

## CORPUS CHRISTI HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE, 2023



The pilgrims beside the Sea of Galilee

**Sharon Taylor writes:** I encourage everyone to try and go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr Mervyn. For Martin and myself it has been one of the most wonderful experiences of our lives.

We celebrated daily Mass in the most incredible places: in the crusaders Chapel at the Holy Sepulchre a church built on the site of Jesus's crucifixion and burial; on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, next to the ruins of St Peter's house (and where next to that is the lower part of the synagogue where Jesus preached); in Bethlehem, at a catholic parish church with the Christian Palestinians living there, who were wonderfully welcoming; in the garden of the Dominus Flevit Church on the Mount of Olives, at the Basilica of the Transfiguration and other incredibly inspiring places.



Mass beside the Sea of Galilee

We prayed at the holy sites including in the excavated parts of Caiaphas's house, in the Sacred Pit, which is where Jesus was taken after the Last Supper with His disciples. Before he was taken to Pontius Pilate, Jesus spent the night at the home of Caiaphas in a deep hole below the house. It was so deep Jesus needed to be lowered into it. He was brought up from it the next morning to face His suffering and death.

For us, we experienced a taste of the Kingdom of God with members of our parish, four priests and pilgrims from other parishes. Kindness was everywhere and I believe that no one experienced an unkind word, only Christian love. By the end of the week a beautiful bond was formed by everyone. A taste of heaven on earth.

*Sharon Taylor*