

Corrymeela Pilgrimage

Saturday, May 6, 4:00 pm – Saturday May 13, 2017



Some questions about the trip...

What are the objectives of the pilgrimage?

The objectives of the trip are: to increase our awareness of peacemaking in the context of Northern Ireland and around the world; and to consider how we might live out our learnings back in our home context.

Where does the pilgrimage begin?

The pilgrimage begins and ends in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Folks need to be in Belfast by 4 pm on Saturday, May 6, and arrange to leave no sooner than 4 pm Saturday, May 13. There are two airports in Belfast, the George Best City Airport, and the International Airport, about ½ hour outside of the city. Depending on which airline you are using will determine where you arrive. You can fly into Belfast through various airlines (including Air Canada via Heathrow, or United via New York), or into Dublin from various points and take a bus or train to Belfast, which takes about 2 hours. Costs run around \$1200-\$1300 including taxes, but sometimes there are sales slightly cheaper. Westjet is now flying direct to Dublin through St. John's (May-October) and flights are very reasonable.

How much does the trip cost?

The cost of the trip, not including airfare which is booked by you separately, will be approximately \$1500. A deposit of \$200 will be due by November 1, 2016.

What is covered in the cost?

The cost includes accommodation and breakfasts (continental) in Belfast and accommodation and all meals in Corrymeela. Also included are all group transportation costs to and from the Corrymeela Centre in Ballycastle, and a city bus tour in Belfast. Not included will be transportation to and from the airport to our accommodation in Belfast and taxis in Belfast – probably totalling about 25 pounds/\$50.

Who is leading and organizing the trip?

Martha Martin and Diana Ginn will organize and lead the trip. Martha spent three months as a volunteer at Corrymeela while on sabbatical in the summer of 2011. Since then Martha has taken six groups, totalling over 50 participants, back to Corrymeela and Northern Ireland. Diana was a participant in the May 2015 pilgrimage, and a co-leader on the 2016 Corrymeela Pilgrimage.

Who is organizing the travel details?

Each participant is responsible for making their own travel arrangements in and out of Belfast.

Where will we stay?

In Belfast, we stay at Farset International (<http://www.farsetinternational.co.uk/>) a cross between a hostel and a hotel. It is clean and friendly, has a wide range of clientele, and is a short cab ride to downtown Belfast. At Corrymeela, we will stay in residence (<http://www.corrymeela.org>). Both residences are wheelchair accessible and have wifi access in the common areas. The group will be booked into double rooms in both places. **It is possible to book a limited number of single rooms in each residence at an extra cost (approximately \$200). Please indicate this preference at the time you confirm participation.**

What will we do in Belfast?

The first night the group will have a gathering check in at Farset, and then go out to dinner together. On Sunday, we will spend some time learning about the city and its history and exploring the city either as a large group or in smaller groups, depending on the interests of the group. On Monday we hope to visit the Belfast office of Corrymeela in the morning, and then head to Corrymeela in Ballycastle after lunch by bus.

What will we do in Corrymeela?

At Corrymeela we will have one or two long-term volunteers assigned to our group for our time there who will help us get acclimatized to life at the Centre. Paul Hutchinson, former Director of the Centre, will be our facilitator for the week. We will have a mixture of presentations and participatory activities facilitated by volunteers, peace practitioners, and community leaders. At the Centre there is also an opportunity to take part in two daily worship times, morning and evening. We will also take a day trip to Derry/Londonderry. There will also be some limited time scheduled when folks can choose to hike, rest, visit the Giant's Causeway (20 minutes away), a World Heritage site, or explore the town of Ballycastle. We will return to Belfast on Saturday afternoon. It may be possible to book back into Farset for those who wish to stay on in Belfast.

Will there be time for any sightseeing?

There will not be time for official "sightseeing". If folks want more time to explore the city of Belfast, or other parts of Ireland, they should plan to come a few days early, or extend their time after the 13th. We will certainly have a chance to go into a pub or two in both Belfast and Ballycastle.

For more information about previous trips that Martha has led, check out her blog, "the corrymeela diaries" at: marthaemartin.blogspot.com

