

CHRIST BESIDE ME

Team: St. Martins & St. Timothy's
Dates: July 20-26

Location: Ireland
Director: Michael Fleming

Day 1 - Cead Mile Failte (Friday, July 20)

After months of waiting and anticipation you have landed in Dublin, capital of the Emerald Isle. Your excitement will only grow as you head south on your way to your Irish home. On our journey we'll have to do a bit of monastery raiding to prepare you for the week. You will be staying at the gorgeous Leinster Way Holiday Hostel. Once the crossing point for the River Suir, this 400 -year-old converted farm is a taste of the real Ireland that you will never forget. A relaxing afternoon and an orientation over tea and biscuits will allow you to rest and prepare for the week. Evenings will typically end with Celtic-themed prayer. Your Wonder Voyage begins...

Day 2 - Typical Irish (Saturday, July 21)

A Wonder Voyage is an Irish term that describes a wondrous spiritual journey into unknown lands. But you can't start a grand adventure until you have had a grand Irish breakfast. We will visit the typical Irish town of New Ross for a bit of open exploration and a chance to stretch our legs. Walking is a very Irish way of life. In the afternoon, we visit the magical town of Inistioge which sits on the River Nore. Grand vistas, English gardens, and cool walks will accentuate our time. Our evenings will allow us to reflect back on the day.

Day 3 - Sabbath (Sunday, July 22)

This Sabbath will be spent experiencing a Eucharist service at Christ Church Cathedral, an Anglican church whose building dates from 1050. The afternoon will allow each pilgrim to wander the streets of Waterford for open-ended exploration and a special celebration meal will be presented in high Irish form. We then come back to our second night of Stone Soup and a relaxing afternoon at our Irish home.

Day 4 - A Walk Through History (Monday, July 23)

Traveling through time is on the agenda today as we visit the tiny community of St. Mullins, where a few small acres holds thousands of years of Irish history. We will learn the story of how Christianity came to Ireland through St. Patrick. We then head out for a long walk along the Barrow River to the hamlet of Graigneumanagh, where a visit to the church will brighten our souls. The evening will be an interesting mixture of hearty conversation and Stone Soup.

Day 5 - Mountains (Tuesday, July 24)

Nature will fill today's plans. First we head to the hidden glacial valley of Coomshannon. Trust us, nobody knows about this place except for the locals. If we have time we will visit the 700-foot Mahon Falls. Do you dare to swim in an icy swimming hole or climb the falls? The views from the top are outstanding. Tired, and well-worn we head to an evening meal out.



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Day 6 - Sea (Wednesday, July 25)

You cannot visit Ireland without a trip to the Irish Sea. This day will be about beach exploration, breathtaking coastal views, lighthouses and maybe even a pirate island or two. How about a coastal walk and waves galore? Of course, this afternoon we'll have to pack up for our trip back to Dublin, but a Celebration Meal and Pass the Candle will remind us of how Ireland has welcomed and transformed us.

Day 7 - Until Next Time (Thursday, July 26)

We have had a fantastic week but we leave Ireland knowing Cead Mile Failte is not a myth. All we can do now is wait for the next Irish adventure that we are already planning in our hearts. May this be just the beginning of another grand pilgrimage.

A little about those leading your trip: Michael Fleming

Michael has been in ministry for over fifteen years. He took one of the first-ever Wonder Voyage trips to New Orleans and to Ireland ten years ago. Since then, he's been hooked, serving with Wonder Voyage in several different capacities. Michael, and his wife Angie pastor a church in East Texas. They and their two boys love the outdoors, sports, traveling, and making family memories.



Where you'll be staying: Leinster Way Holiday Hostel

Built over 300 years ago, overlooking the River Barrow, it's here that counties Wexford and Kilkenny meet. The house, barn, and stables were restored in 1992. The result is an attractive open plan facility, surrounded by beautiful gardens, providing comfortable accommodations.

Contact for families:

Please contact Rev. Earle King of St. Martin's or Pamela Filbert of St. Timothy's if you need to get a hold of your family member in Ireland. They can contact the Wonder Voyage office in case of an emergency. Please speak to them if you have any other questions about contacting your family member during the trip.



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