



50TH INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Standard Tour #1 (6 nights / 8 days)

Day 1

The Eucharist is bread for the life of the world. —John 6:51

Depart via scheduled air service to Dublin or Shannon, Ireland.

Day 2

Dublin

(D)

The Church was born of the paschal mystery. For this very reason the Eucharist, which is in an outstanding way the sacrament of the paschal mystery, stands at the centre of the Church's life. (Lumen Gentium #7)

Arrive in Dublin. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motor coach for a transfer to the hotel via panoramic tour of Dublin's highlights including St. Stephen's Green, South Bank, College Green, Merrion Square, Liffey Footbridges, Grafton Street, Temple Bar, O'Connell Street, Phoenix Park, etc. Entrance is included to Trinity College, which is Ireland's oldest university. It was founded by Queen Elizabeth I in 1592 on grounds confiscated from a monastery. Trinity College's official name is the University of Dublin, although it is popularly known by the name of its sole college. The highlight of the tour will be a view of the Book of Kells, which dates from AD 800, making it one of the oldest books in the world. Also visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, the National Cathedral of Ireland built on the site where St. Patrick once preached. Evening Welcome dinner and overnight.

Dublin is Ireland's capital and its largest, most cosmopolitan city. It wasn't before the Viking raids of the 9th century that Dublin was fully established. The 'boom years' came in the 18th century and the city expanded across the river forming a new Dublin of stately squares, streets and Georgian mansions. Today, with its elegant Georgian streets, gregarious inhabitants and over one thousand years of history, it's little wonder Dublin is a city of writers.

Day 3

Dublin / Glendalough / Killarney

(B,D)

The Eucharistic Congress logo reminds us of people "from every nation, race, tribe, and language" (Rev. 7:9) being drawn together in Communion as "One Body" formed by faith in the person of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, and the sacrifice he made upon the cross. (www.iec2012.ie Congress Logo)

Excursion to Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains. The steep wooded slopes of Glendalough the "valley of the two lakes" harbor one of Ireland's most atmospheric monastic sites — established in the 6th century. Here we visit the Round Tower, Cathedral, St. Kevin's Cross and Kitchen, and Gatehouse. Continue to Killarney for dinner and overnight.

Renowned for its beauty, famed for the splendor of its scenery, Killarney is one of the world's best-loved tourist spots. Killarney (Cill Airne - The Church of Sloes) became a magnificent town around 1750 when the local magnate, Lord Kenmare, developed the tourist business and four major roads were built to the outside world. Killarney's present population is around 9,000 and the main economic base is tourism.



Day 4 **Killarney** **(B,D)**

The Eucharist which every week gathers Christians together as God's family around the table of the Word and the Bread of Life, is also the most natural antidote to dispersion. It is a privileged place where communion is ceaselessly proclaimed and nurtured. (Novo Millennio Ineunte, 36, also 43-45)

Today enjoy a tour of the Dingle Peninsula. This peninsula is famous for its Celtic, pre-Christian monuments and Christian churches. The road around the Peninsula is truly spectacular. It passes through a chain of Mountains, called Slieve Mish. From Inch, a long beach bordered by dunes and made famous by David Lean's movie "Ryan's daughter," admire the Iveragh Peninsula and Rossbeigh Beach. From Dingle, drive around the coast to Sleah Head. Here the blue of the marine landscape surrounds the Blaskets Islands, deserted since 1953. In the distance are the two rocky Skellig islands, where the ruins of an early Christian Monastery can be found. The Dingle Peninsula will charm you with its villages painted in bright colours and the dramatic beauty of its landscapes.

Visit the Gallarus Oratory, the most impressive Christian monument on the Dingle Peninsula. Built in the shape of an upturned boat, the oratory formed part of a larger monastic site and was used as a place of prayer and reflection. Stop at the Riasc Monastic Settlement, which is home to the impressive ruins of a 6th-century monastery and important carved stone. Return to Killarney for dinner and overnight. **Possible concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland.**



Day 5 **Killarney / Kilkenny / Dublin** **(B,D)**

The Eucharist is a central ministry of priests and it is by means of the Eucharist that "they are in communion with Christ the head, and leading others into this communion." (Ad Gentes, 39)

Return to Dublin via Kilkenny. Enjoy a tour of Kilkenny Castle, begun by William de Marshal in the 13th century. From 1391 to 1931 the castle was the principal seat of the Butler family. Finely situated on the high river bank and surrounded by gardens, the castle is now open to the public. Some of the rooms have been restored; particularly charming is the Victorian Great Hall. Continue to Dublin for an afternoon at leisure for shopping or other activities. **Possible concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland.** Evening dinner and overnight.



Day 6 **Dublin** **(B,D)**

It is Jesus who invites us to participate in the Eucharist as a mark of His love. It is His Word that we listen to in the Gospel. It is His Body and Blood that we receive. It is in His name that we are sent out! (www.iec2012 Congress Themes)

Today enjoy the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of cultural programs, lectures, and workshops as part of the Eucharistic Congress. Unique experiences of shared prayer will deepen one's Eucharistic spirituality. The entire pilgrimage has been building to this rich experience of shared faith and worship with the universal Church. Evening dinner and overnight.



Day 7 **Dublin** **(B,D)**

Because the bread is one, we though many are one body, all of us who partake of the one bread. In this way all of us are made members of His Body. (Lumen Gentium #7)

Enjoy a full-day taking part in the Eucharistic Congress events. Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight.



Day 8 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Transfer to Dublin's International Airport for return flight. Arrive home in the evening of the same day.