

Pilgrimage

Many countries around the world have their own places of pilgrimage. Many Catholics travel to different places of pilgrimage around the world e.g. Rome, Lourdes, The Holy Land – Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jerusalem. There are also places of pilgrimage in England and Wales. For example:

- Our Lady's shrine at Walsingham in Norfolk. This shrine honours the Annunciation and was one of the greatest shrines for Christians in medieval times – when travel to the Holy Land was very difficult.
- Our Lady of the Taper is the national Catholic shrine of Wales. It is in Cardigan. A legend describes how a statue of Mary was found about one thousand years ago by the side of the river Teifi. The statue was of Mary with Jesus on her lap and a candle (taper) burning in her hand.
- St Winefride's Well in Holywell, North Wales, centres round a holy woman called Winefride who lived in the 7th century. She became a saint and her well at Holywell has been a place of pilgrimage and healing since that time.

Part of a pilgrimage to a special place is that it reminds people how important it is to pray and take time to think about what is important in their lives.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

- Q Have you or anyone you know been on a pilgrimage?
- Q Why do you think people go on pilgrimages?
- Q What might be the joys of a pilgrimage and how would it help the person in their Christian life?
- Q What do you think the challenges of making a pilgrimage might be?
- Q Why do you think a pilgrimage is a special time to pray?

