

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton annually organises an Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage where up to a hundred pilgrims each year rediscover the rewards of undertaking the old way of journeying to a holy shrine.

On this our 36th pilgrimage we are walking from Cardigan and the shrine of Our Lady of the Taper, up the coast the Aberystwyth, south via Strata Florida to Carmarthen, then west via Whitland to St David's, before a final great Pilgrimage Celebration. By then we will have walked about 190 miles. As far as possible we follow footpaths, bridleways, tracks and lanes and learn to appreciate the beauty of our land that is a welcome distraction from sore feet and aching legs.

To know more or receive details of future pilgrimages write to:

The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimages, The Christian Education Centre, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6RD

Follow our progress online at our website:

www.thepilgrims.org.uk
Updated nightly!

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimages

THE St DAVID 'S PILGRIMAGE 2010

*CARDIGAN—Aberporth—New Quay—ABERYSTWYTH—
Pontryhydfendigaid—Cellan—Llandysul—CARMARTHEN—
Whitland—Haverfordwest—Solva—ST DAVID'S*

14th — 29th August 2010

Details: www.thepilgrims.org.uk

Who are these people?

A group of Christians making a walking pilgrimage.

What is a pilgrimage?

A journey, usually made to some holy place with the intention of benefiting spiritually. The purpose might be to gain grace, to do penance, petition God for some favour, give praise to God, ask the intercession of a Saint.

Whose bright idea is this, anyway?

The general answer is that no one knows. Certainly the Israelites took the Ark of the Covenant on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. These pilgrimages were likened to the long trek from slavery in Egypt to Sion, the Promised Land. They can be seen as an anticipation of Christ's journey to Jerusalem for our salvation and so Christ leading us on our earthly pilgrimage towards the heavenly kingdom.

And this pilgrimage?

It is part of our life journey. Geoffrey Chaucer in his Canterbury Tales sums up the proper attitude for making a pilgrimage:

"Christes lore and his Apostles twelve

he taught, but first he followed it himselve."

So by our example of Christian living we are trying to show what the teaching of Christ and his Christian Church actually means today.

Why Cardigan to St David's?

Pilgrimage is as much about the journey as the arrival, and we have found a route that links the Catholic National Shrine at Cardigan, some wonderful coastal scenery, historic abbeys, churches and chapels in rural Wales, and the tiny cathedral city of St David's. As we walk through the countryside, we stop at churches to pray for the communities that we pass through. We stay in school, church or village halls each night, living and growing as a community over a two week period.

Pilgrimage Theme

In the past we have contemplated the life of a Saint in our prayer stops in local churches along the way. In recent Pilgrimages, we have introduced a theme for our prayers and meditations. This year the theme is based around a phrase of St David:

***We will walk the path that our fathers
have trod before us***

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