iveagh Gardens hotel.

## Sunday, August 12

Today we will explore Dublin. Our day begins with Mass and a tour in St. Patrick's Cathedral. We will then visit the most beautiful and important sites of the city, including Trinity College (and the Book of Kells), St. Mary's Pro, the General Post Office, St. Stephen's Green, Grafton Street, Dublin castle and more. And of course, we'll enjoy some Irish whiskey along the way. Tonight we're all on our own for dinner!

## Monday, August 13

Today is a free day in Dublin. An optional trip to the Hill of Tara will depart the hotel at 9:00 AM and return for lunch. A final farewell dinner will take place at 7:00 PM at the hotel.

## Tuesday, August 14

Our Aer Lingus flight HS 30 departs Dublin at 12:30 PM arriving home in Washington at 3:35 PM. Welcome home!

# PILGRIMAGE THROUGH IRELAND

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\$3595.00/ person INCLUDES ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE

- *Single Room Surcharge* - \$495.00

- Flying on your own? Save \$1000.00!

## PRICE INCLUDES

- Round-trip (direct flights both ways) airfare economy class from Washington Dulles to Dublin.
- All airport taxes and fuel surcharges.
- Four nights accommodation (Double Standard Room) at four-star hotel in Galway.
- Three nights accommodation (Double Standard Room) at four-star hotel in Killarney.
- Three nights accommodation (Double Standard Room) at four-star hotel in Dublin.
- Private motor-coach transportation daily.
- Daily Mass and spiritual direction.
- ProRome tour director services throughout the trip.
- Private tour guides throughout the trip.
- Tours and all entry-ticket prices.
- Daily breakfast.
- 6 Dinners (excluding beverages).

## PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Trip Insurance (Available for purchase through ProRome).
- Daily lunch and three dinners.
- Beverages at dinner.
- Hotel Extras: Porterage, Room Service, Mini Fridge Items, Laundry, Telephone, all other extras

## HOW TO SIGN UP

Request a registration form from the parish office OR directly from ProRome and send it to ProRome (checks can be made out to "ProRome") along with a \$295.00 deposit.

ProRome, LLC  
316 North New St.  
Staunton, VA 24401

Have additional questions? Contact the tour director Joe Long:

*jlong@prorome.com*  
*(570) 309 1346*

[www.prorome.com](http://www.prorome.com)

# Optional Pilgrimage Prelude

Join Father Walker on an ancient pilgrimage to St. Patrick's Purgatory

- July 31 - August 4, 2018 -



For three days we will fast, pray and go barefoot on this little island, emptying ourselves of all worldly care, opening ourselves completely to God. This tradition dates back to St. Patrick himself, who is said to have been granted a vision of Heaven, Hell and Purgatory inside a cave on this very island. Following this experience St. Patrick took up with renewed zeal his mission to convert every single soul on the Emerald Isle. Ever since then pilgrims have entered this island in order to renew themselves from within, renewing their baptismal vows and rededicating their lives to God. There is now a great church that stands over the cave and it is there that we will pray and receive the sacraments. After three days we will make our way to Galway and enjoy a rest day before the rest of the group arrives.

*The total cost of this excursion, per person, is \$579.00. This includes one night at a hotel near St. Patrick's Purgatory, two nights at St. Patrick's Purgatory, private transportation to and from St. Patrick's Purgatory, one night in the hotel in Galway and all meals.*

**\*Pilgrims must be a least 15 years old, physically fit, able to kneel unaided and free from any illness aggravated by fasting. Only one meal will be served each day. Men and women's sleeping quarters are separate.**