

The Pilgrim's Journey

Begin in the Pastoral Centre Station 1.

Pilgrimage is traditionally a journey to a holy place — a place where saints have walked, a place where God has met people and blessed them.

People through the ages have journeyed with God on pilgrimage — to perform a penance, to ask for healing, to pray for places where there is war or national disaster, to pray for friends. Pilgrimage is an opportunity to travel lightly, to walk free of daily routines, to meet people, to make friends, to enjoy and celebrate God's creation. An opportunity, too, in the travelling, the conversations and the silences to reflect on the journey of our lives and on our journey homewards to God.

Let us now reflect on our life's journey in the form of a pilgrimage, from the beginning of our journey, through our lives so far to our journeys end.

Prayers before setting out on a pilgrimage

God of the guiding star, the bush that blazes

R/ SHOW US YOUR WAY

God of the stormy seas, the bread that nourishes

R/TEACH US YOUR TRUTH

God of the still, small voice, the wind that blows where it chooses

R/ FILL US WITH LIFE

God of the elements, of our inward and outward journeys

R/ SET OUR FEET ON YOUR ROAD TODAY.

MAY GOD BLESS US WITH A SAFE JOURNEY

MAY THE ANGELS AND SAINTS TRAVEL WITH US

MAY WE LIVE THIS DAY IN JUSTICE AND JOY. AMEN.

Walk Silently and prayerfully to Church and go to the Baptismal Font (Beginning of Journey) Station 2

The Sacraments of Christian Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist—lay the foundations of our Christian pilgrim life. We, are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life.

From the time of the apostles, becoming a Christian has been accomplished by a journey and initiation in several stages. This journey can be covered rapidly or slowly, but certain essential elements will always have to be present: proclamation of the Word, acceptance of the Gospel entailing conversion, profession of faith, Baptism itself, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and admission to Eucharistic communion.

Let us revisit where we have been and remember those who travelled with us at these stages of our lives – our Mothers and Fathers, our Family members, our God Parents and friends, some who have travelled on and completed their journey, some who are still travelling with us. In Baptism we become "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people . So Let us, profess before each other our faith, handed down by our Parents and God Parents:

There is only one God - the God revealed to us by Jesus as a loving Father who cares about each of us. Do you believe in God and God's Love? ALL: I do. Jesus, God's own son, came into the world by being born of the Virgin Mary. He died so that we might die to sin. He rose again so that we might rise to newness of life. Do you believe in Jesus Christ? All : I do.

The works of Satan are seen as acts of injustice and violence, acts of greed and selfishness, acts of pride and vanity. Do you reject Satan and all his works? All: I do.

The true Spirit is the Holy Spirit: the Spirit of love and forgiveness, the Spirit of joy and goodness, the Spirit of gentleness and peace. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? All; I do.

Each person has a tremendous dignity as a human being and as a child of God. Do you believe in your own dignity and that of others? All: I do

In each of us there is a divine spark which even death cannot extinguish. Do you believe in the life to come? All: I do.

Do you believe in the Church through which the Gospel is preached to the whole world and in which we become brothers and sisters in Christ?

All: I do.

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Jesus Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Walk prayerfully to the Altar Station 3

At Confirmation, the bishop extends his hands over the whole group. Since the time of the apostles this gesture has signified the gift of the Spirit. The bishop invokes the outpouring of the Spirit with the following prayer – let us repeat these words for ourselves today:

**All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you freed us from sin
and gave us new life.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us
to be our helper and guide.
Give us the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of right judgment and courage,
the spirit of knowledge and reverence.
Fill us with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.¹¹³**

Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:
- it roots us more deeply as God's children which makes us cry,
"Abba! Father!"
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross:

Let us confirm now and publicly pronounce our faith.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit, was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

When adults are baptized, they immediately receive Confirmation and participate in the Eucharist. The holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation and all now participate with the whole community in the Lord's own sacrifice by means of the Eucharist.

My Lord Jesus Christ, I firmly believe that I am about to receive, in Communion, Your Body, Your Blood, Your Soul and Your Divinity. I believe it because You have said it, and I am ready to give my life to maintain this truth.

May you always know the peace of Jesus, the light of his love, and the joy of his life within you.

Let us now share together a sign of Christ's Peace.

Walk past the Stations of the Cross – Jesus' fully human final journey

Station 4.

The **Stations of the Cross** are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a human person. The 14 devotions, or **stations**, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The **stations** are

commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station.

O Jesus, my Redeemer, behold me here at your feet. From the bottom of my heart I am sorry for all my sins, because by them I have offended You, who are infinitely good and full of mercy.

Lord Jesus Christ , Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner

Outside the Church – Our Journey through Life. Station 5

Let us pray this ancient Pilgrim's Prayer

All Pilgrim God,
our shoes are filled with stones,
our feet are blistered and bleeding,
our faces are stained with tears.
As we stumble and fall
may we know your presence
in the bleeding and in the tears
and in the healing and the laughter
of our pilgrimage.
Pray for all pilgrims and seekers
and companions on the way;
for all travellers.
Christ, may I walk together with you,
in solidarity with the poor and
with all of God's creation.

Walk a little more and stop. Station 6

Pilgrimage is feet-on-the-ground spirituality. (Jan Sutch Pickard)
Follow truth wherever you find it.
Even if it takes you outside your preconceived ideas of God or life.
Even if it takes you outside your own country
into the most insignificant alien places
like Bethlehem. Be courageous. But concentrate on your search.

Walk a little more and stop Station 7

Let us stop and think of all the places and peoples in our world where life is about surviving war, violence and destruction

We Pray together The World Peace Prayer
Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead me from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts,
our world, our universe. Amen.

A Creed for Peace

We believe in you, O God,
you who love all humankind
because you are a God of Peace
not of violence nor vengeance.

You created us, women and men,
and your dream is that we discover
community, justice and peace
between all persons
and among all peoples of the earth.
Your holy prophets of old
proclaimed peace,
rejected the powerful of the earth
who tyrannized, creating injustice,
unleashing conflicts,
violence and death.
And so all of us, with faith and hope
proclaim our faith in you, Confessing that

we believe in the God of peace and justice.
We believe in Jesus Christ, servant and martyr for peace,
who was born among the least and most peaceful of your
people.
In the night of his birth the angels announced peace to the
shepherds.
Christ came to the world to bring peace not division.
He rejected sword and violence
and offered instead the special way of non-violence:
the way of truth, goodness, justice and love.
He was condemned to death for proclaiming
the Reign of God and God's justice, but God raised Jesus
from the dead.
Therefore, together, with faith and hope we proclaim our faith
in you, Confessing that we believe in you, Servant of peace.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
Giver of life.
Peace is the gift of the Holy Spirit of God and is the fruit of the
lives of those who make peace.
We believe in the church, The community of those
Who are peacemakers, In the forgiveness of sins
And in reconciliation. We believe in the promise of a new
heaven and a new earth Where life, justice and peace Will
triumph.
Therefore together, with faith and hope, We proclaim our faith
in you, Confessing that we believe In the Spirit of peace.

Journey on a little Station 8

A Pilgrim's Prayer by John M. Haffert

If some things do not happen as they are scheduled,
Lord, may I remember that I am a pilgrim not a tourist!
If I should get tired and inclined to become short-tempered,
Lord, may I remember that I am a pilgrim not a tourist!
If my meal in a foreign country may not be to my particular
liking, **Lord, may I remember that I am a pilgrim not a
tourist!**
If any delays should occur and I should become anxious,
Lord, may I remember that I am a pilgrim not a tourist!
If some other pilgrim is making noise so that I cannot hear
the guide, **Lord, may I remember that I am a pilgrim and
not a tourist**

when I ask that person to be a bit more quiet or If someone
takes a better seat or more choice place,
Lord, may I remember that I am a pilgrim not a tourist!
If I find myself last in line waiting,
Lord, may I remember that I am a pilgrim not a tourist!
If I should get a chance to help another person, who always
seems to be annoying me,
Lord, may I remember that I am a pilgrim not a tourist!

But Lord, especially let me remember that what I find objectionable
in another is really what you oftentimes find objectionable in me
and let me remember this and forgive the other, as you are
continually forgiving me! Lord Jesus Christ, you too were a pilgrim
Now you lead and guide us on our pilgrimage

As we follow in your steps, we ask the grace to keep our eyes on
you. Open our hearts that we may find you not only in ancient
stones, but in your people and in each other. Let your words be a
fire burning within us. Write your Gospel upon our hearts. Give us
a spirit of prayer lest we return full of facts but not of grace and
love.

Lord, Using your very own words to your Apostles we too pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, they will be done on earth as it is in
heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us,
Do not put us to the test, but deliver us from evil. Amen**

Walk a little more Station 9

PILGRIMAGE IN THE COMMUNITY

A Prayer of awareness (Led Meditation)

- Take time to walk mindfully, aware of being fully alive in the present moment.
- Travel slowly through landscape that is familiar, taking the opportunity to look through different eyes – eyes made aware of God's glory in creation – to the extraordinary range of people and places through which we pass, often blindly, each day
- As you go, pray for significant places and the people who visit them: the school, the pub, the shops, the post office.
- At the town/village hall, pray for those involved in local government. At the car park, pray for drivers.
- Sit in the park, resting in God and thanking Him for the gift of relaxation and leisure. Spend time simply being in God's presence.
- Think of the journeys that Jesus made in his lifetime, from that first journey to the stable in Bethlehem, through the teaching and healing in the villages around Jerusalem to that last bitter walk to the cross and afterwards along the road to Emmaus.

These journeys will bring us back to where we started but we may no longer be the same people. With open eyes and hearts we may have discovered God where he has always been – right in the midst of the everyday.

Walk to cemetery Station 10

God our Father,
Your power brings us to birth,
Your providence guides our lives,
and by Your command we return to dust.

Lord, those who die still live in Your presence,
their lives change but do not end.
We pray in hope for our families,
relatives and friends,
and for all the dead known to You alone.
In company with Christ,
Who died and now lives,
may they rejoice in Your kingdom,
where all our tears are wiped away.
Unite us together again in one family,
to sing Your praise forever and ever.

Amen.

Walk a little and stop

'Death is nothing at all' ~ Canon Henry Scott Holland

Death is nothing at all. I have only slipped away into the next room.
I am I, and you are you. Whatever we were to each other that we still are.
Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference in your tone, wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was, let it be spoken without effect, without the trace of shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was; there is unbroken continuity.
[There is absolute and unbroken continuity. What is this death but a negligible accident?]
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner.

All is well.

Walk through the cemetery Station 11

I am standing upon that foreshore.
A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength and I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white clouds just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other.
Then someone at my side says, "There! She's gone!"
"Gone where?"
"Gone from my sight, that's all". She is just as large in mast and spar and hull as ever she was when she left my side; just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of her destination. Her

diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at that moment when someone at my side says, "There! She's gone!" there are other eyes watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!" And that is dying.

All Sing our final Hymn.

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.