



Lough Derg offers special opportunities in the context of the World Meeting of Families, for parishes, prayer and ministry groups and families.

Why not come for a One Day Retreat or the Three Day Pilgrimage. Embarking on a significant journey of renewal in communion with others is a deeply rich and rewarding experience.

The World Meeting of Families Icon of the Holy Family will be venerated on the Island, 20 – 30th June, its final location before the World Meeting of Families event in August.

## Special Days

Each season there are other retreat events inviting people to experience the Island in new ways. One pilgrim's reflection: "Lough Derg is a special place, a hidden treasure. It is pure and untarnished. It is a place of beauty and rhythm, which provides sanctuary from much of the routine of modern living....just the sounds of the creatures of nature, the lapping of the lake water, and buildings and spaces which nourish the spirit."



Wild Flowers on Island



Family Day 2017

### QUIET DAYS

Fri 25th May & Mon 3rd September

A Quiet Day is a precious day for oneself with God, an opportunity for contemplation and spiritual nourishment. A self-guided day at your own pace. Refreshments on arrival & a light lunch are served.

### A DAY OF FRIENDSHIP & PRAYER

Wed 16th May

Pilgrims long associated with Lough Derg delight in inviting neighbours & friends from other Christian Churches to enjoy a special day of friendship, prayer and reflection together.

### CARE FOR CREATION DAY

Sat 19th May

This new event will explore the call of Pope Francis in his encyclical Laudato Si – care for our common home. Reflection will centre on how in practical ways we may make our contribution.

### FAMILY DAY Fri 17th August

The Family Day is one of the highlights of the season growing in popularity. Children, parents, guardians, grandparents and relations come together to celebrate the family relationship with God.

### LIVING WITH SUICIDE DAY

Sat 29th September

A special retreat day to support people who have been affected by suicide either through personal loss, those who minister to the suicide bereaved or work in support services.

## LOCATE US

Lough Derg lies about four miles north of the village of Pettigo, on the Donegal/Fermanagh border.



## CONTACT US

There are many ways to contact Lough Derg:

**Tel:** 071 9861518 (from NI 00353 71 9861518)

**Email:** info@loughderg.org

**Write:** Prior, Lough Derg, Pettigo, Co Donegal

**Online:** www.loughderg.org

**View Videos:** www.icatholic.ie/loughderg



Welcome to Lough Derg

## HELP WITH YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

We help pilgrims link with public transport where available and with Pilgrimage or Retreat Organisers in their own locality.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

There are public bus links from across the country with Bus Eireann & Ulsterbus including a shuttle bus link from Enniskillen to Lough Derg.

### ORGANISED GROUP TRAVEL

**Group Organised Travel by Coach** – there are a number of dedicated people across the country who organise private coach transport with pick-up points nationwide.

**Bus Tour Companies** – there are some advertised organised pilgrimages with bus tour companies such as Cronin's (Cork), Fitzpatrick's (Limerick), St Oliver Plunkett Pilgrimage (Dublin).

### INDEPENDENT CAR TRAVEL

Today most people travel to Lough Derg by car, oftentimes in the company of other family members and friends. Journey time varies:

Dublin (3hrs), Belfast (2 hrs), Galway (3 hrs), Cork (5hrs), Derry/Londonderry (1hr), Omagh (½hr), Enniskillen (½ hr)



Patrick the Pilgrim

Please contact the Lough Derg office for more details on the information in this leaflet and/or travel queries on organised group travel/public transport.



ONE DAY RETREATS  
THREE DAY PILGRIMAGE  
SPECIAL RETREAT DAYS

Come home to the love of God's family on Lough Derg



Cross over

Reclaim your family faith roots here, or put down some new ones and connect with the spirituality of this ever new pilgrimage island.

PILGRIMAGE SEASON 2018



Pilgrim Al and his son-in-law Damon

McAllister Family, Day Retreat 2017

To find out more about group concessions contact Lough Derg on: +353 (0) 71 9861518 or email: groupreservations@loughderg.org

To find out more about the Special Day Retreats please contact Lough Derg on +353 (0) 71 9861518 or info@loughderg.org

Information on World Meeting of Families  
www.worldmeeting2018.ie



Families enjoying Family Day Retreat

**‘Let us make this journey as families, let us keep walking together.’**

‘No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love. Let us make this journey as families, let us keep walking together. What we have been promised is greater than we can ever imagine.’  
The Joy of Love, no 325



The 2018 season on Lough Derg coincides with the World Meeting of Families which Ireland is hosting in August. As its theme Pope Francis has chosen: *The Gospel of the Family, Joy for the World*. And he has made it clear that it was his personal choice that Ireland would host this significant event.

From the earliest stages of the preparation, Lough Derg has been active in contributing to the World Meeting of Families. Our 2017 pilgrims supported the preparations with their prayer. During the Three Day Pilgrimage, more than 5000 of them offered a Station Prayer for this intention. And Lough Derg will be present this year at the event itself.

Lough Derg is a family place. Families are its

lifeblood, from generation to generation. You may recall family members whose feet have walked the ground of Station Island in the past or who still come here on pilgrimage. Pope Francis calls the Church to be ‘a family of families’. Lough Derg pilgrims sometimes speak of themselves as a ‘Lough Derg Family’, who share a unique experience of pilgrimage not easily explained but deeply appreciated by those who are part of it.

And what about you dear reader? Is this the year for you to come to Lough Derg, or to come back to Lough Derg? To reclaim your family faith-roots here, or to put down some new ones? Will you remember this year 2018 not only for the World Meeting of Families but also as a year when you came to Lough Derg, perhaps with some family members, or brought them all with you in spirit?  
Fr La, Prior

## 2018 Season Highlights...

### ONE DAY RETREATS

The season officially opens on **Saturday 5th May 2018**. One Day Retreats enable more people to enjoy the serenity of this Island and keep connected with the spirituality of Lough Derg. Dates detailed on the next page.

### THREE DAY PILGRIMAGE

Commences on **Friday 1st June 2018** and continues until Monday 13th August. One can begin the pilgrimage on any day between these dates.

*(Three Day Pilgrimage ends on Wed 15th Aug 2018).*

### SPECIAL DAYS

- ▶ **QUIET DAYS**  
Fri 25th May & Mon 3rd September
- ▶ **DAY OF FRIENDSHIP & PRAYER**  
Wed 16th May
- ▶ **NEW CARE FOR CREATION DAY RETREAT** Sat 19th May
- ▶ **WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES ICON ON ISLAND** 20th-30th June
- ▶ **FAMILY DAY RETREAT** Fri 17th August
- ▶ **LIVING WITH SUICIDE DAY**  
Sat 29th September

# One Day Retreats

The popular One Day Retreats – now in their 27th year – continue to offer an oasis of calm from the hurly-burly of everyday life.

Stepping aside from the pace of routine for a day gives us the space to establish perspective and focus on what really matters. It offers breathing space to gain sanctuary from the binds of having **to do**, and allows us time **to be**.

In this living place of pilgrimage you are welcome regardless of where you are on your journey with God. Whether you are on your own, with family & friends or as a parish or diocesan group – all gather as part of a pilgrim people journeying together in a contemplative tradition that links us with St Patrick.

## RETREAT PROGRAMME

**One Day Retreats** follow a set programme of prayer and reflection. The day concludes with the celebration of Mass in St Patrick’s Basilica.

**The Retreat programme runs from 10.00am - 4.30pm**

The day retreat is open to adults and not suited to children. *(Fasting or walking barefooted is not required).*

**Boat times:** Available from 9.15am and return from 4.00pm. Crossing approx. 10 mins.



## RETREAT DATES

**MAY - Sat 5th, Sun 6th, Mon 7th, Tues 8th, Sat 12th, Sun 13th, Tues 15th, Sun 20th, Tues 22nd, Sat 26th, Sun 27th, Mon 28th**

**AUGUST - Sat 18th, Sun 19th, Mon 20th, Mon 27th, Tues 28th, Wed 29th**

**SEPTEMBER - Sat 1st, Sun 2nd, Tues 4th, Wed 5th, Sat 8th, Mon 10th, Tues 11th, Sat 15th, Sun 16th, Sat 22nd, Sun 23rd, Sun 30th.**

## A SHORT GUIDE TO YOUR ONE DAY RETREAT

- ▶ One Day Retreats are guided days of prayer and reflection and include Prayers of Intercession, Healing of Memories, the option of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the celebration of Eucharist in St Patrick’s Basilica. The afternoon also offers an opportunity for quiet time and for Eucharistic Adoration.
- ▶ Hospitality on the day includes tea/coffee & scones on arrival and during lunch time soup & sandwiches are served.
- ▶ It is advisable to wear/bring warm and waterproof clothing (pilgrims keep footwear on).
- ▶ **Advanced booking is essential** - To make a booking contact Lough Derg on +353 (0) 71 9861518 or email [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org)
- ▶ Admission €45



## Three Day Pilgrimage

Friday 1st June - Wednesday 15th August  
*(Last day to begin your Three Day Pilgrimage Monday 13th August)*

**Pilgrimage is a meaningful journey to a sacred place...**



A place of living pilgrimage for more than 1500 years

**...on Lough Derg the Three Day Pilgrimage is a faith-filled journey to inner peace.**



Penitential Prayer Beds

Why people, young and old, continue to be drawn to this sacred Island cannot be explained in mere words. Everyone’s personal pilgrim journey is special to them and the experience can bring unconscious spiritual depths to the light of awareness; pilgrims often remark that what they got from the experience was something entirely unexpected. Pilgrim Mary reflecting on completing her Three Day Pilgrimage wrote, “Our pilgrimage was mind blowing...I wish I could hold and bottle this feeling and share it with everyone in the whole world.”

Come have your own personal, unique experience in the atmosphere of compassion and healing which pervades the setting of the Island.

## A SHORT GUIDE TO YOUR THREE DAY PILGRIMAGE

- ▶ The Three Day Pilgrimage follows a centuries-old pattern prayer.
- ▶ The pilgrimage programme includes prayer and quiet reflection in bare feet, keeping Vigil (24 hrs) and maintaining the Fast (one simple Lough Derg meal each day). Pilgrims must be over 15 years, physically able to walk and kneel unaided and to maintain the Fast.
- ▶ Pilgrims typically arrive around midday on the first day having fasted from midnight and depart on the third day at 10.00am. Pre-booking is not required.
- ▶ Boat times: Daily between 10.30am & 3pm. Crossing approx. 10 mins.
- ▶ Admission €75; student discount 15%, concessions for seniors and groups.