



"SEEKING GOD TOGETHER" SPIRITUALITY IN HARD TIMES

May 25th - June 2nd, 2024

Join us in 2024 on our pilgrimage to Ireland's Croagh Patrick

University Lutheran Chapel in Berkeley will join Pr. Martin and the people of St. Finian's in Dublin and the International Community for pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick. After a few days of fellowship and spiritual discovery in Dublin and Kildare we travel to Westport on Ireland's wild western coast (www.wildatlanticway.com) to embark on a three-day pilgrimage on foot following the ancient path on to Croagh Patrick.

Croagh Patrick mountain (2500 ft) stands proudly on the edge of county Mayo, 10 km outside the picturesque town of Westport, and offers some of the best scenic views of the Irish Atlantic coastline, Drumlin Islands, and Clew Bay. The mountain got its name from Saint Patrick who with St. Brigid of Kildare and St. Columcille are the three patron saints of Ireland. According to legend, in 441AD, St Patrick traveled on his missionary expedition through Ireland to County Mayo and spent forty days of Lent on this mountain. He fasted and prayed – following the example of Moses and Christ. Legend also has it that Saint Patrick drove snakes and demons out of Ireland from here. It is said he threw them all into Demon's Hollow or Log na nDeamhan, a lake at the north base of Croagh Patrick. On the summit there is a stone chapel or oratory, and archaeologists have found evidence that there has been a sacred space on the summit since the 5th century.

The mountain is a destination for followers of all religions, and one of the world's largest Christian pilgrimage places. Here is some information to help you plan your trip:

- There will be room for **15 participants from the Chapel and 15 from St. Finian's** (including members of the International Community from around Dublin and Europe)

- **Dates of the pilgrimage are May 25 - June 2, 2024**
 - For Californian participants: Friday evening flight (May 24) from SFO to Dublin
 - All participants gather on Saturday afternoon (May 25) in the Lutherhaus/St. Finian's in Dublin
 - First couple of days in Dublin & Kildare
 - Wednesday (May 29) to Westport, returning to Dublin on Sunday, June 2nd
 - Flights back to SFO or European destinations on Monday, June 3rd

- **What to expect?**
 - Introductory sessions, welcome gatherings & parties in Dublin
 - Worship with St. Finian's on Trinity Sunday followed by shared afternoon and cultural offerings in Dublin
 - Conversations beginning in Dublin around the theme: *Seeking God in community – Spirituality in hard times*
 - Workshop conversation on *Exploring today's global reality and our response as Christians* with Katherine Meyer and Johnston McMaster.
Dr Katherine P Meyer is a former Trinity College Dublin Chaplain (Presbyterian and Methodist) and was most recently the pastor of Christ Church, Sandymount (United Presbyterian and Methodist). She has a lifelong involvement in adult learning and the arts of reading Scripture well. She is currently engaged in various ways with both the Irish School of Ecumenics and the Corrymeela Community.
Dr Johnston McMaster is Adjunct Assistant Professor with the Irish School of Ecumenics Trinity College Dublin. He is a Methodist minister and is a member of the Council of State of the President of Ireland. Areas of interest include Public Theology, spirituality and social ethics in the Celtic tradition, and Interreligious Dialogue and shared ethics.
 - Visit to the Sisters of St. Brigid (another Irish patron saint), *Solas Bhríde* (<https://solasbhríde.ie/>), in Kildare, and workshop conversation on the theme: *Seeking old and new pathways of the Spirit - Exploring "Celtic Spirituality"*
 - Quiet times, time for introspection and meditation around pilgrimage practices, social times
 - Morning/Evening Prayers
 - Stations along the way of the physical pilgrimage
 - Open air worship in the ancient monastic site of Clonmacnoise at the conclusion of the pilgrimage (<https://heritageireland.ie/places-to-visit/clonmacnoise/>) en route from Westport back to Dublin, Sunday morning, June 2
 - Final Session and Night prayer: Dublin Sunday evening, June 2

- **What's included?**
 - Travel in Ireland (incl. transfers from the airport) and accommodation in Dublin and in Westport are provided.
 - 4 breakfasts, 6 dinners, and all lunches are included. Other meals are on your own. (A two course dinner in a Dublin restaurant would cost from € 40 p.p., in Westport from € 30 p.p.)

- Dublin accommodation is in the Student Residences of University College Dublin (<https://www.ucd.ie/residences/>) (all single rooms)
- Westport accommodation is in the Castlecourt Hotel Westport (<https://www.castlecourthotel.ie/>) (single and double and twin rooms (two separate beds), although there is only a limited number of single occupancy rooms available, participants are encouraged to consider sharing a twin room)
- **How much will it cost?**
 - For participants from the United States, it will cost per person \$1,900 (double) and \$2,100 (single). Sign-up deadline is October 8th. \$250 Deposit is due by December 1st, 2023.
 - For participants from Europe, it will cost per person € 1,600 (double) and € 1,750 (single). Sign-up deadline is October 8th. €200 Deposit is due by December 1st, 2023
 - For Dublin participants who do not require Dublin accommodation, it will cost per person € 900 (double) and € 1000 (single). Sign-up deadline is October 8th. €200 Deposit is due by December 1st, 2023
 - Airfare and travel insurance are not included but are required. Evidence of travel insurance is required.
 - Tips and [ETIAS](#) European travel requirements are not included.
- **How can I sign up?**
 - You can fill in an online sign-up sheet. Participants from the United States, please click [here](#). Participants from Ireland and Continental Europe please click [here](#).
 - **If you have any further questions please contact us at:**
lutheran.ireland@gmail.com