

**13**  
DAYS

NARRE WARREN PARISH

# *Holy Land* Pilgrimage

WITH OPTIONAL OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY EXTENSION

*Watch the Gospels come alive on this most authentic faith journey live on location in the Holy Land of Israel. Take the chronological road of Jesus' life from Bethlehem to Nazareth and Galilee to Jerusalem as we prepare for a powerful encounter into the heart of His passion. Pilgrims will then have the once-in-a-decade opportunity to attend the world-renowned Passion Play in the heart of Bavaria.*



Accompanied by  
**FR BRENDAN HOGAN**

**10 NIGHTS / 13 DAYS    MON 25 MAY - SAT 06 JUNE 2020**

Dead Sea (1 Night) • Bethlehem (2) • Nazareth • Cana • Sea of Galilee (3) • Mt Tabor • Mt Carmel • Haifa • Jericho • Jerusalem (4)

**Optional post-pilgrimage extension: Oberammergau Passion Play - 2 nights** - Munich (1) • Oberammergau (1)

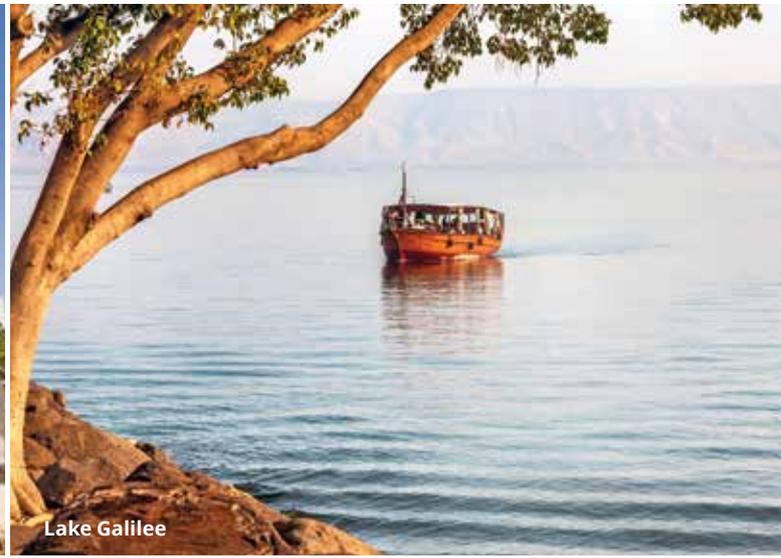


*the genuine pilgrim experience*

**harvest**  
journeys



Shepherd's Field Church, Bethlehem



Lake Galilee

**MEAL CODES**

(B) = Breakfast (L) = Lunch (D) = Dinner

**DAY 1: MONDAY 25TH MAY – DEPART AUSTRALIA**

**DAY 2: TUESDAY 26TH MAY – VIA MT NEBO TO DEAD SEA (D)**

Arrive today into Jordan's capital Amman. We travel out to ascend Biblical Mt Nebo for a spectacular Mass. Here, at the site where the Old Testament opened its door to the land of the New, Moses looked over into the Promised Land and blessed Joshua who was to lead the Israelites under God's protection (Joshua 1:6-9). It has been possible for archaeologists to identify this sanctuary, thanks to the records left by two pilgrim-visitors of the 4th & 5th centuries of their travels in this region. One of these was Egeria, the pilgrim nun.

His Holiness Benedict XVI, on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2009, said this while here on Mt Nebo: *"Here, on the heights of Mount Nebo, the memory of Moses invites us to 'lift up our eyes' to embrace with gratitude not only God's mighty works in the past, but also to look with faith and hope to the future which he holds out to us and to our world."* We too can seize this opportunity to thank God for our journey thus far and anticipate the blessings that are to come.

We then travel nearby to our hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea. Here we will unwind and take the optional opportunity to float in the salty waters said to have healing qualities. The experience is quite uplifting!!

*Dead Sea overnight*

**DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY – DEAD SEA / BETHANY BEYOND THE JORDAN / BETHLEHEM (BD)**

We make a visit to **Bethany Beyond the Jordan**, one of the most recent archaeological and religious discoveries. The five springs here form a tributary of the Jordan River, believed to be the **Baptismal site of Jesus** by John the Baptist.

We then cross the border into the Holy Land of Israel known as the land of the "fifth Gospel". Continue to **Bethlehem**, the City of David.

*Bethlehem overnight*

**DAY 4: THURSDAY 28TH MAY – MONDAY - BETHLEHEM & SURROUNDS (BLD)**

*Theme: The Birth of Jesus*

We firstly travel out to Ein Karem, the birthplace of St John the Baptist and **Church of the Visitation** of Mary to Elizabeth "Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?" (Lk 1:43). Pilgrims may choose to pray a

mystery of the Rosary here as we walk up to this church dedicated to 'The Magnificat' – 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord' (Lk 1:46). From here we come to the **Church of St John the Baptist**, built over a natural grotto identified as the saint's actual birthplace.

Returning to Bethlehem, we enjoy a fascinating visit to **Bethlehem University** to engage with local students in discussion before visiting the beautiful chapel and Cultural Heritage Centre within the grounds. To cap off our visit, the students from the Hotel Management Institute will prepare and host a special home cooked meal for lunch.

Continue to **Shepherd's Field** to celebrate Mass in a local cave to commemorate the appearance of the angels to the shepherds on that first Christmas night (Lk 2:8-16).

Our day will culminate at the **Church of the Nativity**, the oldest complete church in the Christian world (6<sup>th</sup> century) and birthplace of Jesus. Bow low and enter the grotto through the Door of Humility as we descend to the **Holy Manger** where a silver star in the floor marks the actual spot where Jesus was born. The star's inscription reads in Latin: *Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus Natus Est* (Here of the Virgin Mary Jesus Christ was born). Finally, we come to **St Jerome's Cave** where in 386 AD the saint spent 30 years translating the scriptures from Hebrew into Greek and Latin producing the first vernacular version of the Bible!

We will then visit the **Milk Grotto**, under the custody of the Franciscans in the Holy Land. The legend recalls how Mary spilt some milk while breast feeding baby Jesus in the cave and this is the reason for the "white" stone of the cave. Tradition also tells us that this site is the burial place of the innocent victims killed by Herod the Great after the birth of Jesus.

*Bethlehem overnight*

**DAY 5: FRIDAY 29TH MAY – VIA NAZARETH TO THE SEA OF GALILEE (BLD)**

*Theme: The Formative Years of Jesus*

We farewell Bethlehem this morning and journey directly north to **Nazareth**, the town of Jesus' childhood. Firstly, come to nearby **Nazareth Village**, an authentic non-profit re-creation of the village life of Nazareth as in the days of Jesus. Here we will take a parable-rich walk back in time along the path which brings to life the environment and atmosphere which shaped Jesus' early years and ministry. Complete our memorable visit with a fascinating **first-century meal** in a stone-dining area typical of the days of Christ.

Back in Nazareth township, enter inside the **Basilica of the Annunciation** where a traditional cave becomes the focal point as we ponder Mary's response *"Let it be done to me according to thy word"* (Luke 1:38). After celebrating Mass, we will visit the nearby **Church of St Joseph** before entering the nearby **Synagogue Church**, a Crusader structure said to be built on the site of the synagogue where Jesus read the Messianic passage in Isaiah 61 *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me" ...*

Travel on to the village of **Cana** this afternoon where Jesus, at the request of His Mother, performed his first miracle transforming the water into wine at the wedding feast (Jn 2:1-11). Here, married couples may take the opportunity to renew their wedding vows, and single and widowed pilgrims will receive a special blessing.

Journey east to Tiberias on the shores of **Lake Galilee ... "Go to Galilee and you will find him there" (Mt 28:7).**

*Sea of Galilee overnight*

**DAY 6: SATURDAY 30TH MAY – SEA OF GALILEE (BLD)**

*Theme: The Public Ministry of Jesus*

Arise and set out on a spectacular day of pilgrimage as we set off to **Capernaum**, the once fishing village of the first apostles Peter, Andrew, James & John which also became the home town of Jesus and the scene of many of his miracles. Here he worshipped and taught in the synagogue where he promised the Eucharist by saying: 'I am the bread of life ... unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you' (John 6:48-53).

Continue on to Nof Ginosar Kibbutz, within which is preserved the **1<sup>st</sup> century 'Jesus boat'** painstakingly raised and restored from the muddy lakebed in 1986.

Set off from here on a traditional sailing vessel for a spectacular Harvest highlight – a **Private Mass in the centre of Lake Galilee**. Here we will float in quiet tranquillity and reflect upon the miracles of Jesus calming the storm and appearing to the apostles walking on this very water.

Continue back to the shore to enjoy a traditional **'St Peter's fish' lunch** to commemorate our Galilee experience.

Journey north around the lake to remember the Galilean cities of Bethsaida and Korazim cursed by Jesus. These two cities along with Capernaum became known as the **'evangelical**



Mount of Beatitudes



triangle' because most of Jesus' teachings and miracles occurred there. In **Korazim** we will enter the 3<sup>rd</sup> century synagogue constructed of local black basalt stone.

Visit **Tabgha**, site of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes (Mt 14:20) and pray within the 4<sup>th</sup> century church displaying Byzantine mosaics considered to be some of the best in the Holy Land. Beneath the altar is the rock believed to be where Jesus placed the loaves and fish before blessing them. Finally, we come to the **Church of the Primacy of Peter** down by the shores of the lake. Here Jesus challenged Peter and each one of us 'Do you really love me, feed my sheep'.

*Sea of Galilee overnight*

**DAY 7: SUNDAY 31ST MAY – MT BEATITUDES / HAIFA / MT TABOR (BLD)**

*Theme: Mountains of Grace*

We begin our day at the **Mount of Beatitudes** for Mass as we take time in this special place to ponder Jesus' message of happiness – the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:1–12). Surrounded by prayerful gardens overlooking the north western shore of Lake Galilee, the eight sides of the Church represent the eight beatitudes given by Jesus.

Travel west to **Haifa**, the largest city in Northern Israel. Here the Mediterranean Sea wraps around three sides of Haifa with intoxicating blue and gold beaches. In this region we come to the Stella Maris Monastery at **Mount Carmel** where in the lower cave, Elijah was said to have meditated on his victory over the false prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:1–40).

Finally, we come to the foot of **Mt Tabor** before ascending by taxis up the narrow winding road leading to the majestic summit. Here Our Lord's divinity shone forth in the Transfiguration (Mt 17:1–2). After some time to reflect in this breathtaking setting we will better understand Peter's words 'Lord it is good for us to be here'.

Return to Tiberias for rest before dinner.

*Sea of Galilee overnight*

**DAY 8: MONDAY 1ST JUNE – VIA JERICO TO JERUSALEM (BD)**

*Theme: Desert Encounters*

Prepare for yet another pilgrim highlight this morning as we set off to a secret location down by the shores of Lake Galilee to enjoy **Breakfast with Jesus** in the spirit of John 21:12 when Jesus said to his disciples "Come and have breakfast". In this picturesque setting, we will

celebrate Mass by the shore before a picnic breakfast.

We journey south along the Jordan Valley to **Jericho** the 'City of Palms' and said to be the oldest inhabited city in the world dating back to the first hunter-gatherers around 9000 BC.

Stop by the famous **Sycamore tree** used to commemorate the story of the tax collector Zacchaeus who climbed the tree to see Jesus, only to be singled out above the crowds. (Lk 19:1–10).

Across the valley we view the **Mt of Temptation**, where Christ was tempted by the devil during his 40 day fast.

Travelling west through the dry rocky landscape of the **Judean Desert** there are enough stones to illustrate Satan's words "If you are the son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves" (Mt 4:3).

Ascend to the spectacular lookout as we view the **St George's Monastery** - a cliff hanging 5<sup>th</sup> century complex carved into a sheer rock wall and still occupied today.

Travel along the **Jericho Road** as we remember the parable of the Good Samaritan and journey through desert hills.

Finally, we journey south on and up to **Jerusalem** – the City of our God.

*Jerusalem overnight*

**DAY 9: TUESDAY 2ND JUNE – JERUSALEM (BD)**

*Theme: The Passion of Jesus*

Begin our Jerusalem pilgrimage as we proceed up to the **Mt of Olives** to visit the '**Pater Noster**' Church where Jesus taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer (Mt 6:7–15). Enjoy a panoramic view and photographic opportunity over the city. Walk down the Palm Sunday Road as pilgrims to the **Dominus Fleuit Church** for Mass, built on the site where Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Lk 19:41–44).

We then come down to the **Garden of Gethsemane**, where we will enter the **Church of the Agony** containing the rock upon which Jesus is said to have prayed before his arrest. Prepare then for a memorable pilgrim highlight as we move to the **private garden for a secluded time of prayer** and reflection surrounded by ancient olive trees.

We then visit the commemorating Peter's triple denial of Jesus. On its roof rises a golden rooster atop a black cross recalling Christ's prophecy that Peter would deny him three times 'before the cock crows'.

To deepen our experience and understanding

of the Jewish heritage, we will partake tonight in a **Sabbath Experience Meal** (Erev Shabbat) in a local Jewish home. Here we will 'Taste & See' the Jewish culture and how it relates to Christian faith while joining in with traditional prayers, blessings and songs with locals prior to a delicious Middle Eastern Sabbath Meal. *Jerusalem overnight*

**DAY 10: WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE – JERUSALEM (BD)**

*Theme: The Passion of Jesus*

Set out by coach to the **Israel Museum**. Embark on a fascinating outdoor orientation viewing of the **Second Temple Scale Model of Jerusalem** as it was in the time of Jesus. In the adjacent **Shrine of the Book Museum** we view the **Dead Sea Scrolls** with our own eyes.

We then come to **Mt Zion**, described by the psalmist as 'holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, the joy of all the earth' (Ps 48). We firstly enter the **Cenacle room of the Last Supper** (Upper Room) where we commemorate the institution of the Eucharist and the later descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. After time here to sit and reflect we will continue to the **Church of the Dormition** identified as the place where the Virgin Mary died or 'fell asleep' as the name suggests.

We then come to the vicinity of the **Temple Mount** to view the **Dome of the Rock**, **El Aqsa Mosque** and the **Western Wall** (once known as the Wailing Wall).

Enjoy some free time this afternoon to rest, pray or explore the Old City at your own pace. Pilgrims may elect to consider a sobering visit to the **Yad Vashem** (Holocaust History Museum) to learn about the tragic events where six million Jewish victims lost their lives during the atrocities of World War II.

Before dinner we will meet with representatives from the **Bereaved Families Forum** in our hotel meeting room. Here we will take the opportunity to listen to the courageous stories of bereaved Israeli and Palestinian family members as they share their extraordinary journey of loss on the path of true reconciliation.

*Jerusalem overnight*

**DAY 11: THURSDAY 4TH JUNE – JERUSALEM (BD)**

*Theme: The Death & Resurrection of Jesus*

Arise very early this morning as we return to the Old City of Jerusalem to commence our **Stations of the Cross**, beginning from the **Antonia Fortress** where Jesus was condemned to death. We pray and follow in Our Lord's

footsteps along the actual **Via Dolorosa** to culminate at the site of **Calvary** where we will celebrate Mass here in the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.

Walk the stairway climbing to the actual site where the Cross of Jesus once stood. The glass panels reveal the natural rock below which we may come to touch with our pilgrim hands. Also enter the **Tomb of Christ**, the site believed to be where Our Lord lay buried for three days before rising from the dead.

After breakfast back at our hotel we re-enter the Old City precinct to the **Church of St Anne**, said to be built over the birthplace of the Virgin Mary. Continue to the adjacent **Pool of Bethesda** where Jesus healed the paralysed man (Jn 5:2-9). See the **Lithostroto (pavement)** in the Ecce Homo convent and the **Flagellation and Condemnation Chapels** which so vividly commemorate the last hours of Jesus' life.

Continue this morning to **Emmaus** (Abu Gosh) where the Disciples recognised the risen Jesus at the breaking of bread and exclaimed "*Did not our hearts burn within us as he spoke to us on the road?*" (Lk 24:13-35). We enter here through the gardens of this Benedictine church built by the Crusaders and take time to reflect with gratitude on the Lord's companionship with us along the road of our past days of pilgrimage.

Time for rest mid-afternoon before we experience the spectacular **Holy Shroud Exhibit** in the Notre Dame Centre where pilgrims will gain a deeper understanding of Christ's suffering and resurrection, while viewing a full-size replica of the Holy Shroud housed in Turin.

For our final night together, we will enjoy a **Special Celebration Dinner** with spectacular views over all of Jerusalem.

*Jerusalem overnight*

**DAY 12: FRIDAY 5TH JUNE - DEPART FOR AUSTRALIA (B)**

**DAY 13: SATURDAY 6TH JUNE - ARRIVE AUSTRALIA**

## INCLUSIONS

### AIRFARES

Economy Class return airfare from Melbourne • (N.B. Airlines taxes are included on standard itinerary and subject to fluctuations)

### ACCOMMODATION & MEALS

Based on moderate standard hotel accommodation throughout with breakfast and dinner daily • Some lunches

### TOURING & TRANSPORTATION

Deluxe Air Conditioned Coach with driver • Professional Pilgrimage Escort / Local Guides • Sightseeing and Entrance Fees throughout itinerary • Portage at hotels • Harvest Backpack, Pilgrims Journal and Tour Wallet

### NOT INCLUDED

Passport and visa costs (if applicable) • Tipping • Other meals not stated • Items of a personal nature • Travel Insurance



*Every ten years affords pilgrims the great privilege of witnessing the world-renowned Passion Play of Oberammergau. For over 300 years this picturesque village in the Bavarian Alps has re-enacted the **passion of Jesus**, and people of every religious denomination have been drawn to this cherished spectacle.*

The history of the Oberammergau Passion Play begins in 1633. During the Thirty Years' War, after much suffering and also many deaths caused by the plague, the surviving population of Oberammergau vowed that they would perform the "play of the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ" every ten years if they were spared from extinction. At Whitsun in 1634 they kept their promise for the first time. As early as the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century spectators came to Oberammergau from all parts of Germany, attracted by the great power and mystique of the play. In 2020 the village will perform the play for the 42<sup>nd</sup> time, maintaining the continuity of this unique world-famous event.

Over 2000 participants bring the story of Jesus of Nazareth to the ears and eyes of the audience in a five-hour presentation on the imposing open-air stage. Almost half of the inhabitants of Oberammergau enact with great devotion the story of Jesus, whose message gives billions of people hope and strength. The play covers the period of Jesus entering Jerusalem and continues up to his death on the Cross and his resurrection.

Today is the highlight of our pilgrimage when we attend the **Passion Play**.

*Oberammergau Region overnight*

**DAY 14: SUNDAY 7TH JUNE - DEPART GERMANY (B)**

**DAY 15: MONDAY 8TH JUNE - IN TRANSIT**

**DAY 16: TUESDAY 9TH JUNE - ARRIVE AUSTRALIA**

## POST-TOUR PRICING

<b>AIR &amp; TOUR</b>	\$2,390* Twin Share
<b>SINGLE ROOM \$690</b>	<b>TIPPING MADE EASY \$45 per person</b>

(includes flight Tel Aviv - Munich)

*\* Prices are based on a minimum group size of 15 paying pilgrims, calculated as at April 2019. Prices remain subject to possible changes in the unlikely event of significant exchange rate variations, airfare increases or minimum group size contingencies. Single Rooms in Oberammergau are limited, further supplement may apply if single room allocation exceeded.*

## INDICATIVE PRICING

<b>TOUR CODE</b>	PV3020
<b>DATES</b>	Mon 25 May - Sat 06 June
<b>AIR &amp; TOUR</b>	\$6,890* Twin Share per person
<b>SINGLE ROOM</b>	\$1,790 Supplement
<b>TIPPING</b>	\$220 per person

*\* Prices are based on a minimum group size of 25 paying pilgrims, calculated as at April 2019. Prices remain subject to possible changes in the unlikely event of significant exchange rate variations, airfare increases or minimum group size contingencies.*

## OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY - 2 NIGHTS OPTIONAL EXTENSION

Munich (1) • Oberammergau (1)

**DAY 12: FRIDAY 5TH JUNE - FLY TO GERMANY FOR OBERAMMERGAU 2-NIGHT PROGRAM (BD)**

Transfer to Tel Aviv airport for flight connections to Munich where we will transfer to our hotel. Remainder of the day at leisure.

*Munich overnight*

**DAY 13: SATURDAY 6TH JUNE - OBERAMMERGAU - THE PASSION PLAY (BD)**

Today we travel to the village of **Oberammergau**, home to the world-renowned **Passion Play**.

## BOOK NOW

📞 1800 819 156

✉️ [harvestjourneys.com/pv3020](http://harvestjourneys.com/pv3020)

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