

## **The Joy of Pilgrimage**

The Shrine is dedicated to Our Lady: a thousand years ago, the Virgin Mary appeared in a vision to the lady of the Manor, Richeldis. Following her instructions, Richeldis set out to build a copy of the house of Jesus' birth in Nazareth. In her vision, she was told that she would know she had found the right place when the digging revealed a spring. This duly appeared and was taken as the first sign of God's favour on her venture. Although there was an interruption after the Reformation, pilgrims have come to Walsingham in their thousands ever since and have found refreshment and renewal.

There are many ways to spend a weekend, not all of them give such peace.

The coach leaves St Mary's Swanley at 10.30am on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. You can bring your own lunch, or pick something up from the Walker's Snack and Café Bar at Mildenhall where we stop briefly en route for Walsingham.

We aim to be at the Slipper Chapel a little before 3pm and spend around half an hour there. The coach then continues to the Anglican Shrine, we have First Visit to the Holy House and room allocation, though not necessarily in that order: and then the pilgrimage weekend is truly underway. We return home on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September at around 5pm and aim to back in Swanley for about 8pm. Of course, all these timings depend on motorway traffic, so they're not guaranteed.

**The cost of the pilgrimage in 2017 will be £172 per adult or £119 for those under the age of 16.**

For more information, you can speak to the vicar or you can email [walsingham@swanleyparish.org.uk](mailto:walsingham@swanleyparish.org.uk).

There is ample car parking at St Mary's for you to leave your car whilst we are away and there is no charge for its use!



# **Walsingham Weekend Pilgrimage 2017**

15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**£172**

*for adults,*

*(£119 for those under 16 years)*  
including meals whilst at the Shrine, accommodation and the coach.

£30 deposit due in February,  
remainder by  
the end of August.

## Friday

10.30am .....Leave St Mary's  
12.30-1pm ..... Break for lunch  
3.30pm.....Arrive at Shrine  
5.30pm.....Evening Prayer  
6pm ..... Shrine Prayers  
6.30pm..... Supper  
8pm ..... Cell Meeting

## Saturday

8-9.15am ..... Breakfast  
12.30pm ..... Lunch  
5pm ..... Shrine Prayers  
6pm ..... Pilgrimage Mass  
6.50pm..... Supper  
8.15pm..... Address,  
                  Procession of Our Lady  
                  & Benediction  
9.30pm..... Cell Social

You will need to buy a Pilgrim Manual: which is £2. We hope to have a supply of these before the pilgrimage but they are available from the Shrine Shop when we arrive.

## Sunday

8-9.15am .....Breakfast  
11am .....Mass  
                  at St Mary's Parish Church  
2.30pm .Sprinkling at the well,  
                  Ministry of  
                  Healing & Reconciliation  
4pm ..... Procession  
                  of Blessed Sacrament  
                  & Benediction

You can normally expect to have much of Saturday afternoon free.

On Saturday morning at some point we usually have the Stations of the Cross. There will also be the opportunity, on either the Friday or Saturday, for a Requiem Mass for departed friends, family and benefactors and for prayers of intercession in the Holy House. The times for these will be circulated on the day we make our way to Walsingham.

On Sunday afternoon, we have the opportunity for a cup of tea and a slice of cake in the refectory. This is usually served from around 3.15pm but this will be confirmed nearer the pilgrimage.

## Staying at the Shrine

The shrine began offering hospitality to pilgrims nearly a century ago, so the age of the facilities varies enormously: from rather older accommodation to recently built and newly-refurbished rooms.

But the shrine is not an hotel: there are a very few ensuite rooms and these are reserved for the use of pilgrims with a medical need for them. We stay in pilgrim hostels and you should be aware of the difference between 5\* luxury holidays and two nights thinking of the love of God in the peace and tranquillity of a Norfolk village.

Pilgrims should be aware that mobile phone signals are not terribly good—mobile internet can be particularly tricky.

The village is ideally suited to its historic purpose: to provide God's people with spiritual refreshment.