



Walsingham Pilgrimage 28th – 31st May 2019

We all arrived safely at Walsingham in Norfolk in time for lunch on Tuesday 28th May. Then we had Our First Visit to the Holy House. Later we had the moving service of *Stations of the Cross*, when all our pilgrims read. The Stations of the Cross are around the grounds including a green hill with three crosses for the 12th Station *Jesus dies on the cross*. We went to Mass in the Shrine Church at 5 pm and after dinner a Service of Healing and Reconciliation. We received sprinkling with water from the holy well and there was opportunity to receive the healing ministries of laying-on-of hands and anointing and an invitation to go to Confession.



Here is a photograph of 8 of the Pilgrims. Fr Paul Matthias also came on the Pilgrimage.

In the photograph you can see from left to right Fr Neil Bryson, Fr Brian Reed, Elizabeth Bryson, Ralph Baldock, Jonathan Ardley, Tim Samuelson, Valerie Brown and Eleanor Relle.

Each evening at 5pm some pilgrims went to Evening Prayer, which included Benediction on Wednesday on the Eve of the Ascension. At 6pm some pilgrims went to Shrine Prayers and were moved to be a part of a prayer cycle that has been going on since the Shrine began.

On Wednesday there was a wonderful Pilgrims' Mass in the morning and Procession of Our Lady and Benediction in the evening. In the free afternoon some of us visited the Abbey ruins. On Thursday it was Ascension Day and we attended a glorious Mass at the Parish Church. In the afternoon some of us walked the holy mile to the Slipper Chapel and then walked back. In the evening we had a party. On Friday morning we had a Mass of the Visitation in the Shrine Church in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit thus marking the start of our *Novena*. The Pilgrimage concluded with our Last Visit to the Holy House, before leaving to travel home.

Here are some comments from the nine Pilgrims from St Michael & All Angels':

- Loved the beauty and holiness of the Church Services.
- Walsingham is one big happy family.
- Feeling I had returned home.
- Two Sermons from Bishop Philip North.
- A wonderful Ascension Day Mass in the Parish Church with everyone singing heartily.
- Feeling closer to God there.
- The peace and beauty of the gardens, the tranquil environment and lovely countryside.
- Being in a 'thin place' close to heaven, receiving peace and healing.
- Finding Sister Joan's grave in the Churchyard of St Mary's Parish Church.

This photograph of the beautiful gardens at Walsingham shows the Crosses on the green hill, which is Station 12 of the Stations of the Cross.

Here is the programme of the Pilgrimage:



Tuesday			
8 am	Depart for Walsingham		
12:30 pm	Lunch	Refectory	
2 pm	First Visit	Shrine Church	Fr N
3:30 pm	Stations of the Cross	Grounds	<i>(see back)</i>
5 pm	Mass	Holy House	
6:30 pm	Dinner	Refectory	
8:15 pm	Healing & Reconciliation Ministries		Shrine Church

Wednesday		
8-9:15 am	Breakfast	Refectory
11 am	Pilgrims' Mass	Shrine Church
12:30 pm	Lunch	Refectory
2:30 pm	Free Afternoon	
6:30 pm	Dinner	Refectory
8:15 pm	Procession of Our Lady & Benediction	Shrine Church and grounds

Thursday		
8-9:15 am	Breakfast	Refectory
11 am	Ascension Day Mass	Shrine Church
12:30 pm	Lunch	Refectory
2 pm	Holy Mile	Elizabeth
6:30 pm	Dinner	Refectory
8 pm	Party	<i>(venue tbc)</i>

Friday			
8 - 9:15 am	Breakfast	Refectory	
9:30 am	Mass of the Visitation	St Columba	Fr N
10:15 am	Last Visit	Holy House	Fr N

We recommend the next Pilgrimage to Walsingham to you. It is wonderful to have time in that peaceful place and to enjoy time with the other pilgrims in one of the loveliest places in the country. We appreciate Jonathan Ardley organising the booking of the Pilgrimage and Fr Neil's leading of the Pilgrimage. It is wonderful as a catholic parish that we have an annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.