

St. Joseph's Pilgrims – 2012

Youth Pilgrimage to Scotland





July 12

Packing Day

By Father Marty

Twas the night before leaving and all through the houses
All pilgrims are typing and clicking their mouses
Last checks on facebook and emails and such
Tomorrow for 16 days no technology we touch.
The clothes are all nestled and snugly fit in one satchel
In hopes that we don't forget anything essential.

July 13

Departure Day



The bags were all ready and packed in the vans
Then for our prayer circle to the church we ran
Our first pilgrimage angel was Kathy at US Air
She treat us royally with compassion and care.
Then off through security with time left for some lunch
A smooth flight to Philly with our seats all in one bunch.
We're now boarding for Glasgow, a 7-hour overnight flight.
This routing sure has been easy, but these seats are too tight.



July 14

Arrival into Glasgow/Edinburgh Castle/Inchcolm Abbey



An early arrival for all us — and all our bags — was the best but the spilled pancake syrup in one bag sure made a mess. In the arrivals hall we soon met Ian who drives our bus after his wonderful time in 2011, he said he's glad to be back with us. Then another familiar face to pilgrims who've come before. Karen McCormack met us at the Castle for her wonderful tour. Inside tiny St. Margaret's Chapel at the top of the castle The group kept the tradition and sang a hymn without hassle After a stop to change money, the group was off to Inchcolm by boat The group was tired and hungry — glad we didn't put it to a vote.

But some sandwiches and fresh air, and some seals and even a puffin
on the sail to the Abbey woke them up once again.
Maggie gave her report on the Abbey telling all that she knows
The seagulls voiced their approval and later anointed her clothes.
A meditation exercise in the warming room we hummed
which showed how our individual uniqueness was welcomed.
A welcome surprise was the clouds clearing for the sun
in time for some free time and exploring the abbey fun.
But the nesting mother seagulls caused a little chagrin
they like to divebomb us (you don't believe me? – ask Corinne.)
We finished the long day together with a nice little dinner
And the surprise birthday cake for Carrie sure was a winner.
From the sharing of the pilgrims, Inchcolm clearly they liked best,
The unanimous low point? – we all need some rest.
So after being up for almost thirty-six hours straight.
We sent everyone to bed and said, "don't stay up late!"

3 Responses to July 14 – Arrival into Glasgow/Edinburgh Castle/Inchcolm Abbey

July 15 – Sunday

Rosslyn Chapel & Edinburgh



Our friends at Knight Residence provided to each suite
A gift basket with goodies for a continental breakfast complete
Then led by Ian and Karen, a scenic bus ride we did take
Out to Rosslyn Chapel with the youth more awake.
For the first time in history our pilgrims on a Sunday were there.
So we joined the parish of St. Matthew's for communion and prayer.
Fr. Joe is the priest there and he asked Fr. Marty to preach
He preached on the plumb line within all of our reach.
The importance of pillars — like those that hold up Rosslyn's splendor
When they're no longer straight, it could be a game ender.
Whether pillar or plumb line, the parish ministry at Rosslyn has meaning
Pointing pilgrims to Christ (and not just a Hollywood screening).
St. Joe's old friend Fiona showed off the new visitor's center with pride.
We applauded her work and then ate lunch inside.
Then down to Saint Giles, the Thistle Chapel we saw.
The wooden carvings displayed there left the pilgrims in awe.
We came out in the square to try and skype back to home
But the cellular bandwidth only allowed us to phone.
After greeting the congregation (sorry we messed up communion)



The youth enjoyed free time for shoppin' and tourin'.
We enjoyed Sunday dinner with aid from the female pilgrimage team
with help from Edinburgh's Costco it was an Italian feast supreme.
There was no Stramash concert this year in the town
So the organizers arranged for two musicians renowned:
Naomi and Lucy with a private concert just for us
Playing fiddle and whistle — and angelic vocals for a plus.
Not on the agenda was an unexpected treat:
Carrie waltzing with Andrew (wearing kilt and Scottish costume complete).

We are traveling all day tomorrow from Edinburgh to Oban to Mull to Iona, so there will
be no update until Tuesday. If you wish to experience Naomi and Lucy's music, go to
myspace.com/lurash.





4 Responses to *July 15 – Sunday – Rosslyn Chapel & Edinburgh*

July 16

Transfer Day – Edinburgh to Oban to Craignure to Fionnphort to Iona...to Bed



With all suitcases packed from Knight Residence Suites
We boarded the bus for the "great pilgrim's feat":
To travel from Edinburgh to Oban and next,
To leave the cashier at the Tesco perplexed,
to see us approach with a shopping cart train
"5 days /16 people on Iona," we'd explain.
Then on to the ferry — a difficult test
with all of that luggage and on very little rest.
But the pilgrimage Spirit created a positive quirk:
the gangway at our destination Craignure didn't work.
This led to a wonderful solution most unplanned:
all bags collected before boarding, we walked on empty-handed!
A luggage van was loaded at the side of the dock
and all the walk-on passengers then used the skywalk.
The van then drove onto the car-carrying ferry
The task was complete with no hurry or hurray.
And then even better when we arrived at Craignure
The process moved towards a conclusion secure:
The luggage van dropped every suitcase and duffel
right next to the bus we'd embark to cross Mull.
Fr. Marty and Charles drove the extra minivan
ahead of the group as we had pre-planned.
They were waiting for us when we arrived at Fionnphort
with the additional groceries ready to transport.
Then with teamwork we pushed all the luggage on board
a sunny ferry ride to Iona would be our reward.

We stepped onto Iona with a welcome site to see
Our friends John from the Hostel and Lindsey with Iona's only taxi.
A trailer and hitch attached to each of their cars
ensured that our walk to the hostel wouldn't seem far.
All arrived at the hostel at just about eight
In organizing the groceries all saw what feasts we'd await.
The sun here in summer doesn't set till eleven.
So the pilgrims went down to see a bit of Iona's heaven:
the beach that is just a short walk from our place
They all spent some meditative time in this space.
Followed by Dinner at 9:30, Compline prayer at 11
such late night activities made us feel European.



All in all, of all pilgrimages, this transfer day was the best.
with our planning from past experiences, these pilgrims are reaping the harvest.
Not to mention the intervention of the Holy Spirit in our midst
giving comfort and support — even a "baggage miracle" to assist.

Tuesday – July 17

Iona



After such a long day we let everyone rest
On Tuesday we'd put sous chef skills to the test
The blueberry pancakes from Andrew and Jerry and Matt
were so good that to them we all tipped our hat.
Senors Bill and Zachary and Chelsea the Senorita
Did Mexican fiesta with taco and fajita.
And then for our dinner Becca handled the rice
While Madison and Corinne made the bruschetta look nice.
And Maggie and Rocco came outside and saved the day
to keep the steak and eggplant from burning away.
For the weather had turned very rainy and windy
and once lit, the outdoor grills had fire like crazy.
Debra and Charles and Sherry and Carrie
pitched in to make all our burdens easy to carry.
And so we don't give you improper impressions:
We had spiritual activities in between culinary digressions.
In the morning, reflections about personal mountaintops
Then a silent hike up Iona's hill and a stop
where we prayed for each pilgrim drawn into the huddle
and walking back down many stepped in deep puddles
of water and mud that the rain had provided
Most everyone was wet when the activity subsided.
We debriefed together and all were impressed
our silent meditative hike was a great big success.
The afternoon was free for the youth to go wander
so many thin places on Iona to discover.
After dinner we went to the abbey for prayer.
we joined the community for a healing service there.
A moving display that filled us with cheer:
the full participation of everyone here.
The soloist led us in an "Amazing Grace" finish
with the Abbey's acoustics, 'twas a moment we'll cherish.

With wind and the rain blowing cold on our backs
We walked back to the hostel reversing our tracks.
We shared in a circle the highlights of the day.
some Cadberry's hot chocolate, then some late night card play.



2 Responses to *Tuesday – July 17 Iona*

Wednesday – July 18

Iona



The beautiful sunshine that was here when we came
Disappeared then on Tuesday – and today was the same.
The rain and the wind forced us to stay inside dry
with some creative spiritual exercises — a “rule of St. Joseph’s” we tried.



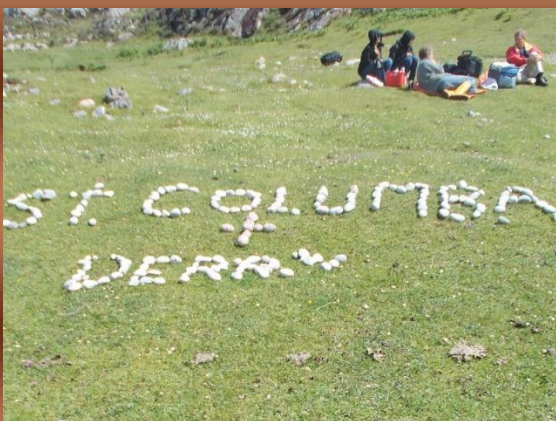
A free afternoon gave us all a new chance
To catch up on sleep or explore Iona’s expanse
The external rain couldn’t dampen our spirit
Free time on Iona seems everyone’s favorite.
Then late after ten we snuck down to St. Oran’s
amidst all the graves of kings local and foreign
In candlelit shadows we shared things inside us
The sharing displayed that struggles should never divide us.



Thursday – July 19

Iona (Columba's Bay)

We waited till Thursday because of the weather
for the sail and the hike to Columba's bay together
With Mark as the captain the first half of the team
sailed on through the wind, rain, and cold so extreme.
While the other half started their hike in the rain
Though we all were quite miserable not a person complained.
We met at the Bay where Columba did land
in 563 with the monks in his band
And then quite a miracle as soon as we started
The bright sun appeared as the rain clouds departed.
A more perfect scene God has never created.
A rainbow of colors once rain and clouds abated.
For everyone's burden, a round stone we found
At labyrinth's center we laid them all down.
Then after a hymn we sat down for some lunch
You had to be careful (the sheep poop a bunch).
With weather so perfect for our adventurous pilgrims
We gave them some time to explore this new kingdom.
Then half of the group who had walked to the bay
Now boarded Mark's boat and then sailed on away.
The other half started the hike to the town
We assured them if lost we'd make sure they'd be found.
The weather stayed nice so a post-dinner walk
brought us to the beach for some prayer and talk.
We all had seen God in a plethora of ways
we celebrated blowing "prayer bubbles," then ended our day.



Friday – July 20

Iona

God smiled on us Friday and so did the sun
We arrived at the abbey before the tour was begun
The youth were attentive to learn of its history
We later sat on the grass unravelling Psalm 23's mystery.
Each wrote their own version as Fr.Marty read it
We added our personal stories then to our partner we said it.
A last afternoon full of discovery fun
Iona's now a thin place for each and everyone.
We prepared for the feast honoring our hosts and our guests
and in St. Joseph's fashion, everyone did their best:
One team made the brownies, another collected wild flowers
and some sliced and diced for what seemed hours and hours.
At 7 o'clock when pilgrims and guests were all here
We gathered and prayed, adding in a verbal cheer
for all that these servants do for us every year
bringing back into focus just why we are here.
To help out each other however we can
To "wash each other's feet" as was Jesus' command.
So we sat down at table to talk and to eat
Stretched from kitchen sink to sofa, we all had a seat.
There was eggplant parmesana, and chicken as well,
and the pecan crusted salmon came out just swell.
The vegetarians also had their own special treat
Carta di musica, mixed salad and grilled vegetables to eat.
And a pilgrimage first, a new delicacy appeared:
Fr. Marty's slow-roasted venison (yes that's deer.)
And to top it all off there was ice cream and brownies
they were better than "cosmic," I think all would agree.
The evening was topped by our wonderful guests
Who all came attired in their Florida best.
The hostel's owner John who's become a good friend,
remembered the poem he traditionally reads at the end.
Instead of just reading, he gave us the work
Hand-Calligraphied by him, the crowd went berserk.
How personal, how special, sixty hours to create,
To bring home and show you we all cannot wait.





On Saturday, we travel from Iona to Mull to Oban to Stirling Castle, to Edinburgh for dinner, and finally to Lindisfarne by 10pm. We also have the all day trip on Sunday to do the bicycle pilgrimage from Jarrow to Monkswearmouth (abbeys of the Venerable Bede). Thus, our next communication with y'all will be the skype or phone call during the 9:30am service on Sunday. Love to all from all. Everyone is doing well...a little sad to leave Iona as all groups are.

Saturday – July 21

Iona to Lindisfarne

Aidan and his monks back in 635
Traveled the route that we'd now sail and drive:
Half-hour walk to the ferry, across then to Mull
Then back on the bus for the windy long haul
Over to Craignure to a ferry again
(a repeat of the "baggage miracle" the Spirit did send
for the gangway at Craignure was not working yet
so getting off the bus by the luggage van we were met.)
Then arriving in Oban there Ian did wait
with the coach all prepared: this all went so great!
We stopped at St. Conan's, built by a talented tradesman,
We each chose a rock of another pilgrim's burden
that we would now carry for the rest of our time.
Then on to the famous Green Welly Truck Stop to dine.
We all went through the buffet line with very much ease:
Some of the youth were excited: "They've got mac and cheese!"
We drove on to Stirling without any hassle,
met back up with Karen and then toured the Castle.
Dinner at a gourmet burger place to our hunger brought relief
(I think that each one contained a whole side of beef.)
Two more hours on to Lindisfarne, our last leg of the sojourn,
a short photo at the border, then we continued on southern.
We arrived at the cottages, and unloaded the trunk
After 16 hours of travel, we now felt like the monks.

Sunday – July 22

Iona to Jarrow and Newcastle

When living on a Holy Island that is tidal
You don't get to choose preferred departure and arrival.
You just have to "go with the flow" as they say
So we left for another journey early this day.
Two hours down to Jarrow to learn about Venerable Bede
An incredible saint (his written words are his deeds).
He wrote down the history of the early English church
and in science and astronomy did incredible research.
Picnic lunch in a park then followed just down the hill
near the monastery of St. Paul's, where our pilgrimage duty we'd fulfill.
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Guy, church wardens were our host for the day,
Some incredible wisdom about Bede they'd convey.
And was it an accident that without even knowing
Billy sat in Bede's seat? His halo soon should be glowing!
And then appropriately enough for his volunteer
Jimmy chose our musical Madi – ringing the church bells for all to hear.
And a "communion of saints" gathering next at the table:
while we gathered in St. Paul's, to talk with St. Joseph's we were able.
Then a bike trip on Bede's Way was our novel experience
from Jarrow to Monkwearmouth: a formidable distance.
Unfortunately our maps had no accurate scale,
We rode the twelve miles, but couldn't follow the trail.
Through neighborhoods, parks, and pass brooks we did ride,
Nowhere close to our destination, but still a pilgrim's joyride.
So when time had run out, and the group all had thirst,
we stopped for some water, and ended this first:
the first bicycle pilgrimage, from St. Paul's to start,
through beautiful towns and scenery; destination? Wal-Mart!
So we toasted at dinner: the gift of the pilgrimage balance:
sometimes it's not the destination, it's about the experience.
We ended our day down at Newcastle-upon-Tyne
A walk on the Millennium Bridge, then on tapas to dine.
A first for our youth, as the Spanish food they put away,
When it started out slow they asked, "where's the entree?"
But as the free flow of the delicacies did continue,
they seemed to grow comfortable with this culinary venue.
(And a special surprise for Andrew Baker when we sat:
some old friends of his mother stopped by for a chat.)
Most slept on the bus back up Lindisfarne way
completing another full pilgrimage day .

One Response to *Sunday – July 22 – Iona to Jarrow and Newcastle*

Monday – July 23

Lindisfarne

After two back-to-back days, lots of travel, little rest
a morning without agenda was the unanimous request.
We met as a family for sandwiches at 1,
then across the street to St. Cuthbert's Centre, for some Celtic drawing fun.
We learned from Mary Fleeson, the Celtic writing world's best
And as we learned, a great teacher, as all would attest.
What a special experience to have her for a private session
we walked back to the houses with our creativity refreshed.
Then after free time for exploring this quaint holy town
We met up for dinner where the food did abound.
With salmon and crab cakes, pork tenderloin cooked on the grill,
the requested mashed potatoes surely filled the bill.
Then prayers for the world the youth wrote, led by Charles Milling,
they'll leave them at the Hut tomorrow, a beach that is thrilling.
Discovered two pilgrimages ago with the help of our friend Sean,
Visitors from the whole world to this geo-site have been drawn.

One Response to *Monday – July 23 – Lindisfarne*

Tuesday – July 24

Lindisfarne

Yes, Prince Charles came to visit us in Lindisfarne. Well, okay, maybe not just us. Details will follow in my next post.... LLL Fr. Marty

3 Responses to *Tuesday – July 24 – Lindisfarne*

Tuesday – July 24

Lindisfarne

The pilgrims, all rested, got out of their beds
while visions of royalty danced in their heads.
Later today with Prince Charles they'd all be chilling
(First with Charles the British throne heir — a little later with Milling.)
Because of uncertainties about security and road closing,
We decided that today no off-island going.
We would stay and await for the Prince to come here
while the youth wrote their postcards to all we hold dear,
the stockholders, parents, and family and friends,
we wrote and we wrote until all activities suspend,
"He's leaving the castle, he's crossing the lawn,"
and so to the town square all people were drawn.
The gift of Lindisfarne's remote location,
is that not too many people knew of this occasion.
So the Prince walked right by — so close we could have touched.
But the British secret service wouldn't have liked that very much.
Because of all this ceremony, we ate our Mexican lunch quite late,
And in the afternoon, a hike to the Hut then did await.
Charles (the other one we know) led the group across the isle
To discover the remote beaches and explore for quite a while.
Then at the geo-cash site, our prayers (from last night) we left behind,
for other world travelers to come here and find.
We made our way back at everyone's leisure
Then were joined by the entire Raine family for dinner.
Teens Martha and Joel, Mom Anna, Dad Andy,
Great food and great company – the evening was dandy.
And even our coach driver Ian joined us to pray and to eat,
with him in our presence, our family was complete.
Andy and Anna finished the night off leading compline,
then the kids did some rapping, which really was something.

3 Responses to *Tuesday – July 24 – Lindisfarne*

Wednesday – July 25

The Pilgrims & the Prince

By [wadmin](#)



If you look under his right elbow, you clearly see Becca Russell!



One Response to *Wednesday – July 25 – The Pilgrims & the Prince*

Wednesday – July 25

Lindisfarne

On Wednesday our dance card turned out to be filled
Because Andy Raine with liturgical choreography is skilled
We started intending to spend just the morning,
but found the experience so totally rewarding,
That after we all took a break for some lunch,
We got back on the floor and saw this talented bunch,
Learn all the moves for a rap to Psalm 23,
then Madi and Andrew played the Holy Spirit with glee,
Dancing around every frightened disciple,
locked up inside the upper room (see John 20 in your Bible).
Andy wrote a book about how we are wired inside
Through the seven “motivations” he became our guide.
It helped us understand how we are all uniquely gifted.
Realizing different means special — our spirits were lifted.
For dinner most all ate Indian food with Naan Bread,
(Those who didn’t like curry had pasta instead.)
We processed the day as we put up our tired feet,
But all agreed the time with Andy (and daughter Martha) was really a treat.

One Response to *Wednesday – July 25, 2012 – Lindisfarne*

Thursday – July 26

Lindisfarne to Cuthbert's Cave & Pilgrim's Walk on Return

The consensus was that we're all dragging a bunch
So we let them sleep in and then gather for brunch:
a Ritz-Carlton worthy spread with all kinds of food
Eggs and crab benedict we thought would be good.
Prosciutto and melon, sausage made of mint and lamb
And if any preferred, muffins (English of course!) with jam.
A bounteous feast that was simply ethereal,
but most of the youth just went for the cereal.
This pilgrim group then had another St. Joseph's first,
a hike on a path no other St. Joe's group has traversed:
A beautiful walk to Saint Cuthbert's Cave,
where his body was hidden by monks who were brave.
We walked up the hill to pray, looking back on Holy Island
A beautiful panorama from this English highland.
On our return trip, a needed rest stop was fruitful
When Carrie opened the newspaper, there was a photograph beautiful
Of our pilgrim group waiting for the Prince to come into view,
After Carrie had shouted, we bought up more than a few.
By three the tide was about to reach its lowest,
so we commenced the Pilgrim's Walk (why is Debra always the slowest?)
We came back for dinner with Martha with us once more
she's had so much fun she wanted an encore.
But she's leaving tomorrow with mother Anna and brother Joel
One more night at least with Andy has now become our goal.

Friday – July 27

Lindisfarne Priory & Bamburgh

As past pilgrims know we have a Lindisfarne tradition
of a Eucharist at the Priory which has become quite a mission
because the English Heritage team sometimes make quite a fuss
Imagine complaining about people praying in a holy place like us.
Well, this year we solved the issue once and for all
Andy put us in touch with the mucky-mucks who make this call.
A call on the phone and they gave us permission
We entered the Priory without insult or derision.
A bright sunny morning made the setting just glorious
And with no one around, Fr. Marty felt we were victorious.
An early lunch followed with their favorite mac n' cheese
done English style — mac n' cheese *pie*, if you please.
Then off to see Bamburgh and the church where St. Aidan died,
Some wanted to come home while others visited the castle (we tried).
Then all hands on deck for our farewell to our friends
We cooked a big dinner for our perfect end.
Andy shared a Shabbat service done Christian style
It's nice to have the females lead once in a while.
Then everyone hustled to clean up each home,
and when we inspected everything was shining like chrome.
We'll leave this fair island before low tide does turn,
in the morning around eight, praying to some day return.

Saturday – July 28

Lindisfarne to Jedburgh to Dryburgh to Melrose to Glasgow

We loaded the luggage with time to spare
then stopped at the causeway, a prayer moment to share
The Iona rock each carried for another wherever we go
Now into the rising tide's water did throw.
Then off to see three Border Abbeys nearby,
in between rain showers we managed to keep dry.
First Jedburgh where Chelsea was able to report at last,
In between a stop at Scott's View for a light lunch repast.
A beautiful spot where Sir Walter Scott used to stop,
from there on to Dryburgh, just a skip and a hop.
There Billy informed us of this place's history
How you pronounce this order of monks is still quite a mystery.
And an added surprise — a wedding was taking place at this site.
They let us observe if we'd promise to be polite.
The ruins of Melrose would be our last visit
But not before tasting some ice cream exquisite.
Discovered by our first pilgrim group years ago,
It's a spot that no ice cream lover would ever veto.
When we had finished our ice cream of all sorts,
Madison gave us our final report.
We then visited Melrose for special things to view,
a pig playing bagpipes, Robert the Bruce's heart (and the loo).
We compared these three abbeys and each different way
of experiencing God — different approaches to pray.
And how we as future college students need to explore
how we can stay focused and distractions ignore
by finding the best way that each can perceive
the presence of God in our lives to receive.
We travelled to Glasgow our very last stop
Seeing the location of our hotel, all of our jaws dropped
Right in the middle of town at George Square
With a view from our banquet room beyond compare.
We ate and we laughed and we prayed on for hours
then off to our rooms (not just a bath — they have showers!)

Sunday – July 29

Glasgow to Philadelphia to West Palm Beach

There will be no update on Sunday July 29 as we will be flying over the Atlantic on our way back home. The pilgrims are scheduled to arrive at West Palm Beach airport at 8:42pm. The drivers will meet us there and proceed directly to St. Joseph's, where we will park in the circle in front of the church. We will go directly into the church, and after all families, friends, and pilgrims are gathered around the altar, we will have a final prayer and blessing and send them forth (home).

The pilgrims will be sharing their collects at the 9:30am service on Sunday, August 5. All pilgrims are expected to attend. Later in the fall when the snowbirds return, we will be having our Stockholders' Celebration, which will include reading the collects at the 11:45am unplugged service prior to the food celebration.

On behalf of myself and the pilgrims, thank you for your prayer support. It has sustained us (especially me). Peace, Fr. Marty

4 Responses to *Sunday – July 29 – Glasgow to Philadelphia to West Palm Beach*

