

Parish Pilgrimage to Glendalough on Tuesday April 29

We would like to remind everybody about the planned parish trip to Glendalough on Tuesday April 29.

Glendalough is a beautiful glacial valley located in Co. Wicklow, just over an hour from here. It is famous for its sixth century monastic settlement founded by St Kevin, as well as its beautiful natural scenery including lakes, woodlands and the Wicklow mountains.

St. Kevin was a hermit monk who retreated to Glendalough seeking solitude and spiritual connection with God. His pious life and teachings attracted followers leading to the establishment of a monastic community.

He is often associated with St Francis of Assisi due to his love of animals and nature. He is a patron saint of Dublin and of nature lovers. There a connection with Pope Francis who wrote about our moral and spiritual connection with nature in his papal work 'Laudato Si'.

Over time Glendalough became one of the most important monastic sites in Ireland. It became a centre of education, pilgrimage and manuscript preservation, similar to other early Irish monasteries.

Today Glendalough continues to be a place of reflection, prayer and spiritual renewal.

The plan for the trip on April 29 is as follows

Bus pickup in Newcastle, Rathcoole and Saggart from 9.30 to 10.30 AM

Arrival in Glendalough around 12 Noon

Short historical tour of the monastic site from 12 to 1 PM

Refreshments (soup and sandwiches) in the local community centre from 1 to 2 PM

Mass in local parish church at 2PM

Bus departure at 3PM

Bus dropoff in Saggart, Rathcoole and Newcastle from 4 to 4.30 PM

All are more than welcome to participate in the pilgrimage. There are no long walks and it will be suitable for all ages. The bus times will ensure we avoid any heavy traffic.

The only requirement is to give your name to the Parish office or to your local sacristan in the next 2 weeks so we can book your seat.