



*"Leading the contemplative pilgrimage to the Holy Land earlier this year deepened my sense of pilgrimage as a way of prayer. It deepens faith and strengthens the interior journey - especially through the fellowship among the pilgrims. We become friends as our sense of the sacred is awakened in the holy places of the Gospel. Jesus becomes more humanly present and the world itself shows how the divine has penetrated through all creation and all time.*

*The Gospels come alive and the historical Jesus becomes one with the Risen Christ.*

*Our times of silence, worship and common reflection on the Scriptures at the actual places described there is an unforgettable experience. The pilgrims' ongoing sharing shows how enriching pilgrimage can be both at the time and for long after.*

*I am happy to be returning early next year - with the organisers' same management expertise. We will also be visiting sites we couldn't go to last time.*

*So, I look forward to the 2020 WCCM pilgrimage which will reflect this year's community theme of 'Contemplative Christianity'."*

*Laurence*

## LAURENCE FREEMAN, OSB

*Laurence Freeman is a Benedictine monk and the spiritual successor of John Main OSB. He is the Director of The World Community for Christian Meditation. Author, retreat leader and international speaker, Fr Laurence sees the contemplative as the essential dimension of all spirituality.*

## ITINERARY:

Daily meditation will be scheduled everyday before breakfast, during the Holy mass, and after dinner.

### 07FEB (Fri). EUROPE/U.S./EUROPE/ASIA - TEL AVIV.

Arrive in **Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport**. After immigration and customs formalities, meet your guide and transfer to your hotel for your overnight accommodation. Mass and dinner at the hotel.

**NOTE:** A coach will be arranged for the transfer of pilgrims to the hotel. Departure from Tel Aviv Airport will be on the following schedules: 3:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 9:00pm and 11:00 pm. For those who do not wish to wait for the scheduled transfer to the hotel, taxis are available at the airport. 5:00 p.m. Mass with Fr. Laurence will be arranged at a function hall. **(D)**

### 08FEB (Sat). TEL AVIV - NAZARETH - MOUNT TABOR - CAPERNAUM - TIBERIAS.

Breakfast and checkout. Drive to **Nazareth**, the place where Jesus spent His childhood. Visit the Basilica of Annunciation, where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary announcing the birth of Jesus. Visit St. Joseph's Church, site of St. Joseph's workshop. Leave for **Mount Tabor** to visit the Church of the Transfiguration, site of the transfiguration of Jesus.

Head for **Tiberias** to visit **Capernaum**, the place where Jesus made His first disciples from among the humble local fishermen. Visit the Church of St. Peter which was built over the ruins of the house of St. Peter. Check in at your hotel for your two (2) nights stay. **(B,L,D)**

### 09FEB (Sun). TIBERIAS - MOUNT OF BEATITUDES - TABGHA - SEA OF GALILEE - CANA - TIBERIAS.

This morning, head for the **Mount of Beatitudes** to see the panoramic view from the top where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. Proceed to **Tabgha**, the site where Jesus performed many miracles. Visit the Church of the Primacy of Peter, the site of the third appearance of Jesus to His disciples after His resurrection. Here, Jesus prepared a meal for His disciples on what is known as *Mensa Christi*. Nearby is the Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fish, built over the site where Jesus fed five thousand people with five loaves and two fish. Continue on with a boat ride crossing the **Sea of Galilee**, where Jesus miraculously walked on the water.

In the afternoon, drive to **Cana**, where Jesus performed His first miracle at a wedding feast, by changing water into wine. Celebrate mass at the Church of the First Miracle. Here, married couples will have the opportunity to renew their marriage vows. **(B,L,D)**

### 10FEB (Mon). TIBERIAS - JORDAN RIVER - GENESIS LAND - BETHANY - JERUSALEM.

This morning, check out of your hotel. Depart for **Jordan River** where St. John baptized Jesus. Here, you will have the opportunity to renew your baptismal vows at *Yardenit*.

Leave for the Judean Desert and stop at the **Genesis Land** where you will experience life as it was in biblical times. Enjoy a sumptuous lunch prepared by the household of Abraham.

Proceed to the little village of **Bethany**, a favourite place of rest and refuge for Jesus. Here, he knew the intimacy and friendship of his

friends Martha, Mary and Lazarus. And here, in the cemetery just below the village, he raised Lazarus from the dead. Celebrate Mass at the *Church of St. Lazarus* before continuing on to the Golden City of **Jerusalem** where you will be staying for four (4) nights. **(B,L,D)**

### 11FEB (Tue). JERUSALEM - EIN KAREM - BETHLEHEM - JERUSALEM.

Visit the picturesque hillside village of **Ein Karem**, meaning "the spring in the vineyard." Up on the slopes of a rocky hill lies the Church of the Visitation, where Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, an eventual meeting of the Mother of God and the mother of John the Precursor. In front of the Church is a wall with the "Magnificat" written in more than forty languages.

Enter the **Old City of Jerusalem** to visit the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus cured the paralytic. Beside it is the Church of St. Anne, traditional site of the house of Mary's parents, St. Anne and St. Joachim.

Journey on to the holy town of **Bethlehem**, the birthplace of Jesus. After lunch, visit the Basilica of the Nativity which houses the Grotto of the Nativity and the Altar of Christ's Birth. A silver star marks the traditional place where Jesus was born. Beside it are two altars that face each other: the Altar of the Manger, the place where the Baby Jesus was laid after he was born and the Altar of the Magi where the Three Wise Men paid homage to the newborn Son of God. See the Chapel of St. Jerome, formerly a cave where he translated the Holy Bible to Latin, known as the "Vulgate." **(B,L,D)**

### 12FEB (Wed). JERUSALEM.

Drive to the top of Mount of Olives to visit the Church of the Pater Noster, built over the grotto where Jesus assembled His disciples and taught them the Lord's Prayer. Here, you will find the Lord's Prayer translated into more than 60 languages. Walk down the Palm Sunday Road to arrive at the Church of Dominus Flevit, the spot where Jesus contemplated on the city of Jerusalem and lamented its future destruction, hence the name of the church which means, "the Lord wept." Down the slope lies the Church of All Nations or Church of the Agony. The Catholic church enshrines a section of stone in the Garden of Gethsemane that is believed to be where Jesus prayed on the night of his arrest.

Head for Mount Zion to visit the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu which was built to commemorate the triple denial and repentance of Peter. This was originally the house of Caiphas where you can still see the prison cells and the pit where Jesus was probably kept. End the day with a visit to the Wailing Wall or Western Wall, where Jews all over the world gather to commemorate the destruction of the first and second temple and pray for Israel's restoration. **(B,L,D)**

### 13FEB (Thu). JERUSALEM (Old City).

Early in the morning, return to the **Old City of Jerusalem** to trace the Via Dolorosa (14-Stations of the Cross) to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which was built over the site of the Calvary and the Tomb. The church also houses under its roof "the place called *Golgotha*, that is to say, a place of a skull" as well as the 10th to the 14th stations of the Via Dolorosa.

In the afternoon, visit the Church of the Dormition Abbey, traditional site of Mary's assumption to heaven. Stop at the Coenaculum or the Upper Room, the place where Jesus and His disciples ate the Last Supper and where the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist was instituted. This was also the site where the Pentecost took place.

**(B,L,D)**

**14FEB (Fri). JERUSALEM - EMMAUS - TEL AVIV - EUROPE/U.S./U.K./ASIA.**

Breakfast followed by hotel check out. Leave for **Emmaus**, situated halfway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The village of *Abu Gosh* was first settled over 6,000 years ago. During the Crusader Period (about 1,000 years ago), the village was ascribed as the place where Jesus revealed himself after His resurrection – that is, Emmaus – and the Benedictine Monastery was built. Visit the Monastère de la Résurrection, one of the most beautiful buildings preserved from the Crusader Period. Impressive frescoes are painted on the inner walls, and a fountain flows from the crypt at the base of the monastery. Thanksgiving Mass will be arranged for the group followed by lunch at a nearby local restaurant.

**NOTE:** For pilgrims with flight at 2-2:30pm, please check out of the hotel after breakfast. Transfer to the airport by 10:00am. Succeeding transfers to Tel Aviv airport are as follows: 1:00pm and 4:00pm.

**(B,L)**

**TOUR INCLUSIONS:**

- ➔ Roundtrip airport transfers as specifically scheduled
- ➔ First class hotel accommodation on twin sharing
- ➔ Meals as specified in the itinerary (B - Breakfast; L - Lunch; D - Dinner)
- ➔ Transportation by deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- ➔ Tours with entrances as specified in the itinerary
- ➔ Services of a local tour guide in Israel
- ➔ Services of a Tour Leader and Pilgrimage Chaplain all throughout the pilgrimage
- ➔ Tip Fund (for guides, coach drivers, restaurants, etc.)
- ➔ Porterage of one (1) piece of luggage at hotels

**TOUR COST PER PERSON:** (minimum of 30 passengers)

Land Only **US\$ 2,940.00**

Optional:  
Additional for Single Room **US\$ 845.00**

**BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- 1) US\$ 500.00 deposit is required upon reservations together with a recent passport-size photo, photocopy of passport (valid for 6 months from date of departure) and Pilgrim's Profile.
- 2) Full payment in U.S. dollars is required before ticketing but in no case shall it be later than one month before departure date.

**CANCELLATIONS:**

All cancellations must be done in writing. The following charges will apply:

- > 60 days before departure date - US\$ 300.00
- > 45 days before departure date - 50% of the Tour Cost
- > 30 days prior to departure date - Full tour cost will be forfeited.

**CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**BASIC TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:** Airline Taxes, visa fees and documentation expenses, insurance, hospitalization and other medical expenses, tours and transportation during free periods, porterage of extra pieces of luggage in excess of maximum allocation, drinks and beverages taken during meals, items of personal nature such as laundry, telephone, fax, room service, tips for drivers, guides, and other expenses not mentioned in the itinerary terms and conditions.

**EXECUTIVE RESOURCES, INC.** has arranged for the various services to be performed under the responsibility of various contractors. Executive Resources, Inc., its employees or its subagents therefore only act as agents for the contractors providing the various services described in the pilgrimage and accept no responsibility or liability in connection with losses or accidental expenses due to delays of schedule, overbooking, defaults or "force majeure". All pilgrimage arrangements are subject to the general conditions specified by each contractor. Itineraries and prices are subject to change without prior notice. When making a booking, the passenger acknowledges and accepts the foregoing conditions.

**\*\*\* RATES AND SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. \*\*\***

**For reservations and more details, please contact:**

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**An Invitation to Join a  
Contemplative Journey  
to the  
HOLY LAND**



*The Garden of Gethsemane by Dr. Ludwig Braun*

**8 Days**

**Highlights:**

Nazareth ✦ Tiberias ✦ Mount Tabor ✦ Capernaum  
Sea of Galilee ✦ Cana ✦ Mount of Beatitudes ✦ Tabgha  
Jordan River ✦ Bethany ✦ Ein Karem  
Bethlehem ✦ Jerusalem ✦ Emmaus  
Renewal of Marriage Vows and Baptismal Vows  
Genesis Land Experience ✦ The Way of the Cross

*Led by:*

**FR. LAURENCE FREEMAN, O.S.B.**  
*Spiritual Director,  
World Community for Christian Meditation*

**Departure Date: 07 February 2020**