

# Retreat to Iona

## Pilgrimage, Reflection & Prayer

Led by

**The Revd Dr Rob Marshall**

*- Writer, Broadcaster & Parish Priest of Digswell -*

**20th - 24th September 2018**



*Operated by Lightline Pilgrimages Ltd*

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# Retreat Pilgrimage to Iona

*Led by The Revd Dr Rob Marshall, an experienced leader of both pilgrimages and retreats, this is a chance to experience a special break on the beautiful island of St Columba where Christianity took root*

## Day 1 - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September Starting our Pilgrimage

Our pilgrimage begins in Glasgow where we are asked to check-in no later than 6:30pm. Please ensure you make your own arrangements for your return journey to Glasgow by train, coach or plane. Overnight stay in central Glasgow.

## Day 2 - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September Glasgow to Iona

This morning, after an early breakfast, we board our train for the beautiful journey from Glasgow to Oban via the banks of Loch Lomond. On arrival in Oban we will board a ferry to take us to the Isle of Mull. From here a stunning coach ride across this beautiful island brings us to the ferry port of Fionnphort where we will board another ferry to sail on to the sacred island of Iona in the Scottish Hebrides. On arrival we will make our way to our accommodation. After settling in and an introductory session we have our first talk on the nature of the holy places, like Iona, the "thin places of the world", where the Divine often seems very close indeed. We then enjoy dinner together.



## Day 3 - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September Iona - Celtic Quiet Day

After breakfast, Morning Prayer and Address, we will share a day of peace and reflection with scope for informal reflection and discussion and time to read, pray or walk. We will celebrate Communion just before lunch. After Evening Prayer we will dine together.



## Day 4 - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September Iona - Iona's Saints

After breakfast, Morning Prayer and Address, we will share a day of peace and reflection with scope for informal reflection and discussion and time to read, pray or walk. We will celebrate Communion before lunch.



The rest of the afternoon will be free for reflection and prayer. We will finish the day with Evening Prayer and Address followed by a farewell dinner together.



## **Day 5 - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September** **Iona - Journey home**

After a very early breakfast and Morning Prayer, we travel by ferry, coach and train back to Glasgow, (arriving at around 4pm), where we bid each other farewell, refreshed in the spirit of Iona.

*Please note this complex touring programme may be subject to minor local amendments*

# Iona

*The prestige of Iona began in AD 563 when the Celtic bishop Columba and his twelve companions sailed from Ireland to found a monastery here and used it as a base from which to convert the Picts to Christianity. The monastery was attacked and burned six times by Vikings and was eventually abandoned in favour of Kells in Ireland.*

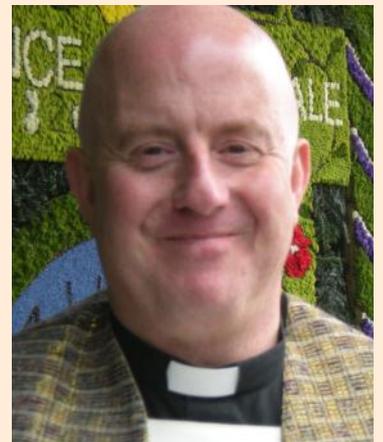
*Iona was occupied again in 1203 as a Benedictine monastery, but it fell into ruin during the Reformation when symbols of the Roman Catholic faith came under attack.*

*The oldest surviving building is St Oran's chapel (c. 1080), and the ornately carved St Martin's Cross (10th century) stands outside the cathedral.*

*Today Iona is a sacred place visited by thousands of pilgrims every year.*

## **The Revd Dr Rob Marshall**

*The Reverend Rob Marshall is an Anglican priest with well over 30 years experience in communications and public relations and is now the Parish Priest at St John's Digswell.*



*A former communications officer in the Bradford and London diocese, Rob now leads the LTG team. He is the author of four books and a BBC broadcaster, programmes include "Pause for thought" and "Thought for the day". Rob is also a very experienced Tour Leader and has led many pilgrimages over the years including over a dozen to the Holy Land and surrounding biblical lands.*



## **INCLUSIVE COST - £545**

- ✓ **3 nights stay in a retreat house on Iona**
- ✓ **1 nights stay in a Glasgow hotel**
- ✓ **Breakfast throughout**
- ✓ **Return travel by coach, train & ferry between Glasgow & Iona**
- ✓ **All lectures and visits**

### **The only items not included:**

Optional dinner supplement (*highly recommended*) - £94, Single room supplement (if available) - £145, gratuities & gifts to churches - £20, lunches, travel Insurance, drinks, any items of a personal nature and travel between your home and Glasgow. \*\*

### **Accommodation**

Three nights accommodation is of a retreat house standard with bathrooms provided close to clean and comfortable bedrooms (some en-suite rooms are available) and one night in a Glasgow hotel. Accommodation is on a bed & breakfast basis with the option of a subsidised dinner supplement which we recommend (£94 for four dinners).

### **Getting to Glasgow \*\***

Please note that travel to and from Glasgow is not included. Advance cheap fares to Glasgow are widely available three months prior to departure by rail, coach and airlines.

Trains: [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com)

Coaches: [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)

Flights: [www.expedia.co.uk](http://www.expedia.co.uk)

When booking your return travel please make sure you book it after 16:30 (4:30pm).

### **Booking your place**

All you need do to book a place on this tour is to send a non-refundable deposit of £100 together with the completed booking form to:-

**Lightline Pilgrimages Ltd**  
**Unit 10, Coopersale Hall Farm,**  
**Epping, CM16 7PE**  
**☎ 01992 576 065**  
**[info@livingthegospel.co.uk](mailto:info@livingthegospel.co.uk)**

**Please make your cheques payable to:**  
**“ Lightline Pilgrimages Ltd ”**

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