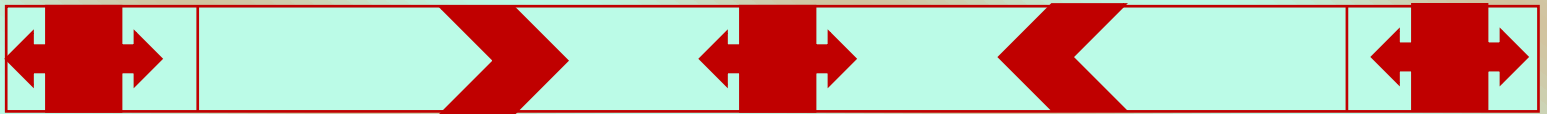


St. Joseph's Pilgrims – 2014

Young Pilgrimage to Scotland





Thursday – July 17

Boynton Beach, Fl to New York, Ny



Start spreadin' the news: they left here today
To see at least a part of it,
New York, New York.
They woke up early to head to the city
That doesn't sleep
With all the suitcases full
And a museum appointment to keep.

Our pilgrimage blues all melted away
When we saw Carrie Frazier appear
At the sendoff today
Though she's not able to go
she'll be with us in spirit each day
and with all our St. Joseph's family
whenever we gather to pray

Our check in was smooth
United's Cheryl gets hurrays!
Her patience and kindness to us
really save the day.

Our flight: a breeze; found Jean our driver with ease,
And off to Manhattan we embarked,
To find Dee and Donna with a gourmet picnic spread
Near Battery Park







We walked a few blocks
At the Memorial we stopped





Then to the museum: a tour
With Eduardo our guide



We learned a lot
(For when 9-11 happened most pilgrims were tots)
Then a prayer at Trinity Episcopal Church
(They liked it a lot)



Then a walk up Broadway
To St. Paul's a few blocks away
We managed to stay together
In the rush hour fray

Then with pizza slices of New York's finest
We boarded the bus
Till we arrived down at Times Square
And took a picture of us.





Then came time to go back
It was a short visit but packed
Jean drove us through the tunnel
To the Jersey side of the tracks

We arrived at Newark Airport on time
Everyone is doing just fine
As we now leave New York, New York.

3 THOUGHTS ON "THURSDAY - JULY 17 - BOYNTON BEACH, FL TO NEW YORK, NY"

1.



John Carpenter

JULY 20, 2014 AT 2:04 AM

A quick note for Allie from her Aunt Kim -

"Sixty of our closest church friends are in Edinburgh now as the choir in residence at the St Marys Cathedral for 2 weeks. Who knows Allie's group may visit the cathedral during a rehearsal of our choir by coincidence. It's a fabulous Episcopal cathedral. "

If you go to Saint Mary's and there is a large choir rehearsing you might give them a shout out from your Aunt Kim King

2.



Arlene Sealy

JULY 23, 2014 AT 11:35 PM

I love coming to the site each day to read about you all. I was so happy to see the updates today. God Bless!

3.



Bobbie Smith

JULY 24, 2014 AT 12:41 AM

As I follow you pilgrims on your daily blog, I'm transported back to that special spiritual place of Iona & the wonderful experiences of feeling like I was being touched by God "In those thin places" during the first adult pilgrimage several years ago. My prayers are with you all & it is truly a thrill to know that you are also experiencing those "thin places" where the secular & the spiritual come together at this time. Jesus loves you & so do I! Bobbie

Friday – July 18

Newark to Edinburgh to Stirling

The night passed by quickly on our transatlantic flight
Though the coach accommodations for most were too tight.
Especially for those who like Debra were stuck in the middle
(And how Allie slept through it all to us is a riddle.)
With a wind at our tail the plane had an early landing
The easy going nature of this group is truly outstanding.
We zipped through immigration and then went in hope of our bags
We were pleased to find 21 bags to match 21 luggage tags.
Then out to the meeting area to see Karen McCormack our guide.
Who then called for George our bus driver to meet us outside?
Fr. Marty split off to get our rental luggage van.
He said he'd meet up with us as soon as he can.
The group reunited at Tesco's on our way travelling north
To buy picnic food to enjoy on the island after the Maid of the Forth.
But we boarded the boat and the pilgrims were all very hungry,
It was obvious the food would not wait till the abbey.
So we ate on the boat which turned out to be a good plan
For the cold, wind and rain were all hard to withstand.
We toured Inchcolm Abbey with Karen leading the walk.
All were impressed by our youths' knowledge during her historical talk.
We learned about abbeys and the monks' rugged way of life
How they lived a simple way amidst harsh weather and strife.
We soon found the warming room which on this cold day was just right
And we, like monks of old, escaped the chilly wind's bite.
Then we observed a tradition for all our pilgrimage troops
We chanted an "um" meditation all huddled up in a group.
The boat back to the mainland was much smoother than before
And with pilgrims napping deeply, they did everything but snore.
An hour bus ride to Stirling to our hotel for the night
In the shadow of Stirling Castle's magnificent height.
The hotel was amazing – we feared all with get spoiled
Because the treatment we received here was totally royal.
A dinner at seven in the top floor dining room
The menu choices made were more adventurous than we had assumed.
Some opted for gnocchi, even some salmon eaters in the group,
And some were even brave enough to try Cullen Skink soup.



The only thing that was nicer than our nice warm hot meal
Was the anticipation of how good our beds would soon feel

Aware of tomorrow's long journey, we adjourned to count sheep
Tomorrow we'll go from Stirling to Oban to Mull – and finally at Iona we'll sleep.

ONE THOUGHT ON "FRIDAY – JULY 18 – NEWARK TO EDINBURGH TO STIRLING"

1.  **Arlene Sealy**

[JULY 20, 2014 AT 6:44 PM](#)

It is so nice to see everyone, I am so grateful to have an opportunity to stay in touch. Alisson I miss you so much. The poetic description of the journey is awesome. May God continue to bless each and everyone of you. Stay Safe, Be Inspired, Enjoy

Saturday – July 19

Stirling to Oban to Mull to Iona

We couldn't clear vehicle space on the 4pm ferry
So leaving early with the luggage van were Fr. Marty and Sherry
The others all knew of the complex trek that awaited
So they loaded their bags before 7 as the rector had dictated.
With everyone's luggage and a task to buy groceries for 14 meals,
The two left to travel west and shop and find some good Tesco deals.
The others remained for what must have been a real breakfast feast.
Since they all have reminded both Sherry and their priest.
It turned out that this plan was a blessing in disguise
For there was almost no traffic which was a welcome surprise.
Upon arriving in Oban we bought groceries and more
With four carts fully packed they thought we were buying the store.
We loaded the van from the roof to the floor,
We'd transport some to the van and then go back for more.
With eggs at her feet, Sherry put on a stiff upper lip:
First a ferry, then a one-lane roller coaster thrilling trip.
But the earlier departure made this an easier transport,
We had two whole hours to make it across to Fionnphort.
We made it across and then the experience that is so good:
To drive onto Iona with all the luggage and food.
Previous pilgrims will understand this as a real "Visa" bonus:
The groceries? – \$1,000, but not to hand-carry them? – priceless.
The remaining nine pilgrims had very little hassle:
Around the corner from their Stirling hotel was the Castle.
They learned the castle history from a tour guide named Allan,
About the true Braveheart story and the Battle of Bannockburn.
Then with George at the wheel they boarded the bus,
First the trip west to Oban (with Green Welly rest stop – a must!)
Then ferry to Mull, and the roller coaster ride across,
These pilgrims rolling along gathered no moss.
One last ferry from Fionnphort across to Iona they'd go,
Now with the beautiful site ahead of the Iona Abbey tableau.
One more mile to go before they could eat and sleep,
On the road to the north end, past all the cows and sheep.
They arrived at the hostel – and what a nice surprise:
All the luggage already unloaded, and the groceries, likewise.
Pumpkin ravioli was readied with salad, as the kitchen crew hustled
And for the seafood adventurers: spaghetti with mussels.
Laughter and smiles all around as the group reunited
We ended with Complaine with our favorite God-moments highlighted.







ONE THOUGHT ON "SATURDAY - JULY 19 - STIRLING TO OBAN TO MULL TO IONA"

1.  **Michele Benner**

[JULY 21, 2014 AT 3:09 AM](#)

Miss you both, so glad you are having a good time! Love you, Mom

Sunday – July 20

Iona

Our first day on Iona fell on a Sunday;

We celebrated Eucharist in quite a fun way:

We went to the Abbey for their communion service

“Be seated by 10” was what we read on the notice.

We arrived plenty early, and the church soon was filled

Then Fr. Marty saw John Bell, and really was thrilled.

(In modern Church music circles, he is one who’s revered.

He authored many Celtic works in a stellar career.)

And not only was John Bell preaching and leading songs

But the BBC had brought a whole film crew along.

They were filming a show about contemporary music in church.

(We said they should come to Unplugged for research.)

The rehearsal and service were great for us all.

And our pilgrim TV stars will be on BBC in the fall.





We came back to the hostel for a Mexican lunch.
By the amount they consumed, this crowd liked it a bunch.
Then a highlight took place at around 3:15,
Our TV stars appeared on the St. Joseph's screen,
As we skyped back to Boynton during the 9:30 service
We'd rehearsed what we'd say so no one would be nervous.
After this there was free time for exploring the isle,

The beautiful beach made each pilgrim smile.

And then after dinner, with a beautiful sunset at hand,

We wrote out our prayer words with rocks in the sand.























ONE THOUGHT ON "SUNDAY - JULY 20 - IONA"

1.



Rev. Wendy

[JULY 20, 2014 AT 6:09 PM](#)

So wonderful to be 'with' you all at our announcement time. We all love you all so very much and surround you in joyful prayer. xo

Monday – July 21, 2014

Iona to Columba's Bay



Alternative Boat Hire is Mark Jardine's company name
And there is no alternative better : he deserves his Iona acclaim;
He's been taking our groups now for several years
And his main concern for safety removes all of one's fears.
The day was a "scorcher," – it was sunny and 70 degrees,
(a whole lot different than last September's icy freeze).
An incredible day for the sail to Columba's Bay.
After morning prayer and breakfast, we were all underway.
We sailed down the coast toward the southernmost spot
The pilgrims tendered ashore from their own private yacht.
We all searched for rocks that represented our burdens,
Then carried them through the labyrinth, & in the center we left them.
Then we explored each nook & cranny of the bay where Columba landed
If the weather was always like this – it would be a nice place to be stranded.



(This is Fr. Marty's ninth trip here – and he's never experienced it this warm,
This pilgrim group might get spoiled – thinking this is the norm!)



After tendering back to boat, Mark then moved away from the shore
And out on the sea we listened to Mark Chapter Four.
We each imagined the story with us on that boat,
Then a few quiet moments and in our journals we wrote.
Then Mark put up full sails and in a reversal of roles
Over to Patrick the Sailor, he handed the controls.



With the rest of the pilgrims enjoying the sun,
Patrick tacked and he tacked, but the wind, there was none.
An impressive debut, capping out with 1.2 knots of action,
But after a while, it was time for the engine.

Back at the pier, the pilgrims all disembarked,
And after a group photo, said our goodbyes to Mark.



The best alternative day ever – with just one minor concern:
No one used any sunscreen, and most faces were burned.
The youth then went swimming like pilgrims of previous years,
But with this sunny warm weather, they swam without freezing fears.





Then back to the hostel for our evening meal,
A surprise that "alternative" Indian food to all did appeal.



And to cap the day off, the youth planned our "alternative" worship
They took us outside: yoga and prayers for the grownups.
An "alternative" day that was the best it could be,
Overwhelmed with God's blessings, we all would agree.





ONE THOUGHT ON "MONDAY - JULY 21, 2014 - IONA TO COLUMBA'S BAY"

1.



John Carpenter

[JULY 23, 2014 AT 2:47 AM](#)

Yoga - I am sure Allie had a hand in that

Tuesday – July 22

Iona

These pilgrims have kept moving at an incredible pace
So we decided that today we would give them some space
First in the morning, a pancake brunch starting late
The food was ready on time, but would anyone participate?
They straggled in one by one, it was obvious that these sheep
Weren't ignoring the shepherd's voice — they just all needed sleep.
We reflected on the mountain story of Jesus' transfiguration,
Doing imaging and journaling in this heavenly location.
Then in silence one by one (we again created some space),
a meditative walk to our own mountaintop place,
Up on Iona's highest hill, we prayed for each pilgrim,
It's amazing how high and how far each has come.
We had started the walk reminded that "You are God's beloved"
And they are dazzling from the Son, both within and overhead.









After lunch some took naps; others had a game to Articulate
There was lots of laughter and giggles for answers that didn't correlate.
An early dinner was at 6 so we could walk to the town,
For a special performance and dance lessons by Scottish musicians from Oban.









Then the Healing Service at the Abbey before our return.
At home we shared highs and lows, and at 11, we adjourned.

Wednesday – July 23

Iona



For the fifth day in a row it was sunny and hot
They're asking "Why do we need all these layers we brought?"

If it continues like this soon this will be their plea:
"Do you have any ice? and crank up the a/c."
An incredible view as to the Abbey we walked.
But first we had to visit our new pet sheep Almond.
"Beware a wolf in sheep's clothing" is what Matthew's Gospel said,
But not a wolf, this sheep thinks he's our pet dog instead.





We came down to the Abbey; at Columba's hut, a group photo:
Then the new Abbey Museum, down the path we did go.
We sat in the soft grass with the panorama of the isle,
And all wrote our own psalms as we reflected for a while.





Then on this final day, we joined the 11:45 tour
To learn the Abbey's history; and the afternoon – free to explore.





Some walked, some ate, some slept, some shopped, it was such a beautiful day,
Then came back to the hostel in late afternoon, for some cooking and final beach play.





We cooked up the rest of the food in the house, to host John, and Mischa and Chris. Over sea bass, grilled veggies, and lamb and chicken parm, about Iona we all reminisced.



We enjoyed having Mischa (she's become part of us), and Chris was another great soul. And John is always a joy to have in our midst (to get him to Boynton still is our goal). The youth then announced they had an original song to perform, that they'd written for this occasion

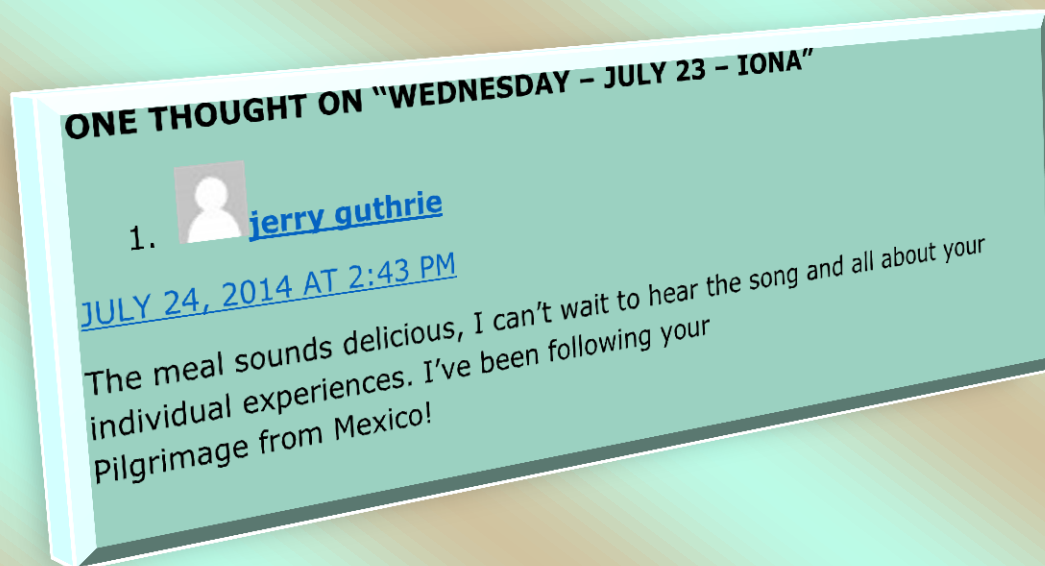
They performed their new song about Fr. Marty the Doctor, and he gave them a standing ovation.

Then we said our goodbyes and all started to work – to clean dishes and the luggage van to pack,

We then gathered once more for some prayer and chat before everyone soon hit the sack.

It's hard to believe we'll be leaving at dawn: it's been a totally amazing endeavor, Our wish is like that of the 23rd Psalm: wish we could dwell in Iona forever.

Blog followers please note: there will be no update on Thursday July 24 as we are traveling from morning till night as the flock migrates East: from Iona to Mull to Oban to Edinburgh to Newcastle, England. Pray for the luggage van driver and Sherry Thomas as they navigate the one-lane road across Mull to make sure they catch the ferry to Oban with the pilgrims who are on the passenger bus.



Thursday – July 24

Iona to Mull to Oban, Scotland to Whitley Bay, England

“The children are nestled, all snug in their beds”

Is how the poem usually begins, but today it’s our happy ending instead.

We woke up in Iona even before the early sunrise

In order to travel a long way (over 300 miles as the crow flies).





First, a 6am walk from the hostel down to Iona's ferry pier
 Across the channel to Fionnphort, then the windy bus ride (but have no fear:
 For with such an early morning there were few cars on the one-lane road).
 With Fr. Marty and Sherry in the luggage van (and the rest in the passenger bus
 followed).
 With ferry appointments to keep and miles to go before we sleep,
 The only obstacles on the road were a family of ducks and one very stubborn sheep.
 We reunited on the eastern coast of Mull at the port of Craignure
 And boarded the ferry to Oban for one last water transfer to endure.
 We arrived an hour later back at Scotland's western shore
 And there was George with bus waiting, to reverse our route from 5 days before.
 A Loch Awe stop at Kirk St. Conan's, a group photo and a prayer,
 We distributed "crosses in my pocket" and sang a hymn while we were there.







Then lunch at the famous Green Welly, and in just two hours more, We'd all be back in Edinburgh with another castle to explore.



We picked up Karen McCormack on our way back into town, she's the guide from our Inchcolm visit, and the best Edinburgh Castle guide around.)





As part of our castle visit, at St. Margaret's Chapel observed our pilgrim tradition, We remembered our DOK there, had a prayer, and sang "Sanctuary" – the 9th annual rendition.

Then a 30 minute bus ride to a dinner near the city bypass

At a restaurant called "The Old Colliery," where we had an excellent repast.



After that, we had one more trek to complete this longest day:
Three more hours to the southeast, to a coastal town called Whitley Bay.
But the fog had just rolled in, and some big trucks slowed us down.
And then some unplanned construction detours, brought to the driver a bit of a frown.
But the GPS was working and some of George's CD's got the youth to sing,
We finally arrived at the Royal Hotel, though no one was feeling like a queen or king.
We've been up longer than the summer sun here that hardly ever takes a rest.
After traveling for 18 hours, we wonder how those pilgrims of long ago kept their zest.
To think that the journey we "endured" aboard the ferries and the bus,
They did by walking and by sailing, a much more difficult pilgrimage than us.



Friday – July 25

Whitley Bay to Jarrow to Way Past Wal-Mart



A pilgrimage to Jarrow and St. Paul's started our day
A great commentary on Bede by Jimmy Guy came our way.
(I promised him prayers by our own DOK
for he's facing serious medical issues today.)









You may recall the first ever bicycle pilgrimage two years ago
Bede's Pilgrimage Way begins at Jarrow and to Monkwearmouth we were to go,
But the map was so confusing that eventually it was tossed
More often than showing us the way it caused us to get lost.
Well, now it's two years later and we learned from that event
We had goooglemaps and mapquest maps to know where we were sent



With Debra in the lead this time we thought we planned this to perfection
Since females do not fear to stop and ask for some direction.



And stop we did – several times – and each time from a local
Were sent back to where we just had been (the crowd started getting vocal).

We took a break and were reminded it's not about a race to win:
It's not about us getting there: it's the experience to take in.
A beautiful ride through parks and fields and neighborhoods real charming,
And getting advice from local kids on bikes, was really quite heartwarming.
We pedaled along some of us singing some songs and taking in the views
And soon we saw a landmark that was certainly a clue:



Yes, we'd pilgrimaged to Walmart – like the pilgrims two years ago
But we continued on past soccer fields and farms and horses – just so you know:
Yes, we made it well past Wal-Mart, to a bus stop before we ran out of time
The fact that we'd gone further than last year made everything seem fine.



So we headed back to town at DaVanti's Italian restaurant to eat.
Good food and conversation (and for the girls – the cute Albanian waiter was sweet).



We shared our reflections and prayer before we went to sleep,
A few bumps and bruises from our day, but overall – still eleven healthy sheep.

Saturday – July 26

Whitley Bay to Jarrow to Lindisfarne

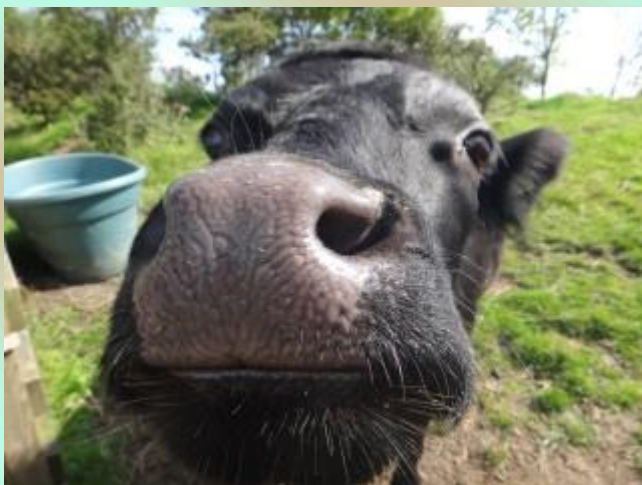
The youth were so intrigued by their introduction to Venerable Bede
That they decided together: to Bede's World we would proceed.
So we left Whitley Bay early to visit his museum across from St. Paul's in Jarrow,
With the luggage van all loaded with all of our cargo.



The pilgrims enjoyed the step back in time and the history
And how the pigs got so hairy still remains quite a mystery.











We continued on north to Lindisfarne to cross over to Holy Isle
After unloading all the bags, we said goodbye to George for a while.
(There was no room available for him to stay on Lindisfarne with us
So before the tide had come in, he headed to the mainland with his bus.)



We took a walk through the town to acquaint the pilgrims to their new home
Highlighting all the special places where later they will want to roam.







And for the first time on this pilgrimage – something no one will forget:
The skies opened up and we got a little wet.
We had dined on Rich's grilling for our late Saturday lunch,
So we had a late light dinner – on potatoes, salad, and soup we did munch.



They we all shared our thoughts on where we had each seen God today.
We are finding God everywhere as we travel the pilgrim way.

Sunday – July 27

Lindisfarne



Spread out in three houses two blocks apart
We each did our own thing for breakfast to start
Then met up with Group Three at their Greystones Cottage
Where we all were spellbound by Allie's St. Margaret of Scotland knowledge.
They we walked to St. Mary's for the service at 10:45
To be greeted by Fr. Paul as soon as we arrived
He introduced our presence to the whole congregation
Then we witnessed three baptisms in this historic location
And as a highlight for all that really was great
The homily was given by the legendary Rev. Kate.
Most then created their own "coffee hour"
With a pilgrimage to the ice cream shop for some cones to devour.
After lunch we prepared for our Skype to Boynton Beach
We shared our version of Psalm 23 with verses written by each.
We were thankful to Sean who was so cordial and generous
Who lent us his wife and hotel space for us.
(Remember his wife Jackie and for her breast cancer to heal
To add her to your prayer list would be truly ideal.)
Then with free time till dinner a dance revolution occurred
Then some took a walk through the town afterward.
In the evening the Raines joined us for a dinner party that was dandy:
There was Martha, and Joel, and Anna – and of course, Andy.
In recent pilgrimages here, part of our family they've become
And to see this group bond with them was totally awesome.
The volume was loud and the energy was relentless
(Was it from the brownies or the candy sharing that seemed endless?)

But it all seemed a part of them getting to know each other
It looks like they've adopted another sister and brother.



Monday – July 28

Lindisfarne



The morning schedule was liturgical dance with Andy as our guide
so with blue skies and a beautiful yard, we took it outside.
To "Lean on Me," the group all learned cool new movement
And in a very short time, everyone showed great improvement.

















They moved on to some others that kept everyone involved
Till in the heat of the sun the group's energy dissolved.
We came in for a pasta buffet about one,
Then a couple of hours for free time and fun.
Debra led the group on a meditative hike to the hut at the north beach,
Thanksgiving reflections for people in our lives were given by each,













And as reflected we blew bubbles into the air
With each bubble ascending symbolizing our prayers.



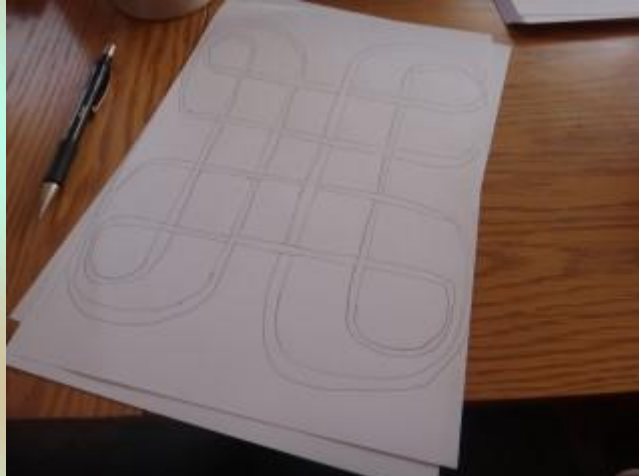


Then over dinner and ice cream we shared highs and lows
And off to an early sleep our tired bunch did go.



Tuesday – July 30

Lindisfarne









Doing Celtic knotwork as a spiritual meditation was this morning's plan
And Mary Fleeson teaches it so well that anyone can.
We were all very happy that coach driver George joined us
Having him in our pilgrimage family has been quite a plus.

After lunch and some free time we gathered again
Andy Raine shared a bit about Northumbria and where he had been.



His personal story was intriguing as he shared getting into dance
And moving to "If It Be Your Will," we all had a chance.



We gathered to enjoy an evening meal that was fine
Then walked over to Saint Mary's for their Compline at nine
The youth experienced plain chant sung by the Marygate Choir
A peaceful end to the day before we'd retire.
But the teen girls decided to have a sleepover
So the cottage with Karen, they all took over,
Once we'd agreed it was okay they readied themselves in a blur
Which left Sherry and Debra as adult empty nesters.
It's great that they desire to be together in a pack
For this pilgrimage stuff, they've developed quite a knack.

Wednesday – July 30

Lindisfarne













































Another warm sunny day – this weather is amazing
Especially for today, as we were doing some trailblazing.
First a hike to Cuthbert's Cave for some quiet reflection
Then the Pilgrim's Walk back to Lindisfarne following Debra's direction.
As we drove in the morning towards our Cuthbert's Cave hike today
A beautiful rainbow pointed the way.
A reminder of God's presence throughout our time together
God had blessed this group with incredible weather.
An 80 year-old lady who's worked in Lindisfarne all her years
Said this is the best weather in her entire career.
The veteran pilgrims back home will find it hard to believe
Most of this pilgrimage we've spent wearing short sleeves.
Andy came over for a talk on Motivations
Introducing concepts important for our formation:
Not just to understand the things that we do
But the "why" that's behind them is really the clue.
The whole Raine family joined us for a festive dinner
The risotto and salmon seemed to be the winner.
Sticky Toffee Pudding with ice cream to finish the food,
Then Complaine with Andy and Anna ensued.
And to top it all off we listened to Martha sing and play
And after a final duet with her mom, we all called it a day.



























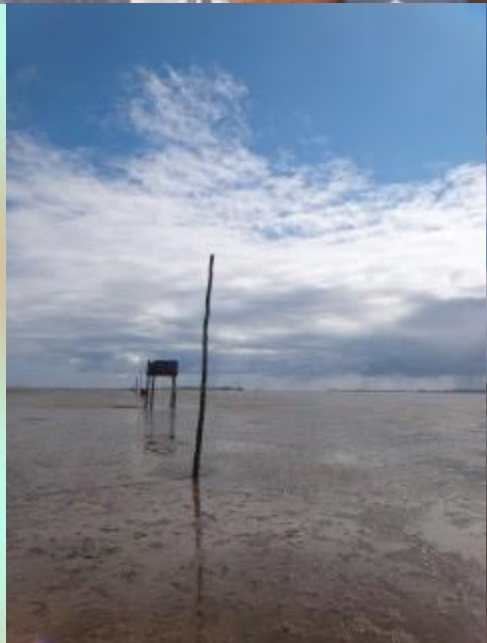


























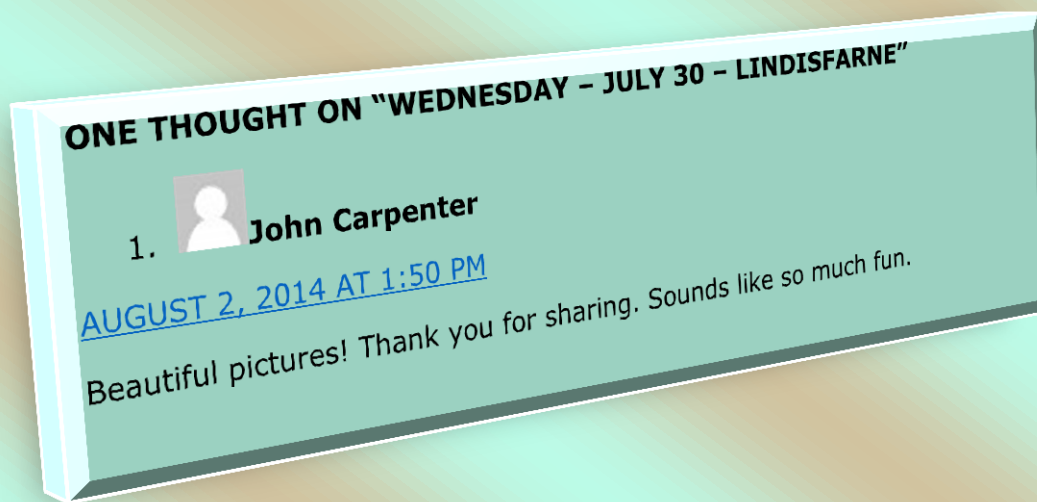












Thursday – July 31

Lindisfarne to Durham to Newcastle to Lindisfarne

The cathedral at Durham has stood the test of time
It is awe inspiring and majestic with its beauty sublime.
The same could be said for guide Lilian Groves today
For awe inspiring love for her God and Bede does she display.
She spoke to our pilgrims about how friendly a cathedral building could be.
And then led us on a walk, the cathedral's highlights to see.
We had started our visit with a Eucharist next to Bede's tomb.
Then down to the undercroft, our lunch in the cafeteria to consume.
Another highlight of the day was our visit to Cuthbert's shrine.
Where for over 900 years pilgrims have prayed to God divine.
We lit candles and then prayed for those in our lives needing healing,
And then raised our voices and sang "Create in Me" as we were kneeling.

Lilian had written a prayer that she prayed for us at the end
Then after a few final words, we hugged goodbye our Durham friend.
With the tides still in till late, we had to stop somewhere for dinner
And the huge Indian buffet in Newcastle surely was a winner.
There were lots of new things for this adventurous group to try,
And ending with the dessert buffet, the pilgrims' energy was high.
We traversed the Millennium Walking Bridge for them to burn off steam.
And they cheered each jogger that passed their way with a teenage girlish scream.
Then a walk back to the bus where they slept most of the way,
Which wasn't too surprising since it had been a long, long day.

Friday – August 1

Lindisfarne

We received permission from the authorities to gather at the Priory outside
It was so quiet and peaceful — we were all alone – the tourists stopped by the tide.
We remembered all the pilgrims who had gone before and worshipped on this location
You could sense a spirit of holiness here even though all that's left is the priory's
foundation.

We could see and hear the birds around as they fluttered all around
And in the distance the singing seals in the bay added a soothing reflective sound.
We prayed and had our Eucharist choosing hymns that we could best sing
And since it was Sophia and Anna's birthdays, we ended with birthday blessings.
The youth requested free time to enjoy their last day in this place,
So we used the afternoon for exploring and cleaning up our space,
And then cooked up all our food as has become our last night tradition,
Inviting over all our friends (and this year was quite an ambition).

We had Andy and Anna and Martha Raine, and Mary Fleeson came with all the rest,
Including husband Mark, daughter Aurien, and Callum their son (the girls liked him the
best).

We enjoyed the feast and celebrated birthdays with ice cream and brownies and more,
And our guests left the party with bags of food as we hugged them all out the door.
This group really bonded with our Lindisfarne friends – perhaps because we're a smaller
in number,

But saying goodbye to this island and our new Lindisfarne friends, tomorrow will sure
be a bummer.

ONE THOUGHT ON "FRIDAY – AUGUST 1 – LINDISFARNE"

1.  **Bobbie Smith**

AUGUST 2, 2014 AT 2:05 PM

Reading your daily blog has been wonderful. The wrap-up last night at Lindesfarne &
time spent at the Prioriry (sp?) especially brought up special memories of amazing
spiritual times of our pilgrimage years ago. Praise God for His grace & love. Praying
for your safe return home.
In His Name, Bobbie

Saturday – August 2

Lindisfarne to Jedburgh to Melrose to Rosslyn to Edinburgh

Well, the pilgrimage of the sun just ended its streak
With rain, cold and wind, the weather turned bleak.
But the blessings abounded even as Lindisfarne we departed
For a special Celtic Exhibition by Mary Fleeson had just started.
We were able to walk down to St. Cuthbert's Centre,
And participate in the hands-on with husband Mark as our mentor.
Then with final hugs goodbye we got on the bus.
And at the causeway our returned rocks were thrown by each of us.
Then we went to the Borders to Jedburgh and Melrose Abbey
With a stop in between at Scotts Views where the youth were a little crabby
They stayed out of the weather on the bus – they've been spoiled by the sun,
But the weather didn't keep the facilitators from still having fun.
We stopped at our favorite Orkney ice cream shop (thank you Paul Wegner for paying –
When I announced your generosity on the bus, all the pilgrims were hurrying.)
We made it up to Rosslyn just in time for Maureen's talk at 5pm.
The attentiveness of the youth showed that this place was special now to them.
Then Fiona sat us down as the crowd was ushered out,
she had a private talk with us about Rosslyn's history and layout.
Then Fiona and her husband George and Maureen the Rosslyn guide
Joined us for our closing Eucharist with only them and us inside.
It really was a special treat to enjoy the quiet beauty of the space,
We're grateful to the folks at Rosslyn for worshipping in this holy place.
Then we drove to our last night's hotel near the Edinburgh airport,
We said goodnight to George (who finally goes home tonight – he's been quite a sport).
And an added bonus to pilgrims of old: Ian Morrison joined us at dinner
He's the coach driver from pilgrimages of recent years, and he really is a winner.
We reminisced and shared our prayers at a final meal together,
It's been a wonderful final pilgrimage day despite the rainy weather.

Sunday – August 3

Edinburgh to Newark to Boynton Beach

Parents and friends please note: the pilgrims are flying home from Europe on Sunday, so there will be no Skype nor blog update. For those assisting with transfer of pilgrims and luggage, our flight from Newark is United 1269, arriving into West Palm Beach at 5:13pm.

ALL pilgrims and facilitators will go directly from the airport to the altar of St. Joseph's (prior to unloading bags) for our short ending of the pilgrimage prayers. All family and friends of St. Joseph's are welcome to join us upon our return at St. Joseph's for the short service. If someone is there before us to open the church and turn on the lights, I would be most grateful.

We are scheduled to celebrate our pilgrimage with the sharing of our collects during the 9:30am service next Sunday (August 10). The reading of the collects will be repeated at a 11:45am service that will be scheduled in conjunction with our Stockholders' Dinner later in the fall.

LLL Fr. Marty

