

## Fr. Tommy Conway – Ireland Adventure

August 4-14, 2024

### Sunday, August 4

#### Heading to Ireland

This evening you board your flight for an overnight transatlantic journey to Ireland.

### Monday, Aug 5

#### Welcome to Ireland

This morning we land in Ireland. Once you go through passport control, you collect your bags and head out into the arrivals area where your very friendly Irish Tour Director will meet you. Once aboard we will be transferred to Galway. Along the way we'll stop for breakfast. On arrival to Galway, we will do a panoramic tour. You will then be taken to your first hotel where you can check in, relax, and later meet for a welcome dinner at the hotel.

**Overnight & Dinner: Park House Hotel**

### Tuesday, Aug 6

#### Father Tommy's Welcome



You have this morning free to rest and enjoy a leisurely breakfast. Perhaps walk around the town and enjoy the fresh air in Ireland! This afternoon around 2pm we **will head for Fr. Tommy's hometown, Newbridge in Co. Galway where we will bask in the warmth of some authentic Irish hospitality.** Ireland is known as the place of one hundred thousand welcomes and today you will experience that and so much more. This is Ireland at its best, its people. After an eventful day, we will return to the hotel where you have

the rest of the evening at your leisure.

**Overnight: Park House Hotel**

### Wednesday, Aug 7

#### Day trip to Connemara



This morning after a hearty Irish breakfast at our hotel, we will head off on our day trip to Connemara, a unique and very special part of County Galway. Once home to over 2 million Irish, it still retains its regional heritage as you will discover while we ramble around its lakes, mountains, and bog lands. We visit the picturesque Kylemore Abbey, the home of the Benedictine nuns which stands at the edge of a lake surrounded by woodlands. The Abbey was originally built in 1868 by Mitchell Henry, in memory of his late wife

Margaret. Its architecture is best described as neo-gothic and the house still displays all the characteristics of that period. Kylemore Abbey's most famous feature is its miniature cathedral, known locally as the Gothic church. You can also visit the Victorian Walled Garden. We then travel back to

Galway where tonight you are free to explore the city in all its glory. Stroll down the cobblestone streets lined with warm cozy pubs, lots of music, unique shops, and restaurants for dinner at your leisure.

**Overnight: Park House Hotel**

**Thursday, Aug 8                      Knock, Sligo and Donegal**

This morning after breakfast we will head to Donegal. Along the way we'll stop and **visit Knock – Ireland's National Marian Shrine** and the site of the Apparition in 1879. We'll stretch our legs and visit the Knock Basilica before continuing on our way. We'll stop again in Sligo before making our way to Donegal. We'll check in and meet for a group dinner at the hotel.

**Overnight & Dinner: Mill Park Hotel**

**Friday, Aug 9                      Slieve League & Glencolumcille**

Today we make our way to Killybegs to board a ferry for a **Cruise to the Slieve Liag Cliffs**. The vessel will travel from **Killybegs Harbour** out to the base of the cliffs. Straight away you will experience the individual landscape of Donegal Bay, as Killybegs Harbour uniquely has two lighthouses. At almost 600m, Sliabh Liag boasts Europe's highest accessible sea cliffs, and the best place to truly appreciate their magnificence is from the sea. You will see the Napoleonic Tower on the cliff top as we sail past numerous sea stacks and sheltered coves, caves, and waterfalls, all holding their own history and secrets. The warm Gulf Stream means the bay is not only a favorite of humans, but also of a vast range of marine wildlife. Your cruise may be lucky enough to meet a pod of dolphins and in the summer months, when they have their young, they can be quite playful and not at all intimidated by the boat. After our cruise we'll head over to **Glencolumcille Folk Park**, and see life how it once was. Step back in history as you step into once of the thatched cottages that once adorned the countryside. We'll then head back to Donegal where you'll enjoy dinner at your leisure.



**Overnight: Mill Park Hotel**

**Saturday, Aug 10                      Donegal Tweed & Glenveagh National Park**

This morning after breakfast we'll head north to Ardara to meet the family of **Triona Design**. We'll experience the history and witness the skill and craft that has gone into creating **Donegal Tweed** for generations. We'll watch master weavers working on looms that have been used for centuries. Then we'll explore **Glenveagh National Park**, known for its stunning waterfalls, rugged mountains, and beautiful lakes. In the center of the park is **Glenveagh Castle**, which was built as a hunting lodge in the 19th century. You'll have time to stop at the Glenveagh Tea Rooms for tea and scones before we head back to town where we'll meet for a group dinner at a local restaurant.

**Overnight: Mill Park Hotel**

**Sunday Aug 11**

**Derry & Belfast**

Today we'll begin with a morning Mass followed by breakfast together before setting out on today's adventure- exploring Derry! We'll enjoy a walking tour around the Walls of Derry – revealing a splendid city crammed full of history, heritage, interest, and a vibrant cultural scene. This is the only remaining completely walled city in Ireland and one of the finest examples of Walled Cities in Europe. The Walls were built during the period of 1613-1618 as defenses for early 17<sup>th</sup> century settlers from England and Scotland. You'll have a chance to grab lunch before we continue on to Belfast where we'll check in before meeting for a **group dinner at a local restaurant.**

**Overnight: Europa Hotel**

**Monday Aug 12**

**Belfast City & Titanic Experience**



This morning after breakfast at the hotel, we will set off on our next adventure where we will take part in a **panoramic tour of Belfast** to enjoy all the areas of interest in this fascinating city. We will see the political murals of West Belfast, the vibrant city center, the newly developed Titanic Quarter, magnificent government building of Stormont and the student area of Queens University. After getting some lunch we'll take a step back in time to 1912 when we have a **Titanic Experience.** You'll hear the story of the Titanic in an innovative, interactive, and insightful way. Symbolic inside and out, Titanic Belfast tells the story of RMS Titanic from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end. You'll have the rest of the afternoon and evening to explore Belfast and enjoy dinner at your leisure.

**Overnight: Europa Hotel**

**Tuesday, Aug 13**

**Giant's Causeway**

This morning we bid farewell to the North, but first we journey to the **Giant's Causeway**, (one of the filming sites for the series "Game of Thrones") an amazing geologic formation of approx. 40,000 basalt stone – some as tall as 130 feet, and mostly hexagonal in shape. As Northern Ireland's Premiere landmark, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, you'll be free to decide for yourself whether the Causeway is a result of accelerated cooling of lava outflows 60 million years ago. Or is it the work of the legendary Irish giant, Finn MacCool, in his attempts to a) woo a distant lady giant, or b) meet a Scottish giant in battle to determine who was the stronger giant? We'll then head south to Dublin where we'll check in and enjoy our last dinner together.



**Overnight & Dinner: City North Hotel, Dublin**

**Wednesday, Aug 14**

**Farewell**

Pack your bags and head to the airport for your flight home! Carry on your photos and memories and bring a wee bit of the Emerald Isle home with you. And remember, 'The Land of One Hundred Welcomes' will be expecting you back soon....