

# PRELIMINARY INFORMATION 2019

## Introduction

Welcome to the 37th Chartres Pilgrimage (2019)! Briefly, we walk from Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris, to Notre-Dame Cathedral, Chartres, covering 70 miles in three days. This involves long hours of walking, early morning starts, arriving at the campsite late in the evenings and requires a reasonable level of fitness.

The British Pilgrimage starts on Friday 7 June 2019 with Mass in Westminster Cathedral Crypt at 7.00am and the coach leaves for Dover at 7.30am. Each day on the Pilgrimage the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated and we will also meditate on the Holy Rosary. Confession and spiritual guidance will be available throughout each day. On Tuesday 11 June 2019, there is Mass in the Crypt of Chartres Cathedral before the coach takes us back to England via the Eurotunnel arriving at Westminster Cathedral at 8.00pm.

## What is the Chartres Pilgrimage ?

Chartres is at the centre of the religious history of France. Since Roman times, when the "Virgo Paritura" was venerated here, to the present day, the shrine has not ceased to attract pilgrims from the most distinguished (all the kings of France) to the most humble.

The Chartres pilgrimage is a very old tradition in France, and has been given new vigour by the association Notre-Dame de Chrétienté, which has organised it for nearly 40 years. The president of the Association is Jean de Tauriers and the Chaplain is Abbé Alexis Garnier.

The pilgrimage is a walk of prayer and penance, and has both an individual and a social character. Encouraged by Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and numerous cardinals and bishops, over 8,000 pilgrims take part, with about 750 coming from 20 foreign countries. All are united in prayer to Our Lady during a three-day walk of 70 miles, making this the largest pilgrimage of its kind in Western Europe, both in the distance covered and in the number of pilgrims. Each day, Mass is celebrated in the most beautiful way, according to the Roman Missal of Pope John XXIII. The liturgy is the traditional Latin one: magnificent instrument of prayer, stressing the universal character of the Mass.

## The spirit of the Pentecost Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage is organised in a dynamic spirit, as a reaction to the materialism of our times. We place ourselves within the traditional doctrine taught by the Church. Wishing to work for the Social Reign of Our Lord, we want our Faith to overflow into our personal lives, our family lives, our working lives, and into the very life of our country. Following Huysmans, Psichari, Peguy and other illustrious converts, the Chartres pilgrims walk for Christendom, "that sunny side of a civilisation where the Kingship of Christ spreads over the lives and works of men, over the families and over the nations, searching obstinately amidst the cultures and earthly battles, for an uncompromising balance between nature and grace, wishing, by heroism and holiness, to trace already on earth the avenues of the Kingdom."

A call to conversion, a public act of reparation to the Sacred Heart, this pilgrimage is a homage to Christ the King and to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## Chapters

The pilgrims walk in 'chapters'. There are usually two English chapters : the Chapter of Our Lady of Walsingham (all ages) and the Chapter of St. Alban (for young adults and teens). We also hope that there will be a Family Chapter this year. Stay tuned! The chapters are each led by a « Chef de Chapitre » (usually a layman). Our National Chaplain is Canon Martin Edwards and we will have other chaplains who will accompany us all along the walk, hearing confessions, providing meditations, leading prayers and teaching the Catholic Faith. We have been very fortunate that many fine priests and seminarians have joined us each year.

## **THEME FOR THE YEAR 2019 :**

### **"The Peace of Christ through the Reign of Christ"**

Touching closely on one of the underlying themes and founding motivations of the Pilgrimage, we meditate this year on the Reign of Christ, the King, which results in the peace which "the World cannot give". There will be individual patrons for each day along with a sub-theme based on the overall theme. We will not be short of truths to meditate!

## **CONSECRATION TO OUR LADY**

It is highly recommended that pilgrims consecrate (or reconsecrate) themselves totally to Our Lady after the manner of St Louis de Montfort at the campsite at Gas before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on Pentecost. The preparation for this takes 33 days and, therefore, you should start this on **6 May 2019**, (to finish on the day we leave England for the Pilgrimage). Previous pilgrims wishing to renew their Consecration should start on 18 May 2019, coincidentally my parents' 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (Ernest and Mary Carey). My parents were instrumental in founding the British Chapters for Chartres.

## **Food during the pilgrimage**

Notre-Dame de Chrétienté supplies bread and water at lunch throughout the walk and at the evening campsite. At the campsite, hot soup is available in the evenings and a very basic breakfast (coffee, hot chocolate and bread and jam) is available in the mornings. Pilgrims should, however, bring with them their own food, enough for three cold picnic lunches and to supplement the evening soup and morning breakfast. These should be organised in England as there are very limited opportunities to buy anything during the pilgrimage.

## **Assistance during the walk**

Permanent medical assistance is assured by the doctors and hospitallers of the Order of Malta, who have an outdoor hospital at each campsite. At each halt, shuttle buses provide transport for pilgrims who can no longer walk or, in case of emergency, to take them to hospital.

## **Les Pieds (Feet!)**

During the pilgrimage it is important to look after one's feet as walking with blisters is not a lot of fun. Along with the usual precautions of wearing good walking boots (well worn-in) and wool or cotton socks (**not** synthetic), experienced walkers have found that the application of "Elastoplaste", a very sticky medical tape available in French chemists (there is one near our Paris hotel), to the sole and heel of the foot results in no blisters! It costs about £6 for a box, but is well worth the investment. A foot/hand cream is also recommended. While the services of the Order of Malta are always available en-route and at the campsites, they are no longer there to treat blisters and other minor injuries.

## Pilgrim's equipment

Clothing for walking, particularly boots or good walking shoes (synthetic fibre socks are not advised). Here is the list of essentials:

**a small backpack** to carry throughout, containing :

- Food: lunch for the day and energy-giving snacks (dried fruit, salty nuts, etc.). Tins of tuna salad, cheese, salami, glucose tablets etc.
- **Waterproof** raingear (heavy rain possible!)
- pullover
- water bottle (water supplied) and knife/fork/spoon
- cup for tea/coffee/soup (contents supplied, bring tea bags if tea required)
- hat, to protect against the sun (and sun cream)
- Pilgrim's Booklet (supplied, containing all the Mass texts, hymns, and other prayers)
- Small plastic bag/cover for Pilgrim's Booklet
- plasters and general simple medication (for blisters, headaches, dehydration etc.)
- rosary

**a larger bag**, which will be taken in the special pilgrimage lorries and which is retrieved each evening, containing :

- food reserves (for remaining meals)
- torch
- warm jumper/garment (cold early mornings)
- change of clothing (a pullover, shirts, trousers, pants, vests, socks)
- light shoes for the evening (good boots recommended for the walk)
- toiletries and toilet paper (not essential)
- night-clothes
- warm sleeping bag
- **Groundsheet and mat** (for the collective tents)

**(When packing your luggage, make sure that that you line it with a plastic bag. Luggage is left in the open at the campsite and, if it rains, clothes may get wet. Especially, make sure that your sleeping bag is in a waterproof bag.)**

## **Itinerary (subject to confirmation)**

### **Friday, 7 June 2019**

- 07:00 Mass in Westminster Cathedral Crypt (Ambrosden Avenue)
- 07:30 Coaches pick up outside Cathedral
- 11:10 Coach boards ferry at Dover
- 18:00 Coach arrives at Hotel near Paris

### **Saturday, 8 June 2019 (Vigil of Pentecost)**

- 05:00 Breakfast
- 05:30 Coach to Notre Dame Cathedral
- 07:00 Mass in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris
- 08:30(est.) Leave Notre Dame towards Chartres
- 13:30 Lunch at Bièvres (les Damoiseaux)
- 20:00 Arrive at Ferté-Choisel for dinner and bed ("Veillée amicale" at 21:00)

### **Sunday, 9 June 2019 (Pentecost Sunday)**

- 06:15 Prayers of Departure
- 07:00 First Chapters leave Campsite
- 13:00 Solemn Mass of Pentecost & Lunch at Rambouillet Racecourse
- 20:00 Arrive at Gas Campsite
- 21:00 Benediction, Consecration to Our Lady and All Night Exposition

### **Monday, 10 June 2019 (Pentecost Monday)**

- 06:30 Load Luggage onto **London Coach** or Lorry at Campsite at Gas
- 07:00 Leave Gas for Chartres
- 10:30 Lunch at Gasville-Oisème
- 15:30 Solemn Mass in Chartres Cathedral
- 20:00 Dinner in Chartres
- ???? Bed!

### **Tuesday, 11 June 2019 (Pentecost Tuesday)**

- 08:30ish Breakfast
- 10:00 Mass in Chartres Cathedral Crypt—Notre Dame de Sous Terre
- 12:00 Depart Chartres by coach for London
- 18:20 Coach Boards Eurotunnel
- 20:00 Arrive London Victoria Railway Station

## Important Requirements of Pilgrims to Chartres

1. Live the spirituality of the pilgrimage in your chapter
2. Welcome and support new and lone pilgrims
3. March to the end of each stage, unless unable to do so for serious reasons
4. **Adopt appropriate dress and behaviour**, in conformity with the pilgrim spirit: immodest clothing is prohibited, especially dresses which are too short, cropped tops, paramilitary paraphernalia. The use of drugs is strictly forbidden. Alcohol and tobacco use should be discrete and moderate. Young people will be particularly supervised in this regard.
5. Respect silence when it is requested. Mobile phones and electronic devices are not to be used while walking, except in an emergency.
6. Avoid wasting any food or drink, and help to maintain cleanliness; it is a basic responsibility not to drop litter of any sort
7. Help the logistics teams when asked, and respect their instructions (in particular, assisting with the dismantling of the communal tents).

**The organisers reserve the right to exclude from the pilgrimage any person who does not respect these instructions or who refuses to follow them.**

**Visit the Website : [www.chartresuk.blogspot.com](http://www.chartresuk.blogspot.com)**

For further information, please contact:

Chartres 2019, 27 First Avenue, Amersham, Bucks. HP7 9BL  
email: [chartres@duc-in-altum.co.uk](mailto:chartres@duc-in-altum.co.uk)