

11
NIGHTS

Regents Park Parish Pilgrimage to the *Holy Land*

Watch the Gospels come alive on this most authentic faith journey live on location in the Holy Land of Israel. Take the chronological road of Jesus' life from Bethlehem to Nazareth and Galilee to Jerusalem as we prepare for a powerful encounter into the heart of His passion.

11 Nights / 13 Days

Dead Sea (1 Night) / Bethlehem (2) / Nazareth / Cana / Sea of Galilee (3) / Mt Tabor / Mt Carmel / Haifa / Jericho / Jerusalem (4)

DEPARTS SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER, 2020



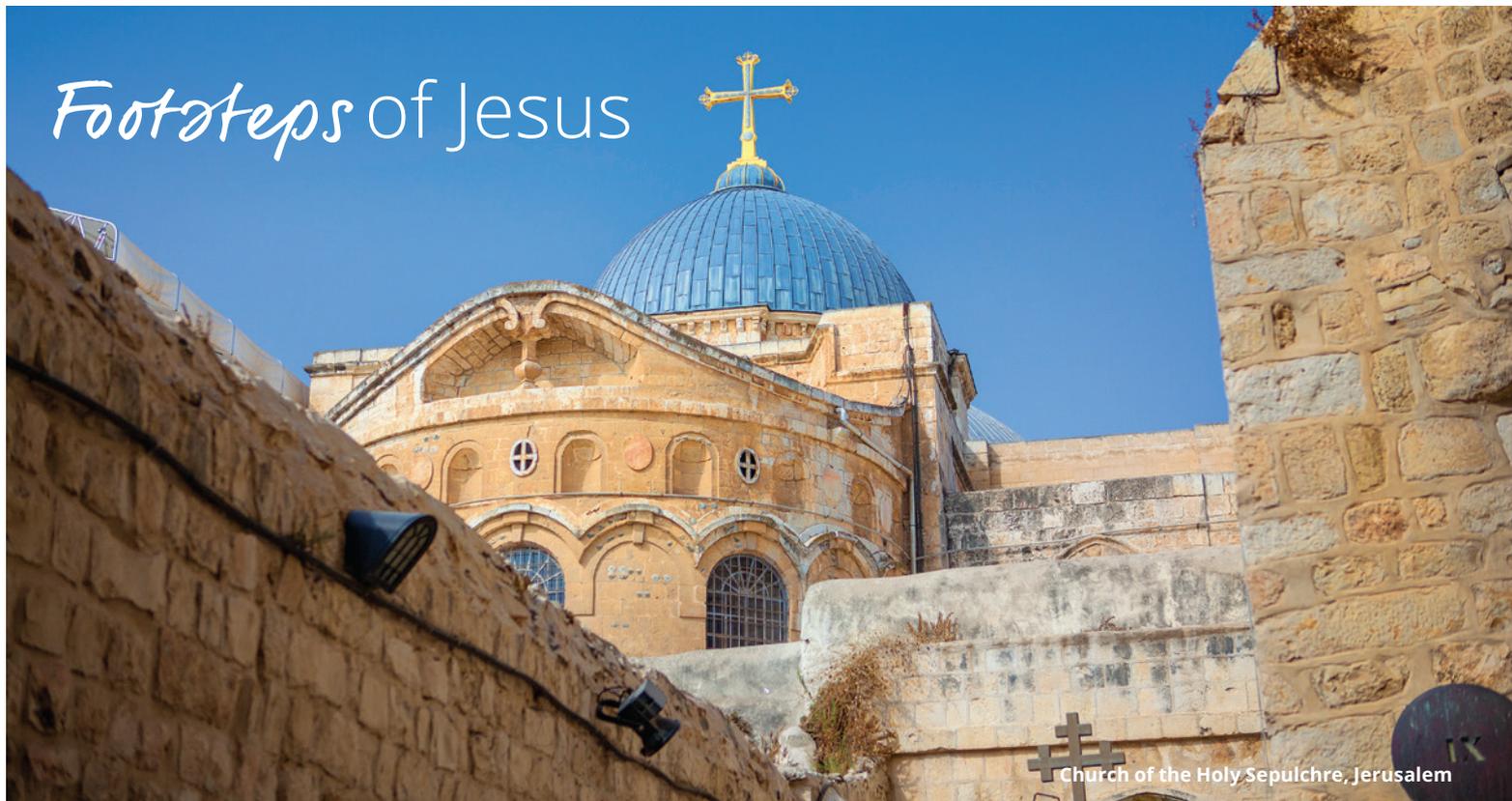
Accompanied by:
Fr John Conway



the genuine pilgrim experience

harvest
journeys

Footsteps of Jesus



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

MEAL CODES

(B) = Breakfast (L) = Lunch (D) = Dinner

DAY 1: SATURDAY 3 OCT - DEPART AUSTRALIA

DAY 2: SUNDAY 4 OCT - VIA AMMAN/MT NEBO TO DEAD SEA (D)

Arrive today into Jordan's capital Amman. Travel by coach west to ascend Biblical Mt Nebo. Here, at the site where the Old Testament opened its door to the land of the New, Moses looked over into the Promised Land and blessed Joshua who was to lead the Israelites under God's protection. It has been possible for archaeologists to identify this sanctuary, thanks to the records left by two pilgrim-visitors of the 4th & 5th centuries of their travels in this region.

We continue to our hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea. Here we will unwind and take the optional opportunity to float in the salty waters said to have healing qualities. The experience is quite uplifting!!

Dead Sea overnight

DAY 3: MONDAY 5 OCT - DEAD SEA / BETHANY BEYOND THE JORDAN / BETHLEHEM (BD)

We make a visit to Bethany Beyond the Jordan, one of the most recent archaeological and religious discoveries. The five springs here form a tributary of the Jordan River, believed to be the Baptismal site of Jesus by John the Baptist.

We then cross the border into the Holy Land of Israel known as the land of the "fifth Gospel". Continue to Bethlehem, the City of David.

Bethlehem overnight

DAY 4: TUESDAY 6 OCT - BETHLEHEM & SURROUNDS (BLD)

We firstly travel out to Ein Karem, birthplace of St John the Baptist and Church of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. Pilgrims may

choose to pray a mystery of the Rosary here as we walk up to this church dedicated to 'The Magnificat'. From here we come to the Church of St John the Baptist, built over a natural grotto identified as the saint's birthplace.

Returning to Bethlehem, we enjoy a fascinating visit to Bethlehem University to engage with local students in discussion before visiting the beautiful chapel and Cultural Heritage Centre within the grounds. To cap off our visit, the students from the Hotel Management Institute will prepare and host a special home cooked meal for lunch.

Continue to Shepherd's Field to celebrate Mass in a local cave to commemorate the appearance of the angels to the shepherds on that first Christmas night.

Our day will culminate at the Church of the Nativity, the oldest complete church in the Christian world and birthplace of Jesus. Bow low and enter the grotto through the Door of Humility as we descend to the Holy Manger where a silver star in the floor marks the actual spot where Jesus was born. Finally we come to St Jerome's Cave where in 386 AD the saint spent 30 years translating the scriptures from Hebrew into Greek and Latin producing the first vernacular version of the Bible!

We will then visit the Milk Grotto, under the custody of the Franciscans in the Holy Land.

Bethlehem overnight

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY 7 OCT - VIA NAZARETH TO THE SEA OF GALILEE (BLD)

We farewell Bethlehem this morning and journey directly north to Nazareth, the town of Jesus' childhood. Firstly, come to nearby Nazareth Village, an authentic non-profit re-creation of the village life of Nazareth as in the days of Jesus. Here we will take a parable-rich walk back in time along the path which brings to life the environment and atmosphere

which shaped Jesus' early years and ministry. Complete our memorable visit with a fascinating first-century meal in a stone-dining area typical of the days of Christ.

Back in Nazareth township, enter inside the Basilica of the Annunciation where a traditional cave becomes the focal point as we ponder Mary's selfless and humble response to the angel. Celebrate Mass before visiting the nearby Church of St Joseph before entering the nearby Synagogue Church.

Travel on to the village of Cana this afternoon where Jesus, at the request of His Mother, performed his first miracle transforming the water into wine at the wedding feast. Here, married couples may take the opportunity to renew their wedding vows, and single and widowed pilgrims will receive a special blessing. Journey east to Tiberias on the shores of Lake Galilee.

Sea of Galilee overnight

DAY 6: THURSDAY 8 OCT - SEA OF GALILEE (BLD)

Arise and set out on a spectacular day of pilgrimage as we set off to Capernaum, the once fishing village of the first apostles Peter, Andrew, James & John which also became the home town of Jesus and the scene of many of his miracles. Continue on to Nof Ginosar Kibbutz, within which is preserved the 1st century 'Jesus boat' painstakingly raised and restored from the muddy lakebed in 1986.

Set off from here on a traditional sailing vessel for a spectacular Harvest highlight – a Private Mass in the centre of Lake Galilee. Reflect upon the miracles of Jesus calming the storm and appearing to the apostles walking on this very water.

Continue back to the shore to enjoy a traditional 'St Peter's fish' lunch to commemorate our Galilee experience. Journey north around the lake to remember the Galilean cities of



Lake Galilee



Bethsaida and Korazim cursed by Jesus. These two cities along with Capernaum became known as the 'evangelical triangle' because most of Jesus' teachings and miracles occurred there. In **Korazim** we will enter the 3rd century synagogue constructed of local black basalt stone.

Visit **Tabgha**, site of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes and pray within the 4th century church displaying Byzantine mosaics considered to be some of the best in the Holy Land. Beneath the altar is the rock believed to be where Jesus placed the loaves and fish before blessing them. Finally, we come to the **Church of the Primacy of Peter** down by the shores of the lake.

Sea of Galilee overnight

DAY 7: FRIDAY 9 OCT - MT BEATITUDES / HAIFA / MT TABOR (BLD)

We begin our day at the **Mount of Beatitudes** for Mass as we take time in this special place to ponder Jesus' message of happiness – the Sermon on the Mount.

Travel west to **Haifa**, the largest city in Northern Israel. Here the Mediterranean Sea wraps around three sides of Haifa with intoxicating blue and gold beaches. In this region we come to the Stella Maris Monastery at **Mount Carmel** where in the lower cave, Elijah was said to have meditated on his victory over the false prophets of Baal.

We then make our way to the **House of Grace**, a Catholic ministry that works with the most marginalised members of Haifa: Christians, Jews and Muslims who are in need of counselling, guidance, and material aid. Here we will share lunch and hear an inspired talk about this powerful ministry to rehabilitate released prisoners.

Finally, we come to the foot of **Mt Tabor** before ascending by taxis up the narrow

winding road leading to the majestic summit. Here Our Lord's divinity shone forth in the Transfiguration.

Return to Tiberias for rest before dinner.

Sea of Galilee overnight

DAY 8: SATURDAY 10 OCT - VIA JERICHO TO JERUSALEM (BLD)

Prepare for yet another pilgrim highlight this morning as we set off to a secret location down by the shores of Lake Galilee to enjoy **Breakfast with Jesus**. In this picturesque setting, we will celebrate Mass by the shore before a picnic breakfast.

We journey south along the Jordan Valley to **Jericho** the 'City of Palms' and said to be the oldest inhabited city in the world dating back to the first hunter-gatherers around 9000 BC.

Stop by the famous **Sycamore tree** used to commemorate the story of the tax collector Zacchaeus. Across the valley we view the **Mt of Temptation** where Christ was tempted by the devil during his 40 day fast.

Travel west through the dry rocky landscape of the **Judean Desert** before ascending the spectacular lookout as we view the **St George's Monastery** - a cliff hanging 5th century complex carved into a sheer rock wall and still occupied today.

Travel along the **Jericho Road** and finally, journey south on and up to **Jerusalem** – the City of our God. Before arrival at our hotel we will enter on foot through the gates of the Old City into the Jewish Quarter and on to the **Wailing Wall** (now known as the Western Wall). Here at the eve of the Sabbath it is one of the great sights of the world to witness hundreds of devout Jews chanting their prayers known as the Kabbalat Shabbat – the joyous Jewish ritual of welcoming in the Day of the Lord.

Jerusalem overnight

DAY 9: SUNDAY 11 OCT - JERUSALEM (BLD)

Begin our Jerusalem pilgrimage as we proceed up to the **Mt of Olives** to visit the '**Pater Noster**' Church where Jesus taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer. Enjoy a panoramic view and photographic opportunity over the city. Walk down the Palm Sunday Road as pilgrims to the **Dominus Flevit Church** for Mass, built on the site where Jesus wept over Jerusalem.

We then come down to the **Garden of Gethsemane**, where we will enter the **Church of the Agony** containing the rock upon which Jesus is said to have prayed before his arrest. Prepare then for a memorable pilgrim highlight as we move to the **private garden for a secluded time of prayer** and reflection surrounded by ancient olive trees.

From here we set out by coach across town to the **Israel Museum** for a lunch break. Continue then on a fascinating outdoor orientation viewing of the **Second Temple Scale Model of Jerusalem** as it was in the time of Jesus. In the adjacent **Shrine of the Book Museum** we view the Dead Sea Scrolls with our own eyes.

Jerusalem overnight

DAY 10: MONDAY 12 OCT - JERUSALEM (BLD)

This morning we come to **Mt Zion** and firstly enter the **Cenacle room of the Last Supper** (Upper Room) where we commemorate the institution of the Eucharist and the later descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. After time here to sit and reflect we will continue to the **Church of the Dormition** identified as the place where the Virgin Mary died or 'fell asleep'.

We then visit the **Church of St Peter in Gallicantu** commemorating Peter's triple denial of Jesus. We then come to the vicinity of the **Temple Mount** to view the Dome of the Rock, El Aqsa Mosque and the Western Wall (once known as the Wailing Wall).



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

Enjoy some free time this afternoon to rest, pray or explore the Old City at your own pace. Pilgrims may elect to consider a sobering visit to the Yad Vashem (Holocaust History Museum) to learn about the tragic events where six million Jewish victims lost their lives during the atrocities of World War II.

Before dinner we will meet with representatives from the Bereaved Families Forum in our hotel meeting room. Here we will take the opportunity to listen to the courageous stories of bereaved Israeli and Palestinian family members as they share their extraordinary journey of loss on the path of true reconciliation.

Jerusalem overnight

DAY 11: TUESDAY 13 OCT - JERUSALEM (BLD)

Arise very early this morning as we return to the Old City of Jerusalem to commence our **Stations of the Cross**, beginning from the **Antonia Fortress** where Jesus was condemned to death. We pray and follow in Our Lord's footsteps along the actual **Via Dolorosa** to culminate at the site of **Calvary** where we will celebrate Mass here in the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. Walk the stairway to the actual site where the Cross of Jesus once stood. The glass panels reveal the natural rock below which we may come to touch with our pilgrim hands. Also enter the **Tomb of Christ**, the site believed to be where Our Lord lay buried for three days before rising from the dead.

After breakfast back at our hotel we re-enter the Old City precinct to the **Church of St Anne**, said to be built over the birthplace of the Virgin Mary. Continue to the adjacent **Pool of Bethesda** where Jesus healed the paralysed man. See the **Lithostrotos (pavement)** in the **Ecce Homo** convent and the **Flagellation and Condemnation Chapels** which so vividly commemorate the last hours of Jesus' life.

Continue this morning to **Emmaus (Abu Gosh)** where the Disciples recognised the risen Jesus.

We enter here through the gardens of this Benedictine church built by the Crusaders and take time to reflect with gratitude on the Lord's companionship with us along the road of our past days of pilgrimage.

Time for rest mid afternoon before we experience the spectacular **Holy Shroud Exhibit** in the Notre Dame Centre where pilgrims will gain a deeper understanding of Christ's suffering and resurrection, while viewing a full size replica of the Holy Shroud housed in Turin.

For our final night together, we will enjoy a **Special Celebration Dinner** with spectacular views over all of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem overnight

DAY 12: WEDNESDAY 14 OCT - DEPART THE HOLY LAND (B)

We return to the Mt of Olives to the **Chapel of the Ascension** which is believed to mark the place where Jesus ascended into heaven. The small round church/mosque contains a stone imprinted with what is said to be the footprints of Jesus.

Return to the airport for our homebound flight or ongoing pilgrimage extension (Petra 2 nights – details to be advised)

DAY 13: THURSDAY 15 OCT - ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Contact Harvest for a possible 2 Night Petra Extension

PRICING TABLE

TOUR CODE	DEPART	RETURN
PV1620	Sat 3 Oct	Thu 15 Oct
AIR & TOUR (Indicative)		\$6,790 (Twin Share)
SINGLE ROOM \$1,590pp		PREPAID TIPPING FUND \$110

NB: All costs are in AUD and are based on twin share rooming and are valid as at 23 November 2018 and must remain subject to possible change in the unlikely event of significant exchange rate variations, airfare increases and minimum group size contingencies (25).

INCLUSIONS

AIRFARES

Economy class airfare from Brisbane (N.B. Airlines taxes are included on standard itinerary and subject to fluctuations)

ACCOMMODATION & MEALS

Based on moderate standard hotel throughout with breakfast daily and dinner daily, 8 lunches

MISCELLANEOUS INCLUSIONS

Deluxe Air-Conditioned Motor coach with driver • Local tour escort/guide • Sightseeing and entrance fees throughout itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

Passport and Visa Costs (if applicable) • Prepaid Tipping • Other meals not stated • Items of a personal nature including phone calls, laundry, beverages, etc. • Travel insurance (Harvest will recommend a special group policy rate)

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