

The Society of Saint Pius X

Pilgrimage of Tradition 2024

Chartres to Paris

*Information Booklet
for Pilgrims*



**A unique moment for reflection on the meaning of our life
and a call to approach sincerely and truly our Lord Jesus Christ
who is 'the Way, the Truth and Life' (John 14:6)**



Foreword by Rev. Fr. Benoît de Jorna (District Superior of France and Ecône Seminary)

‘The Way, the Truth and Life’ (John 14:6)

The rewards of the beatitudes are not only for heaven.

Saint Augustine says: "These are things which can be accomplished in this life, as we believe they were with the Apostles". And indeed, the hope of the happiness of heaven is already a beginning of the beatitude to come; we see, in holy persons, this aspiration to heaven. Nature testifies to this: the hope that the tree will bear fruit is different at the time of the green foliage and at the time when the fruits begin to appear. All the promised rewards will be perfect in the future life, but we have a taste of them now. When a child begins to walk, there is no doubt that he will soon be able to run on his own.

The beatitudes are therefore the spiritual journey that the Master of masters, Jesus, God made man, made available to us in his eternal Wisdom. He showed us how to do it himself. This route is skilfully graduated so that, whoever we are, we take it.

The theme makes each pilgrimage to Chartres a unique moment for reflection and meditation on the meaning of our life and a call to draw closer to Jesus Christ who is "the Way, the Truth and the Life". (John 14:6)



Foreword by Rev. Fr. Benoît de Jorna

(District Superior of France and Ecône Seminary)

2024 Theme : Seeking God with Saint Thomas Aquinas

"This is the end. Thomas has been travelling for almost forty years. He has already travelled some eleven thousand five hundred kilometres through France, Italy and Germany, and this time he is going to the Council of Lyon. (...)

He confesses one last time; his secretary, Father Renaud, declared: "I always found him as pure as a five-year-old child. He never felt the humiliating sting of the flesh, nor consented to any evil thought". He could say no more, as sobs

choked his voice and his emotion overwhelmed the entire audience. On the morning of 7 March 1274, Thomas surrendered his soul to God, whom he had served with unconditional devotion. (...)

We are going to travel fewer kilometres than Saint Thomas. But we must imbibe his ardour for loving Jesus without turning back. We will ask him to communicate to us the ardour of his fighting faith. We will beg him to lead us to the conquest of holiness and to understand that the great way, especially today in the midst of this corrupt world, is to want, at all costs, to maintain purity of heart, mind and body".

(Extract from the preface to the 2024 spiritual dossier.)



The Pilgrimage

Every year since 1989, the SSPX has organised a three-day walking pilgrimage, beginning in Chartres and ending in Paris. This year we will be joined with nearly 8,000 Traditional Catholics from around the world.

Since the pilgrimage is timed to coincide with the Feast of Pentecost, as Fr. Patrick Rutledge (Rector of St. Marys Academy and College, USA), a former pilgrimage chaplain, says:

The walk from Chartres to Paris is much more than a walk. It is a time for meditation, for singing, for confession and spiritual direction and a time for friendship. It is the final cause, the goal, that helps one step lead to another, but there is also ample time for reflection and for grace to do its work. It is like a retreat on foot.

It is a wonderful match for the feast of Pentecost, commemorating the day when the Apostles received the Holy Spirit before being sent out to preach the good news all over the world.

There is daily Mass as well as plenty of opportunity for confession, spiritual guidance and the opportunity to socialise with other English speaking Traditional Catholics (Australians, New Zealanders, British, Irish, Canadians, Americans and South Africans).





The Pilgrimage Schedule

Saturday 18 May (25 miles)

CHARTRES to RAMBOUILLET

07:45: Opening Mass in the gardens of the Bishop's Palace, just behind the Cathedral.

Please note: drop off your luggage before Mass in the trucks located on rue Charles Brune.

09:00: Beginning of the march after Mass.

19:30 - 20:30: Arrival to Rambouillet

Sunday 19 May (25 miles)

RAMBOUILLET to VILLEPREUX

06:00: Departure.

18:00: Pontifical Mass.

Monday 20 May (17 miles)

VILLEPREUX to PARIS

06:00: Departure.

12:00: Lunch at the Longchamp Hippodrome.

13:55: Procession

16:30: Arrival in Paris, Closing Mass in front of Saint-Louis-des-Invalides Cathedral.

18:30: End

Pilgrim's Kit List Guide

Small Rucksack (Day Bag)

1. Full water bottle
2. Energy-rich snacks
3. Midday meal for each day
4. Wet weather gear
5. Hat
6. Holy Rosary beads
8. Medication (if required)
11. Sun cream
12. Sunglasses
13. Blister bandages and tape

Please note: ensure your clothing is modest. Portable Electronic Devices should not be used during the pilgrimage. For examples laptop, tablets, e-readers, smartphones and MP3 players.

Large Rucksack

(white Ribbon attached)

1. Tent (there are no communal tents)
2. Sleeping bag
3. Sleeping mat
4. Walking Shoes
5. Warm jacket (for evenings)
6. Wash kit
7. Towel
8. Headtorch or torch
9. Cup, plate, cutlery
10. Casual-wear for last night
11. Meals for each day
12. Small first aid kit
13. Toilet roll
14. Spare clothes



Frequently Asked Questions

What are the travel arrangements getting to Chartres?

All pilgrims are responsible for their own travel arrangements. It is recommended that you find accommodation in Chartres the Friday 26 May evening. If you stay in Paris, you must leave early on Saturday 27 May and take the train from Paris Montparnasse to Chartres (roughly €18). The train times can be found at <https://www.sncf.com/fr>.

Will food be provided on the pilgrimage?

The pilgrimage organiser supplies bread and water at lunch, water points, and at the evening campsites. At the campsite, food is provided in the evenings and in the mornings but it is basic and should be supplemented by personal supplies. There is the opportunity to purchase limited food and alcohol at the campsite. Pilgrims must provide their own lunches and energy snacks before starting the pilgrimage.

What happens if I have a medical problem during the pilgrimage or I can't walk any further?

Permanent medical assistance is provided by the pilgrimage organisers - doctors and medical staff - who have a first aid tent at each campsite. At each halt, shuttle buses provide transport for pilgrims who can no longer walk or, in case of emergency, to take them to hospital.





Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to take out travel insurance?

All pilgrims are strongly recommended to take out appropriate travel insurance.

How do I register for the pilgrimage?

Step one: register for the pilgrimage here:

<https://inscription.pelerinagesdetradition.com/> - registration opens on 25 March.

Step two: inform Nicholas Kwilecki that you have been successfully registered and that you want to walk in the **BRITISH** Chapter.

How much is the pilgrimage?

If you register before the 15th of April : €50, after the 15th of April it is: €55 and on the day it is: €65

I would like to know more

You can contact the Chapter Leader - Nicholas Kwilecki - at ukchartres@gmail.com.



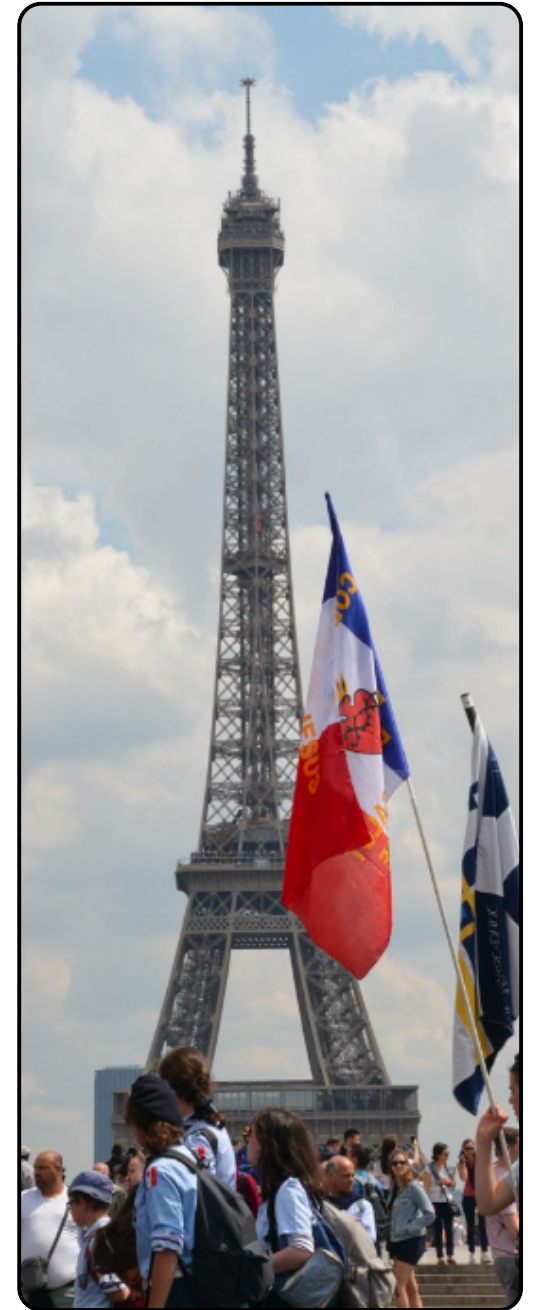
Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to carry my large rucksack on the pilgrimage?

Your large rucksack will be transported by lorry to each campsite. Before the opening Mass on Saturday 18 May, drop off your luggage in the trucks located on rue Charles Brune. You must add a WHITE ribbon to your large rucksack as an identification marker. It is recommended that items within your large rucksack are wrapped in plastic bags to keep them dry!

Will we have a Chaplain for the British Chapter?

Every year we have a priest of the SSPX as our Chaplain, who will hear confessions, give spiritual advice and meditations.



Preparing for Pentecost

The supernatural consequence of Our Lord's Ascension into Heaven was the sending of the Paraclete on Pentecost, Who as testified by Christ Himself, is the "best gift" and the "spirit of Truth" that teaches us "all truth".

A popular devotional practice to prepare for Pentecost Sunday (28 May) is to make a novena to the Holy Ghost.

Come, Holy Ghost

Come Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of Thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Thy love.

V. Send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created.

R. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let Us Pray

O God, Who hast instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Ghost, grant that by the same Spirit we may be always truly wise, and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Then Jesus said to His disciples: If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For he that will save his life, shall lose it: and he that shall lose his life for My sake, shall find it. (Matthew 16:24-25)

