

Facilitators



Monica Brown, from Sydney Australia, is director of Emmaus Productions and is an internationally acclaimed Christian composer and workshop facilitator. Monica works frequently in Ireland and the UK as well as Canada, the USA and New Zealand, in the areas of spirituality, liturgy and religious education and the integration of the arts. She has been awarded a Masters Honours Degree in Education from the Australian Catholic University, having completed her thesis on spiritual

development and the integration of creative process. Her music for children, youth and adults is widely used in communities, schools, parishes and retreat centres, and is touching the hearts of people throughout the world. Visit www.emmausproductions.com



Hilary Musgrave, from Tramore, County Waterford in Ireland, is a former Teacher, Principal and Religious Education Advisor in the Dublin Diocese. She received her Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry and Spirituality from Boston College, and works extensively in the area of Creative Spirituality through sacred clowning, story-telling and facilitation, throughout Ireland, as well as Canada, the USA, Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Hilary

was the subject of the highly acclaimed *Would You Believe* RTE TV Program, 'A Clown's Story'. Her recent book "*Listen Here God*" has touched and warmed the hearts of many.

In addition to facilitating Celtic Pilgrimages Hilary and Monica minister in schools, parishes and communities. In their unique presentations they offer children and adults alike an opportunity and a space to reflect on their journey and to engage with their God. Their sensitive and creative use of music, mime, sacred clowning, storytelling and ritual enables individuals, groups and communities to come in touch with and to celebrate the sacred in their lives.

OTHER PRESENTERS

Mary Teresa McCormack, holds an MA in theology, an MA in Culture and Spirituality and has studied Sacred Dance receiving a Speciality Certificate from the College of Arts, Religion and Education in Berkeley, California. She facilitates workshops on Ecological Spirituality and Healing Movement and meditation.

Niamh Brennan, has recently completed her Masters in Culture and Spirituality in Berkeley CA and works as a writer and facilitator in this area. She will lead us on a gentle walk through the valley of Glendalough drawing on the wisdom of Celtic Spirituality and the mysteries of the Universe Story and will invite us to contemplate their meaning for our lives.

Rita Minehan and Phil O'Shea, are members of the Brigidine Community and founding members of the Solas Bhríde Centre, Kildare. This centre has as its focus St Brigid and Celtic Spirituality and will offer us an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of St Brigid, to hear about her life and stories and take time to reflect on how she speak to our lives today.

Local Musicians, Singers, Story Tellers and Dancers, will join us on some evenings in Teach Bhríde and will entertain and involve us in Celtic song, story, music and dance.

Monday 21st August 2023

4:30 – 6:00pm: Registration & Settling in...

6:00pm: Dinner

7:15pm: **Welcome**

What the Pilgrimage is about...

Setting the tone...

Practical Details...

Gathering Ritual

Facilitated by Monica and Hilary

Tuesday 22nd August 2023

9:30am – 5:30pm (with breaks for tea/coffee and lunch)

Celtic Spirituality

Tracing the history, culture, political structures and spirituality of the Celts from pre-Christian times, through their journey to Ireland and subsequent integration into Christianity.
Naming and exploring the characteristics of Celtic Christianity, looking at its influence and its demise.
Becoming aware of the traces of Celtic Christianity in modern Ireland.

Process: Input,
Personal guided reflection
Question and Discussion
Ritual

Presenters: Hilary and Monica

Evening: Songs, Music and Storytelling

Wednesday 23rd August 2023

10:30am – 12:30pm

Celtic Spirituality and the Story of the Universe

Presenter: Mary Teresa McCormack

1:00pm: Lunch

2:00pm – 5:30pm:

Journey to visit

- High crosses
- Dolmen
- Ancient monastic ruins around the Carlow area.

Presenters: Hilary and Monica

Evening: Sharing and ritual

Thursday 24th August 2023

8:45am – 6:00pm

Journey to visit Glendalough where Niamh will lead the group along the lakes and around the monastic ruins. As well as input and ritual there will be time just to be in the beauty of the landscape and for personal reflection.

Presenter: Niamh Brennan

Evening: Free

Friday 25th August 2023

10:00am – 5:30pm

(with breaks for tea/coffee and lunch)

Through a process of reflection and conversation, as well as ritual, music and storytelling, people will spend the day in silent reflection on their experience of the pilgrimage and the insights and issues it is raising for them.

This time will conclude with a Healing Ritual

Pilgrims will be lead on journey of healing though scripture storytelling, music song, mime and ritual.

Facilitators: Monica and Hilary

Saturday 26th August 2023

8:45am – 5:30pm

Journey to visit Newgrange –an old burial chamber dating back to 5000 BCE and also visit the Hill of Slane – the place where St Patrick confronted the Chieftains who opposed Christianity.

Time will be given for personal reflection.

Evening: Sharing and Ritual

Sunday 27th August 2023

A Sabbath Day, a free day for

- Personal reflection
 - Rest
 - Walking
 - Reading
 - Journaling
 - Conversations
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Monday 28th August 2023

9:15am – 5:30pm

Journey to visit St Brigid's Centre in Kildare where we will walk in the footsteps of Brigid and explore the place of women in Celtic Spirituality.

Presenters: Sr Mary Minehan and Phil O'Shea and Team

Evening: Free

Tuesday 29th August 2023

8:45am – 5:30pm

Journey to visit the ancient Cistercian monastic site of Jerpoint.
Followed by a visit to a quiet Irish village and then on to the medieval city of Kilkenny.
There will be time for personal reflection at these places.

Facilitators: Hilary and Monica

Evening: Ceilí – with local entertainers

Wednesday 30th August 2023

10:00am – 5:30pm (with breaks for tea/coffee and lunch)

Through a process of reflection and conversation, as well as ritual, music and storytelling, people will spend the day in silent reflection on their experience of the pilgrimage and the insights and issues it has raised for them.

The day will conclude with a Eucharistic Celebration

Facilitators: Hilary and Monica

Evening: Gathering

Thursday 31st August 2023

10:00am – 11:30pm

Bringing the pilgrimage to conclusion through music, song, ritual and scripture storytelling.

1:00pm: Lunch

Departure: 14:00

Facilitators: Monica and Hilary
