

# **St. Joseph's Pilgrims – 2016**

## **Journey of the 2016 Youth Pilgrimage to Scotland**





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**Friday – July 15**

## **Early Morning Departure**

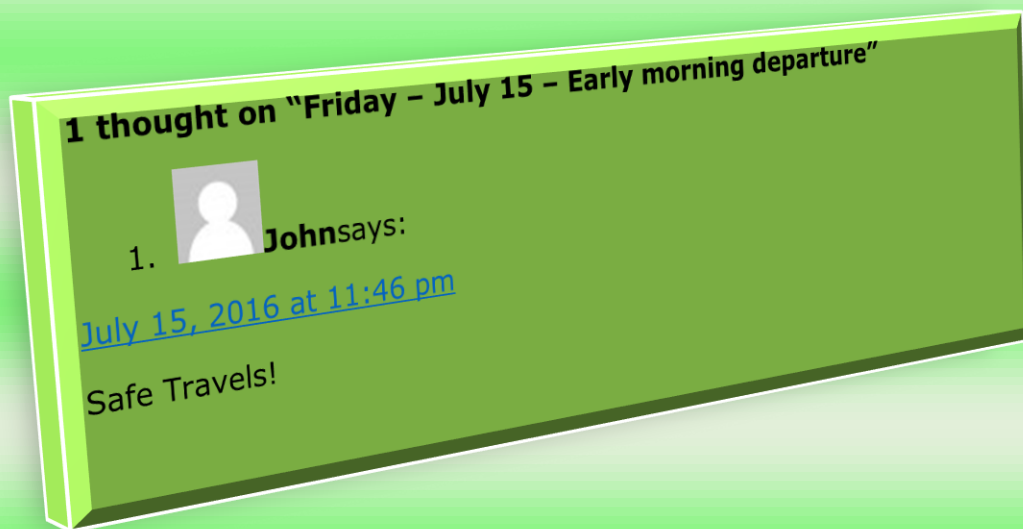


Debra's baggage organizational system

Twass the morning before departure and all through the youth house  
Not a creature was stirring – except for an organizational mouse:  
Debra Titkemeier's her name, and youth ministry's her game  
And to minimize luggage mistakes, she created a "tape frame."  
With the pilgrims early departure (prayer circle at 3:45)  
To avoid luggage confusion in our state of barely being alive  
Each person placed their checked bag on their personalized space  
Then their carry-on suitcase, and finally their group bag in place.  
A wonderful solution that avoided any confusion  
So everyone's luggage would be there at our journey's conclusion.  
But we left for New York thinking one bag was AWOL  
For when United counted luggage tags there was a shortfall.

(In the end 22 bags were there when we all arrived in Scotland  
Why the confusion: the luggage receipts? – United forgot one).

We landed in Newark, and went down to meet our bus,  
The driver's name was Joe, who turned out to be from Florida like us.  
The traffic was heavy going into the city  
And our encounter with an irate taxi driver on the way wasn't pretty.  
We arrived at the 911 memorial just in time for our tour,  
A fitting introduction for our youth to be sure.  
Amazing to think that this whole generation  
Are too young to remember these tragic events in our nation.  
So it was good for them to experience these solemn craters of space.  
And hear all the stories of what happened in this place.



Friday – July 15

## NYC



The youth gathered in front of a huge hole in the ground  
That marked the location where the World Trade Center used to be found  
A powerful reminder of what hate can do  
But the heroes' museum below helped our hope to renew.  
As we began our journey recalling those who tragically perished  
We paused to remember one of our own whom we cherished:  
Philip Rowland was one of this pilgrimage class  
Whose pilgrimage journey called him to heaven to pass.  
He left us too soon but we honor his memory  
As we carry his candle and pray for his family.





What's a trip to Manhattan without traffic and noise  
And some NY style pizza for each girl and boy.  
We walked down to Trinity Episcopal Church for a prayer  
Then boarded our bus which awaited us there.



And to top it all off, the Rockettes at Radio City  
with dancing spectacular and stage sets so pretty.  
Then back to the airport to board our flight,  
After such an early full day, we hope they sleep through the night.





Author [Marty Zlatic](#) Posted on [July 15, 2016](#)

## 1 thought on "Friday – July 15 – NYC"



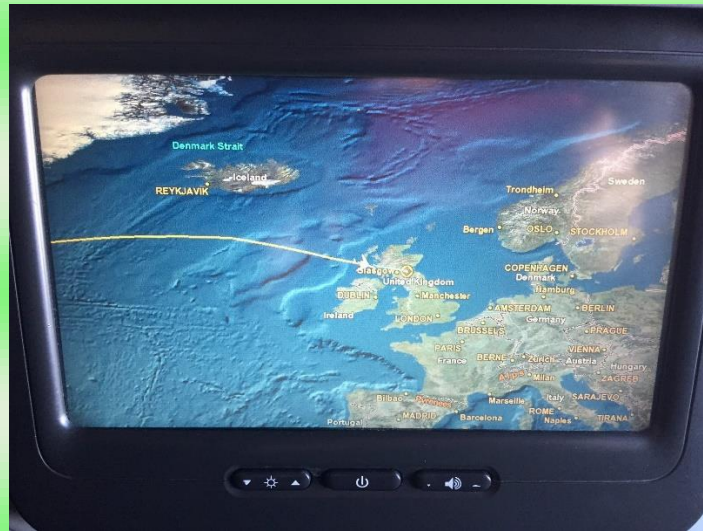
**Rev Wendy** says:

[July 16, 2016 at 2:16 am](#)

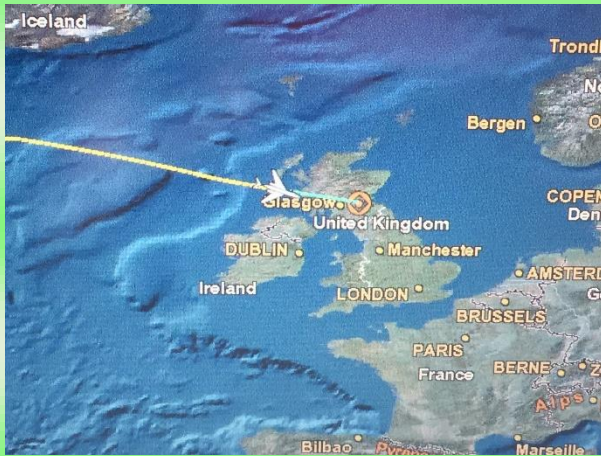
Love you all! Prayers surround you!



**More verbal descriptions later — in the meantime,  
here are some photos!**









**Saturday – July 16**

## **Edinburgh**



We were met on arrival by St. Joseph's friend Karen,  
Our guide for many years and a really great person.  
New for this group was our driver named Steve  
Who melded into our group too fast to believe  
(He had met with our old friend and driven Ian who gave him some tips  
That made him totally ready for a St. Joseph's pilgrimage trip.)  
We drove first to the hotel to drop off the bags  
And discovered we had encountered a bit of a snag:  
They "upgraded" our luggage van to a size so large  
It wouldn't fit in the garage & to cross to Iona would require its own barge.  
So Fr. Marty spent the weekend arranging a trade  
And by Sunday night, we had the size for which we paid.  
Since the youth now were hungry, we changed things a bit:  
First to change money, and then to a local pub for lunch and a sit.  
Then off to the castle which everyone loved  
Especially the view from the high point above.





And observing the tradition of pilgrimages past  
We saved the St. Margaret of Scotland Chapel for last.  
We crowded inside and listened to the collect of her day,  
And when we started to sing "Sanctuary," there was no complaint.  
For all the tourists inside who had been talking away  
All became totally silent, and had their holy DOK moment for the day.  
We then walked down the Royal Mile to visit St. Giles  
And listened as Karen informed us for a while  
Both in the cathedral and in the Thistle Chapel we went  
And by the time we were done all these tired pilgrims were spent.  
So we went to the hotel and some salad and pizza we ate,  
Shared prayer, and then sent them to bed before it became late.

**Sunday – July 17**

## **Edinburgh**

For our first of three Sundays away before we come home to Boynton  
We worshipped with the Scottish Episcopal Community at Rosslyn.  
The parishioners of St. Matthew's were happy to welcome St. Joseph's once more  
Fr. Marty preached at the service, and then Karen led us on a tour.  
Then Fiona the Education Director shared some additional history  
And we gave a donation to help with her Junior Guides Ministry.  
Then off to Queensferry, the boat to Inchcolm Abbey to ride  
The weather was cold and threatening – so we picnicked inside.



We found the Warming Room quicker than most other times,  
And did our "um meditation," then the abbey tower most climbed.  
With very little connectivity in such an out-of-the-way place,  
We tried several locations till we finally found a space  
Where at least with cell coverage an audio call we could send  
And connect with St. Joseph's right before the 9:30 service would end.



We traveled back to the hotel to prepare for tomorrow's trek to Iona out west.  
But not before we enjoyed a huge Indian food fest.  
Two full but wonderful days in Edinburgh now came to an end.  
All our happy and healthy pilgrims, love to their families extend.





Author [Marty Zlatic](#) Posted on [July 20, 2016](#)

### 3 thoughts on "Sunday – July 17 – Edinburgh"

1.  **Suzanne Matuella** says:

[July 20, 2016 at 9:30 pm](#)

Love your updates! This momma's missing her boy! So blessed for safety in travel and prayers for everyone! ((Hugs))

2.  **Cheryl May** says:

[July 21, 2016 at 9:42 pm](#)

Did anyone record Fr. Marty's sermon at Rosslyn? Each pilgrimage the relationship with Rosslyn grows. The 2011 group was the first to be allowed to have Eucharist there after it closed during the week...and now it's grown to Fr. Marty preaching for the 3rd? time on a Sunday.

1.  **Marty Zlatic** says:

[July 22, 2016 at 6:37 am](#)

I am told that Lorraine Baker audio recorded it on her phone. Not sure of the quality but Sherry said she would try to upload it — probably when we return. – Marty

**Monday – July 18**

## **Edinburgh to Iona**

With the right sized van parked in the garage just below our hotel  
Loading all of our luggage worked out very well  
We had it all packed and Fr. Marty & Sherry  
Departed for grocery shopping, then we'd meet at the Oban ferry.  
With a 2-hour ride to the famous truck stop Green Welly,  
The bus stopped to put some breakfast food in our belly.  
Then an hour more to Oban, and some free time to explore  
This quaint little town built right down by the shore.  
The grocery excursion to Tesco finished without a hitch  
(Whoever owns that grocery chain after our pilgrimage should be rich.)  
With five days worth of food filling the van to the ceiling  
Not needing to hand-carry it is so very appealing.  
To drive the van loaded with luggage and food  
Straight onto the ferry – ah, life is so good!  
(Past pilgrims remember in the past 'good ole' days  
Trying to carry everything on, left us all in a daze.)  
We rode on the ferry from Oban 1-hour to the island of Mull's east side  
Then switched to the public bus for a thrilling one lane joy ride.  
Curving and swerving for 1-hour to get off at Mull's west coast,  
With the abbey in view our journey was finished – almost.  
Just another 10 minute ferry to Iona across the sound,  
Then setting foot on Iona and we're youth hostel bound.  
A final 30-minute walk to the north end past the abbey  
Even after such a long journey – not one arrived crabby.  
All helped Fr. Marty & Sherry who were already there,  
The food and luggage unloaded with the help of a pair  
Of the workers at the hostel named Luke and Emily  
and also hostel owner John, an honorary member of the St. Joseph's family.  
With the food and the luggage sorted and all put away,  
All the youth commented what an incredible location to stay.  
John, Luke and Emily gave us an introductory meeting  
Then with some quick kitchen magic, we all soon were eating.  
We prayed our night prayer and outlined tomorrow's plan,  
Then soon after that off to bed we all ran.



Author [Marty Zlatic](#) Posted on [July 20, 2016](#)

## 1 thought on "Monday – July 18 – Edinburgh to Iona"

1.



**Cheryl May** says:

[July 21, 2016 at 9:38 pm](#)

Driving the van onto Iona is definitely a wonderful thing. Only one load and unload.



**Tuesday – July 19**

## **Iona**

A memory that is sure to remain with them forever  
Is the most beautiful sunny day on Iona ever.  
Which greeted the pilgrims when they (finally) woke up today  
All were anxious to “Go look for God” on this perfect day.



Some chose to watch Luke and Emily help the sheep to be sheared  
Others down through the grass to the nearby beach veered.  
We assembled for lunch and then prepared for some spiritual 'exercise':  
A silent meditative walk with a phrase to memorize,



"You are God's beloved," which the day's beauty echoed with certainty  
Some found God even in the bogs that they stepped in mistakenly.

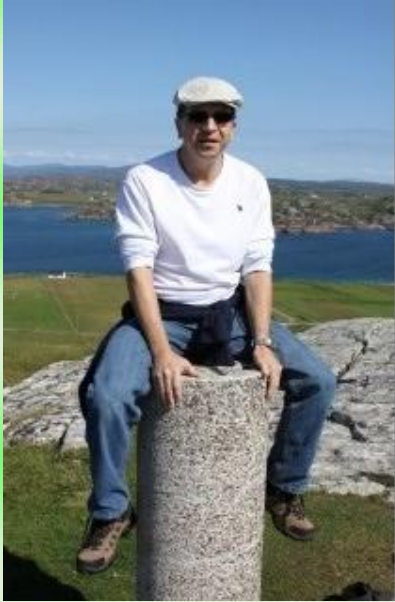


We arrived at the top and then took in the view



Then made a prayer circle with sunlit skies and water so blue  
With a gentle reminder of the Elijah passage we'd read  
The sound of a gentle breeze: 'God's with us,' it said.  
Back down from the mountain we turned them all loose

To roam and explore where their groups of three choose.  
We gathered together for our family dinner  
The salmon and mussels with pasta: a winner.  
A hurried post-dinner clean up required teamwork from all of us,  
So we could make it down to the abbey for the 9pm healing service.







Author [Marty Zlatic](#) Posted on [July 21, 2016](#)

## 1 thought on "Tuesday – July 19 – Iona"



**Cheryl May** says:

[July 23, 2016 at 7:53 pm](#)

The clear blue and sheep are memories of all pilgrims. Wonderful pictures.

**Wednesday – July 20**

## **Iona**

Mist, clouds, and windy – a typical morn' in this climate  
as we trekked to the abbey for our St. Joseph's "official" visit.



We each thought of a person in our lives in need of healing,  
Then huddled in St. Cuthbert's Chapel where "Create in Me" we would sing.  
This is the destination where for hundreds of years  
Pilgrims finished their journey, having processed up from the pier.  
We visited the museum to learn the story of the Abbey  
Then in St. Michael's Chapel we gave Psalm 23 a new history.  
About the shepherd in their own life each pilgrim then wrote  
As they listened verse by verse to Fr. Marty's explanatory note.  
We came back 'round front where the official tour would begin



The guide gave introductory comments outside, then we all gathered within.



We then turned them all loose (of course still in groups of three)  
They had both their lunch time and the afternoon free.  
They found God in the most unusual places  
And you could see how they love nature from the joy on their faces.  
We gathered in the kitchen to prepare a Mexican feast  
With the slicing and dicing directed by their chef/priest.  
Overlooking the fields where the newly sheared sheep grazed  
We shared our personal versions of Psalm 23 with creativity that amazed.





We congratulated everyone: their first penned psalm came out fine,  
Now all that is left is the remained 149!





**Thursday – July 21**

## **Iona (sailing to Columba's Bay)**



The Thursday forecast called for rain late in the day  
So as Captain Mark Jardine suggested, we sailed early to Columba's Bay.  
We left from the hostel right at 8:30  
For the 30-minute walk to the pier past the abbey.  
We boarded the boat with a safety talk for our protection,



Then Mark's son Stuart assisted as we motored in a southerly direction.



We saw seals on the rocks, and then Columba's Bay came into view  
And the tides, they were with us, so a landing we could pursue.  
Three at a time, we boarded the small tender  
and in a very short time, we all were enjoying the splendor  
of the original spot back in 563,  
where St. Columba landed from across the Irish Sea.  
We all looked for a rock to represent a burden in life we'd release  
As we walked the outdoor labyrinth feeling a sense of true peace.  
Then a picnic lunch followed and some time to explore  
A favorite spot for this group just like pilgrims before.  
The tide had come in, so a difficult task remained yet,  
But we all managed to get back to the sailboat, though some were quiet wet.



We paused on the way with the boat gently swaying  
And did our scriptural imaging, on the passage from Mark 4 meditating,  
That tells of how Jesus made the storm to abet  
Though the motions brought some personal "storms" (a few stomachs upset).



Everyone seemed to rebound as we sailed up the coast  
And being pilot of the ship, now our Luke could always boast.



The wind and the sun and the walk tired them out,  
so the early bedtime requested no one argued about.  
An early dinner with friends, John, Luke and Emily  
And the return of the pilgrimage mascot – dog Snuffy.



Then a debrief and night prayer, sharing where we saw God today  
These pilgrims are finding God in a most creative way.













Author [Marty Zlatic](#) Posted on [July 22, 2016](#)

## 1 thought on "Thursday – July 21 – Iona (sailing to Columba's Bay)"

1.



**Cheryl May** says:

[July 23, 2016 at 7:58 pm](#)

Pictures are crisp and clear. You can feel the bond of the pilgrims. Upset stomachs? At least it wasn't like Staffa. Recently spoke to two members of that pilgrimage and that memory rang true. Prayers with you as the pilgrimage continues.



**Friday – July 22**

## **Iona**

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small  
It is obvious through the time they spend outside, these pilgrims love them all.  
So on Friday after prayer and postcard writing, this last day was free  
After lunch they all disappeared in their groups of three.  
They came back to assist with our farewell dinner feast cooking,  
But no one submitted photos today (too busy looking?).  
A bounteous feast to prepare– a fitting end with our friends  
The traditional way in Iona our thanks we extend.  
To our hosts who are so kind to countless pilgrims who travel  
And help the mysterious beauty of Iona to unravel.  
There was caprese and bruschetta and salad with gorgonzola and pear  
Eggplant parmesan, and baked fusilli scigno to complete the Italian fare;  
But wait there's still more: mussels with shrimp and crab in white wine,  
And the grilled chicken with cheese and mushrooms came out just fine.  
Then the lamb with arugula and pesto completed the spread  
(but for the first time, the sheep didn't gather outside to mourn their dead).  
Some spinach sautéed by Joe Joe added the crowning touch  
And for dessert the youth made brownies, which all appreciated much.  
We thanked Luke, Emily and John at the end of the night  
Presenting them goodie packages at the end of the meal  
With a genuine gratitude we hope that they feel.  
Then we all worked together with the big task ahead:  
Cleaning dishes, then packing, prayer, and then off to bed.



**Saturday – July 23**

## **Iona to Stirling Castle to Lindisfarne**

Today is the longest of days to endure  
With an early wake up and clean up, our ferry departure to ensure.  
With the luggage van loaded, they started the walk  
Down past the abbey to the ferry dock.  
Reversing the journey when to Iona we came  
We departed via the same route, but we weren't the same.  
The thin place of Iona has transformed all eleven,  
These five days have been a true foretaste of heaven.  
Then off on the ferry, then the hour bus ride across Mull  
They met up with Fr. Marty & Sherry with the luggage van full.  
Then the ferry back to Oban, where Steve the bus driver we'd await.  
The holiday Saturday traffic made us a bit late.  
But since St. Conan's was unavailable for our usual stop,  
Straight off to a lunch stop at Green Welly we'd hop,  
Then back on the bus for a 90 minute ride  
To meet up at Stirling Castle with Karen our guide.



The experience was "sterling" as there was a wedding party there  
They tried to stay focused on Karen and at the bride not to stare.



We met a court jester who explained what that meant:  
Entertaining and joking – Hey! A few of our youth have that bent.



Then to the King's Chamber to see the recently completed  
Tapestries that tell the story of a unicorn mistreated.  
The costumed guide told us how the symbolism represents  
In the killing of the unicorn though beautiful and innocent,  
The story of Jesus hunted down and then slain  
But in his resurrection the Kingdom does reign.



Then off to a dinner at a place called The Steading.  
The youth were all curious what kind of food they'd be getting.  
Some opted for burgers, others opted for fish  
All seemed to enjoy their own choice of dish.  
With the tide not yet ready for us to Lindisfarne to proceed  
We sidetracked to Musselburgh, to which all had agreed.  
Because there's a famous ice cream spot, San Luca's it's name,  
For years Fr. Marty's heard of its Scottish acclaim.  
Most opted to try it, then back on the coach,  
Down the A-1 to Lindisfarne, soon we'd approach.  
We arrived at Holy Island after the tide had just ebbed  
We unloaded the luggage, and by 11 in bed.  
A very long day from the west to the east  
But in this modern pilgrimage we had a vehicle at least  
To think that in times of our Celtic saints past,  
They walked the whole journey across distances vast.

**Sunday – July 24**

## **Lindisfarne**



We arrived late at night, so the pilgrims couldn't see  
How beautiful Lindisfarne turned out to be.  
The young men woke up on their own and in their Sunday clothes looking smart,  
And when driver Steve had arrived, they were ready to depart,  
But not on the bus, for it was just a short walk  
To meet up with our female pilgrims who lived down the block.  
We proceeded to St. Mary's with time to spare,  
And noticed that Reverend Kate was already there.  
We gave old friend Mark Fleeson a hug (he's the warden of their parish)  
Memories of him and his wife Mary past pilgrims do cherish.  
We all sat up front and this traditional service would feature,  
A sermon on the Lord's Prayer by a guest preacher.  
She spoke of the approach to God to which we should aspire:  
"If God is in your car, he's the engine, not the spare tire."  
After the service we looked around a bit,  
But since most had skipped breakfast, some lunch was a fit.  
So we came back to Castlekirk and a sandwich buffet was our game,  
And some Cullen Skink Soup (once they got past its name).  
Cullen is the name of a northeast Scotland town.  
And Skink just means chowder with smoked haddock cooked down.  
As lunch time was finished, a great big surprise,  
There was Andy Raine standing right before our eyes.  
Because of a commitment, he would be gone most of our week  
So he thought on our first day, some time he would seek.  
So he taught us some movements to several songs





Even though Fr. Marty kept doing it wrong.



So he held the camera while the youth and the rest  
 "Skype-performanced" St. Joseph's and they all did their best  
 Each joining in positions till the dance floor was filled,  
 Depicting their pain to Leonard Cohen's "If it Be Your Will."



We greeted our families and then said goodbye.  
Off-camera a few other dances we'd try.



Then Andy sat down with the group and discussed  
"Motivations": personality traits for each one of us.



Then Andy departed and we all hugged goodbye,  
And as he was leaving, his wife Anna said hi.  
We had some free time as the prep team prepared our food  
After such a great day, lively conversation ensued.  
Debra led a post-dinner walk down to the beach,  
And to find a special Hermit's ledge for the group to reach.









A fitting conclusion back at the girls' place

To share today's experience of so much of God's grace.



Author [Marty Zlatic](#) Posted on [July 24, 2016](#)

### 1 thought on "Sunday – July 24 – Lindisfarne"



1. **Cheryl May** says:

[July 29, 2016 at 12:28 pm](#)

What a beautiful group of people to meet and grow to know! Rev. Kate (her book you must read), Mark, and Andy ("If It Be Your Will" can change a life and make even the non-dancer see God move in her life, and, yes, "Motivations" is on my book shelf)

**Monday – July 25**

## **Lindisfarne**



After our busy Sunday they were slow to awake,  
So on Monday we gave them a pilgrimage break.  
To explore Holy Island and then after lunch  
A hike to the north shore which all enjoyed a bunch.



Finding God in nature in the weather outside  
Seems to be as impactful to the pilgrims as anything we've tried.



They had been missing Iona a few had confessed,  
But discovering Lindisfarne's vast coastline, they liked this part the best.







Some liked it so much that their wonderment turned to wander,  
Getting lost from the group gave them something to ponder.



But this island is small and it's safe to go roam  
(they eventually found the path and they all were soon home).  
Everyone helped to cook dinner and clean,  
Then Fr. Marty showed a map so we'd see where we've been,





We gathered for prayer led with Lorraine and Luke drumming  
For the rest of the night "Funga Alafia" we'd be humming.

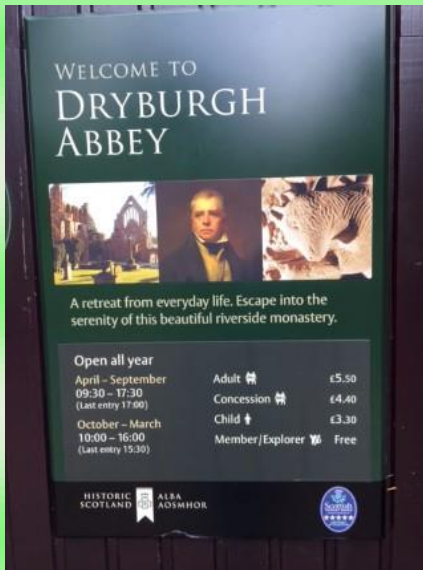


We shared where we'd seen God in various ways,  
Then discussed how'd spend our remainder of days.



Tuesday – July 26

## Border Abbeys (Jedburgh/Dryburgh/Melrose)














 Author [Marty Zlatic](#) Posted on [July 26, 2016](#)

**1 thought on "Tuesday – July 26 – Border Abbeys (Jedburgh/Dryburgh/Melrose)"**

1.  **John** says:

[July 27, 2016 at 3:10 pm](#)

Lots of smiles, looks like everyone is having a great time!

Wednesday – July 27

## Cuthbert's Cave and Pilgrim Walk



Eggs Benedict was offered by the breakfast coordinator  
With reassurance it wasn't named for a pope or a traitor.  
Then a small morning hike to practice writing collects  
At various island spots to which Debra would direct.  
Then after our lunch we boarded Steve's coach,  
And with some help from some horse riders, Cuthbert's Cave we'd approach,



We hiked to the cave, and spent some quiet time reflecting  
And writing our collects some were already perfecting.



Then a hymn in the cave in this beautiful spot



They all remarked as we walked back they liked this place a lot.



A highlight of our pilgrimage completed our day  
As at low tide we walked across the pilgrims' way,  
Like Cuthbert centuries ago and countless pilgrims since then,  
We walked in the footsteps of the saints once again.  
We completed this Wednesday with a wonderful dinner  
And the surprise murder mystery western party turned out a winner.











Thursday – July 28

## Lindisfarne (Priory Eucharist and Celtic Knotwork with Mary Fleeson)



The Lindisfarne Priory at the edge of the town  
Is a place in the past where the authorities did frown  
When we celebrated a Eucharist out by St. Cuthbert  
No matter how hard we tried public disruption to avert.  
But this year our spirits were completely gladdened,  
Thanks to a saintly man named David, supervisor from Historic England,  
Who not only okayed us to gather for prayer,  
But personally unlocked the place when there was nobody there.  
So on this beautiful morning, with sunshine and peace,  
And the only sounds heard were the birds and the seas,  
We gathered for Communion like all past St. Joseph's pilgrims  
And to borrow Derek's favorite word, the experience was "awesome."  
We prayed for the 100-plus St. Joseph's members  
Who came here before us, and we also remembered  
Our families and friends who remain back in the States  
And whose generosity has made this pilgrimage so great.

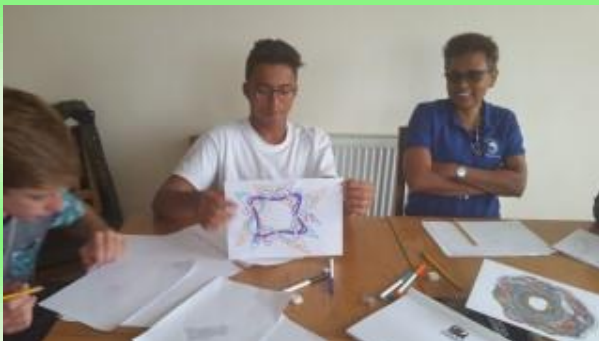


The afternoon resulted in new skills we were reaching,  
In the art of Celtic Knotwork, by Mary Fleeson's patient teaching.  
There was artistic talent seen in their acting last night,  
And now putting pen to the paper, this group does all right.









With hugs goodbye to Mary, we ended the day,  
 With some time before dinner for free time and play.  
 An additional treat was brought by our coach driver Steve,  
 Whose son Owen James was too cute to believe.  
 (Steve's wife Cheryl had driven from their home in Dundee,  
 As a surprise for their son his traveling daddy to see.)







Author [Marty Zlatic](#) Posted on [July 28, 2016](#)

## 2 thoughts on "Thursday – July 28 – Lindisfarne (Priory Eucharist and Celtic Knotwork with Mary Fleeson)"

1.



**Cheryl May** says:

[July 29, 2016 at 12:34 pm](#)

Mary is special, creative and full of the Spirit, which I didn't appreciate during the frustration of her workshop. But now that I'm home surrounded by her work, it speaks loud and clear that removed a block. But, most important, the online program that I got that allows me to color, and if I don't like it, but it in the trash, print another, and try, try again. Mine needn't be perfect, it's the journey & pilgrimage that counts.

2.



**Marty knight** says:

[July 29, 2016 at 2:16 pm](#)

Thanks so much for the daily news! Your journey sounds wonderful – playful and spiritual all wrapped into one life changing experience!  
Your travels bring back happy memories for me – continued prayers for God's protection  
.....may this time together be a blessing for all! Love and prayers – Marty

Friday – July 29

## Traveling to Bede's Monasteries at St. Paul's (Jarrow) and St. Peter's (Monkwearmouth)

What we know of our past is a gift when we read  
The history recorded in books by Venerable Bede.  
Who taught so much worldly wisdom though he did rarely go,  
Beyond the two abbeys of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow.  
We departed to go visit before the tide rose.  
With Steve driving the coach, we saw a seal from the window.  
Arriving at Jarrow, we toured the church unaccompanied,  
Then prayed the pilgrims' service (that Jimmy Guy used to lead.)  
(Jimmy? He's the legendary warden beyond compare  
Who for years led the pilgrimage visits, but he's ill – so needs prayer.)



Forsaking the bicycles this year, which worked for us never,  
We actually made it to St. Peter's for the first pilgrimage ever!  
The place is very special, and the parishioners so kind  
They even run a café, where for lunch we first dined.  
Then David gave us a tour both inside and out,  
And revealed that Jarrow's historical claims he did doubt,  
(Between the two abbeys there's rivalry a bit,  
That both abbeys express with their dry British wit.)





We drove back to our Holy Island home one last night,  
First free time, then dinner, then clean up the site.  
We honored our driver Steve who for dinner was our guest,



(since the Fleesons had a sickness, we gave them the rest.)  
We worked until 10 packing and cleaning,  
We'll finish up in the morning when this Holy Island we're leaving.



**Saturday – July 30**

## **Holy Island to Durham to Edinburgh**

They were groggy this morning to finish up packing  
And clean up the floors from the dirt we've been tracking,  
But we boarded the van on time right at 9:15  
To say goodbye to Lindisfarne, so peaceful and serene,  
As with the tide turning early the tourists later would arrive  
So we departed OUR island, and to Durham would drive.  
We stopped at the causeway for a pilgrimage rite,  
As the burden rocks with our prayer partners we'd reunite,  
Like monks of old who traveled from Iona to Holy Island,  
We'd traveled the same journey, carrying someone else's burden,  
We each threw our rock back into the sand and the sea  
And singing "When I lay my burden down," from them we were set free.  
We arrived at Durham Cathedral, where we spent most of the day,  
First with the Communion Service, in the Gregory Chapel we'd pray,  
Then off for a lunch in a beautiful Undercroft Café,  
Then back to the nave where Lilian our guide showed the way.  
She's an incredible saint – coming back from hip surgery to be our guide  
With a cane and new hip at 93, our youth couldn't keep up with her stride.  
We visited the Galilee Chapel and Bede's tomb,  
A beautiful setting in a beautiful room.  
We ended the visit with the highlight of pilgrims for years,  
At the tomb of St. Cuthbert, we prayed and shed a few tears.  
Then with hugs goodbye to Lilian, we went to a new display,  
Called the Open Treasures of Durham, to end our incredible day.  
Then back on the coach, with a stop at the Angel of the North,  
A buffet dinner at Aneesa's, where the youth got their money's worth.  
Then a first for our pilgrims, across the Millennium Bridge we walked,  
Then watched the whole thing be raised up high as we gawked.  
A final two hours, and back in Edinburgh where we began,  
the van was unpacked and to bed they all ran.  
From England to Scotland, all in one day,  
From Lindisfarne to Durham then up Newcastle Way,  
Then all the way to Edinburgh, Steve drove many miles on our coach,  
A wonderful pilgrimage day as our end we approach.



**Sunday – July 31**

## **Edinburgh**

We went to Old Saint Paul's for a very high Mass,  
In a church where Samuel Seabury is commemorated in stained glass,  
For who would have known when he worshipped here when he was young,  
Later in life as our first Bishop, into the Episcopacy he'd be flung.  
Then our last day for free time to explore Edinburgh's Royal Mile,  
the street performers and hawkers caused us to smile.  
We unfortunately met at Starbucks to try and Skype back to St. Joe's,  
But their wifi was bad (to match their coffee, I suppose...)  
We came back to the Fountain Court apartments to prepare  
For our farewell celebration, with some local friends there:  
There was Ian Morrison, our past driver, and Steve our current one too;  
With guide Karen MacCormack and Alastair our friendship we'd renew;  
Then musicians from Stramash: many of you would remember Scott and Ian,  
When they were joined by fiddler Alan, a great concert they'd be singin',  
Some great Scottish music to complete all we've done,  
The night wasn't complete until Auld Lang Syne we had sung.  
With hugs all around we prepared to clean up  
In the early morning it will be hard to wake these teens up.

**Monday – August 1**

## **EDI-EWR-PBI-HOME!**



In the words of T.S. Eliot,  
*We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring  
will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.*

May the completion of these 18 days of pilgrimage be just the start of discovering anew  
your spiritual home in Jesus Christ.

