

PILGRIMAGES

Over the last few years we have held a number of very successful pilgrimages. These have provided the opportunity to travel and to share in the spiritual experience of worshipping together and visiting some of the most important sites of Christian history.

Earlier pilgrimages have included:

- **Holy Land - April 1997**

Where else could we begin, but the birthplace of Christianity? We spent some time in Jerusalem then moved to the shores of Lake Galilee, which seemed so close to the Galilee of 2000 years ago.



The end and the beginning – Mass celebrated in the House of Ananias, Damascus

- **Istanbul & the Seven Churches of Asia Minor – May 1998**

After a tantalisingly short visit to Istanbul we travelled to Gallipoli and Troy then visited the sites of the early Christian communities in Asia Minor which were recipients of St John's letters. At Ephesus we finished our pilgrimage with Mass in the ruins of the Council church but this then started us on the trail of St Paul.

- **St. Paul's Journeys in Greece – Oct 1999**

This pilgrimage followed St. Paul's travels from Philippi to Athens and Corinth visiting all the recognised Pauline sites and also included the cliff top monasteries of Meteora and the timeless beauty of Delphi.



Santiago Group

- **St. Paul's Last Journey –
Apr/May 2001**

Tracing the steps of St. Paul and also of Cardinal Newman, from Sicily to Naples and Rome as Paul came to Rome to stand trial and Newman in his Anglican years came to learn more about Italy and the Catholic Church.

- **St. Paul's travels in Anatolia –
Oct 2002**

We started by visiting the sites of the early Christian communities of Cappadocia and then followed St Paul on the route of his three missionary journeys from Antioch through SE and central Turkey.

- **Santiago de Compostela –
April/May 2004**

Here we followed the traditional route from Burgos through the north of Spain to the shrine of St James at Compostela. Some pilgrims did walk small sections of the Camino but normally we had a coach to protect us from the rain and snow.

- **The Road to Damascus – April 2006**

Starting with Tyre and Sidon we visited wonderful Roman, Crusader, Muslim and Christian sites through Lebanon and northern Syria. We then travelled from Aleppo to Palmyra, in the desert, and ended in Damascus with Mass in the house of Ananius. Perhaps this should have been the start of our pilgrimages - it was after all where Paul started his missionary journey.



Scenes from the Road to Damascus: clockwise from top:

Temple of Bacchus, Baalbeck, Bekka Valley, Lebanon

Roman Colonnaded Street, Palmyra, Syria

Pilgrims in the Roman Theatre, Byblos, Lebanon

Crusader Church of St John the Baptist, Byblos, Lebanon

Where next? A new pilgrimage is being planned, hopefully for September/October 2007. For information contact Kevin Lambert at kevin@newman.org.uk