

How to be a Pilgrim: A Simple Guide

A pilgrimage is a special journey to a holy place. It helps us feel closer to God and learn more about ourselves and the world. Bishop Shane has chosen five pilgrimage sites in our Diocese. You can visit all, any of these sites with a parent or carer. Your school might also arrange a visit. Or, if you can't get to a pilgrimage site, visiting your local church, or a special place near your home is good, too; it's about your own journey closer to God, no matter where you are.

Before the Pilgrimage:

1. Pray and Reflect:

- Think about why you're going: Do you want to feel closer to God, ask for help, or pray for something special?
- Ask God for help: Ask God to guide you and help you on your journey.
- Select a passage from the Gospels: Choose a reading that speaks to you and helps you to prepare. See [our website](#) for suggestions.
- Keep a journal: Write or draw your thoughts and what you feel God might be saying to you.

2. Learn About the Place:

Find out the story behind the holy place you're visiting. Who cares for it? What is its history?

3. Ask for Prayers:

Ask family and friends to pray for your journey.

During the Pilgrimage:

1. Start with Prayer:

Say a prayer for a safe trip and for God to be with you as you travel.

2. Look, Listen and Feel:

Spend time thinking about how the place makes you feel. What is God telling you during your visit?

3. Join in the Sacraments:

If possible, attend Mass or go to Reconciliation. These are great ways to be close to God during your pilgrimage.

After the Pilgrimage:

1. Give Thanks:

When you return, say a prayer of thanks for everything you learned and experienced.

2. Remember your journey:

Write or draw about what happened on your pilgrimage. Did your prayers get answered? What did you learn?

3. Share your journey:

Tell others about your pilgrimage to inspire them to make their own journey.

4. Keep Growing in Faith:

Keep praying every day and look for ways to help others, just like you did during your pilgrimage.

