A PILGRIMAGE TO
THE HOLY LAND

DIOCESE OF CONNOR

With the Bishop of Connor
Led by Canon John Mann
22nd March - 1st April 2011

A comprehensive 11-day pilgrimage based in Jerusalem and the Galilee





McCabe Pilgrimages

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

With the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Revd Alan Abernethy

22nd March - 1st April 2011



In the Middle East, the reality on the ground is often far removed from what we see and read in the news. Places of pilgrimage are open and welcoming visitors. We have planned our programme for late March when the weather is usually ideal for touring. We will have the opportunity to worship with the local Christian community in Jerusalem on the Sunday morning and on our journey through the Holy Land to seek them out and to offer our support and encouragement.

Visits will include Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea and Qumran, as well as allowing free time for relaxation and private exploration. We will walk along the Via Dolorosa, sail on the Sea of Galilee, float on the Dead Sea and ascend the Mount of Masada by cable car. The Holy Land is unique in offering so many highlights and contrasts in such a compact area. Each day of our pilgrimage will be very different from the previous one.

We will travel with optimism and enthusiasm as we participate in a new era of Holy Land pilgrimage and re-discover the joy and enrichment of being a pilgrim.

TOUR INFORMATION







The cost of this tour is £1,465 FROM BELFAST sharing a twin-bedded room with private facilities. We stay in two family owned and managed hotels. In Jerusalem, the three star Golden Walls Hotel overlooks the Old City walls and is walking distance of the Holy Sepulchre. In Tiberias, we stay at the four star Ron Beach Hotel in a wonderful situation right on the lakeside. The tour is on a full-board basis with buffet breakfast, lunch and table d'hôte evening meal included daily. Touring is in air-conditioned coaches and we will be accompanied by a local guide who will share leadership responsibilities and look after the formalities of hotel check-ins etc. All entrance fees are included. Flights are with British Midland between Belfast City Airport and Tel Aviv (via London Heathrow). All airport and security charges are included and a complimentary visa is issued on arrival in Israel.

We have included most expenses in the tour cost but some items are listed separately. The travel insurance premium is £49. Everybody travelling should be insured but some may have annual or another suitable insurance. You should budget for an amount of £45 per person for a group gratuity fund which we will disburse locally to those who help us on our journey. Single rooms are available at a supplementary cost of £285. Please, however, see our note "Travelling Alone" overleaf. The optional excursion to Masada and the Dead Sea costs £45. Any special requests should be noted on the booking form. A deposit is payable now with the balance payable 8 weeks prior to departure.



TO MAKE A RESERVATION

To reserve your place on this tour please complete the enclosed booking form and send it with a deposit of £100 plus the insurance premium of £49, to the tour leader. Please make cheques payable to 'McCabe Pilgrimages'.

Canon John Mann,
St John's Rectory, 86 Maryville Park, Belfast, BT9 6LQ
Tel: (028) 9066 6644 Email: john.o.mann@btinternet.com

DIOCESE OF CONNOR

DAILY PROGRAMME

Tuesday 22nd March JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND
We meet at Belfast City Airport. Flight BD081 leaves Belfast at 0645 and arrives in London Heathrow at 0815. We then connect on to flight BD761 which departs at 1115 and arrives 1805. Transfer on arrival to our hotel in Jerusalem. Six night stay at the Golden Walls Hotel close to the Old City and the Biblical sites we shall be visiting.

Wednesday AN INTRODUCTION TO JERUSALEM



We drive to the Mount of Olives where we have a panoramic view of the walled city. As we look across the Kidron Valley we see the Golden Gate, the Dome of the Rock and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. On the Mount of Olives we visit the Pater Noster Church, Dominus Flevit Chapel, and the Church of All Nations in the Garden of Gethsemane. We also visit the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu (possible site of the High Priest's house). We drive out to West Jerusalem and the picturesque village of Ein Karem where we lunch at the Sisters of Sion convent and spend time visiting the Church of John the Baptist. We continue to the Israel Museum to visit the model of Ancient Jerusalem. We also see the Dead Sea scrolls (housed within the Shrine of the Book).

Thursday JEWISH QUARTER, TEMPLE MT & VIA DOLOROSA
We enter the Old City through Zion Gate and walk down through the Jewish Quarter to the Western Wall (where we also see the Bar-Mitzvah ceremonies) and ascend the Temple Mount to view the el Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. We finish our morning by the Pool of Bethesda and the Church of St Anne's. After lunch at the Ecce Homo convent (above the Lithostrotos) we follow the Via Dolorosa through the lanes of the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We end the afternoon at the Garden Tomb.

Friday MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA



A free day in Jerusalem or join a full-day OPTIONAL excursion to Masada and the Dead Sea. We drive into the Judean wilderness to Herod's desert fortress of Masada, which we ascend by cable car. We have an opportunity to float in the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea before lunch in the Lot Hotel. On our return journey to Jerusalem we call at Qumran (where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered). We call briefly in Jericho, lying within Palestinian territory. The final part of our journey is to Wadi Qelt, for a spectacular view of St George's desert monastery. Cost £45 including lunch. We will book you on the excursion unless you indicate otherwise on the booking form.

Saturday MOUNT ZION & BETHLEHEM
We drive to Mount Zion and call at the Dormition Abbey and Upper Room. We then cross into Palestinian territory to visit Bethlehem. We visit the Fields of the Shepherds (Holy Communion) and have time to shop in the olive wood co-operative. We lunch at the Lutheran-based Annadwa (International) Centre in the centre of Bethlehem and hear about their important work in the local community. In the afternoon we enter Manger Square and visit the Basilica and Grotto of the Nativity and St Jerome's Caves.

Sunday MEET THE PEOPLE
Some may wish to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the early morning to witness the variety of liturgy. We then have the opportunity to join with the local congregation at St George's Cathedral. We lunch at the Jerusalem Hotel. In the afternoon there are three options. We offer the possibility to drive to Bethany to see the Lazarus church and tomb and to visit Jeel al-Amal Boys Home and the Lazarus Girls Home, both supported by the McCabe Educational Trust. Alternatively, you could opt to visit the moving Yad Vashem Memorial to the Holocaust. A third choice is to take the opportunity to enjoy some free time around the Old City. Both tours aim to return to Jerusalem mid-afternoon and have some free time before dinner.

Monday ROMANS AND CRUSADERS



We leave Jerusalem, stopping at Abu Guosh (site of Emmaus) and drive to the Mediterranean coast to the Roman capital of Caesarea, where we visit the ruined city, restored amphitheatre and aqueduct. We lunch in a kibbutz close to Caesarea. In the afternoon we continue around the Bay of Haifa to the port of Acre, the Crusader capital, where we visit the impressive underground Knights' Halls and the Pasha al-Jezzar mosque. Three night stay (plus one short one!) at the Ron Beach Hotel by the Sea of Galilee with visits to places associated with Jesus' early life and ministry.

Tuesday NAZARETH
We ascend Mount Tabor in taxis to visit the Basilica of the Transfiguration and enjoy magnificent views over the plain of Armageddon. We continue to Nazareth where we visit Nazareth village (a reconstruction of 1st Century Galilean life) and have lunch at St. Margaret's Guest House. We visit St Gabriel's Church (Mary's Well), the Synagogue Church and the Basilica of the Annunciation. As we journey back to Tiberias we stop en route to visit Cana, scene of Jesus first miracle.

Wednesday THE LAKESIDE MINISTRY



Today we visit the sites associated with Jesus' life around the Sea of Galilee. We drive to the north of the lake and visit the ruins of Capernaum, Jesus' Galilean base. We continue to Mensa Christi (where Jesus appeared to his disciples after His resurrection) and celebrate Holy Communion on the shores of the lake at Tabgha beside the Church of the Loaves and Fishes. Lunch is at the Convent of the Beatitudes. We visit the church and garden which commemorate the Sermon on the Mount. After lunch, we return to the lake and sail back across the Sea of Galilee to Tiberias, returning by mid-afternoon to allow time to relax and swim.

Thursday THE NORTHERN GALILEE
We drive north to Banias (biblical Caesarea Philippi) where we have time for a pleasant walk through the reserve and for mediation and reflection. We then enjoy a leisurely lunch at Kibbutz Kfar Blum. We return south over the Golan Heights back to the Sea of Galilee.

Friday 1st April HOMEWARD BOUND
A very early start as we drive to Ben Gurion Airport for our return British Midland flight BD762 which departs at 0630 hours arriving into London Heathrow Airport at 1000. We connect with flight BD086 from Heathrow to Belfast which departs at 1325 and arrives at 1450.

OUR PILGRIMAGE



Bishop Alan writes…

I hope that you will consider joining me on pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Israel/Palestine in March 2011. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage with the places as well as the texts of the Bible and so to encounter and relate to Jesus in a new and thrilling way. We shall find the gospel made strikingly contemporary for us in the lives of the faithful Israelis and Palestinians whom we shall meet and who will guide us through their beautiful and troubled land. The variety of sites and situations will speak to us all differently; but we shall all be united on a journey together thirsting for holiness, forgiveness, peace and justice. The journey will also be full of laughter and joy, with profound worship and cherishing fellowship. You will need to have reasonable mobility as there is quite a lot of walking and lots of steps!

Golden Walls Hotel Terrace



Ron Beach Hotel beside the lake



TRAVELLING ALONE

Many of our passengers travel alone and object to expensive single room supplements. McCabe Pilgrimages will accept individual bookings on a 'guaranteed share' basis. We charge the basic price and accommodate you with a person of the same sex also requesting shared accommodation. If we do not find someone to share with you, you will be accommodated in a single room at only 50% of the usual single room supplement. For single travellers who do require single accommodation this should be requested when booking and, if available, the normal supplement will be payable.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND HEALTH

Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months after the time of this pilgrimage. If you need a new passport apply early as there can be considerable backlogs at the passport offices. A visa is issued free of charge on entering Israel and there are currently no further requirements for entering the Palestinian territories. If you are holding a non-British passport, or require further advice, please consult the McCabe office. No inoculations are required. We, however, do advise you to consult your doctor regarding your own personal requirements.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

McCabe will arrange comprehensive travel insurance cover for each passenger unless otherwise indicated on the booking form. We have negotiated the premium (see 'Tour Information' section inside for rate) which as well as offering full medical and baggage cover also gives cover against loss of deposits. Cover is arranged by Preferential Insurance Services Ltd and is underwritten by Optimum Underwriting Limited as underwriting agents for Groupama Insurance Company Limited – each aforementioned organisation is authorised and regulated by The Financial Services Authority (FSA). The policy wording sets out full details of cover and will be sent to you with your confirmation invoice. This document also acts as your insurance certificate so that your booking reference number is also your insurance policy number.

A special feature of the McCabe insurance is that there is no age limit. Please, however, note it is a requirement that all insured persons must adhere to the Medical Health Requirements section on page 5 of the Policy wording document (which we will send you with your confirmation invoice). If you answer yes to any of the questions asked within this section you must contact the HELPLINE 0845 250 5220. This is a confidential service that will decide whether or not this insurance is appropriate for you. If they decline to offer cover, or if you are unhappy with any aspect of the cover, you can return the policy within 14 days of issue and receive a full refund. In cases of difficulty, we have specialist insurers we can introduce you to.

McCabe Travel Ltd is an appointed representative of Preferential Insurance Services Ltd which is authorized and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) as are both Optimum Underwriting Ltd and Groupama Insurance Company Ltd.

AITO Quality Statement

McCabe Pilgrimages is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators and encourages high standards of quality and service. McCabe abides by the Association's Code of Conduct and adheres to the AITO Quality Charter which can be viewed on www.aito.co.uk. Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.

This pilgrimage is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. The McCabe ATOL number is 2920.

AITO HOLIDAYS WITH 100% FINANCIAL PROTECTION

McCabe Pilgrimages

11 Hillgate Place Balham Hill London SW12 9ER
Telephone 020 8675 6828 Fax 020 8673 1204
Email alistair@mccabe-travel.co.uk
www.mccabe-travel.co.uk

2920 ATOL PROTECTED