

Pilgrimage Comprehension Questions - use evidence from the text below to support your answers!

1. What date is the diary written?

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2. Which direction are they heading on day 5? (North. South. East. West)

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3. In the Latin Catholic church, who gives the readings?

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4. When the pilgrims got to the River Jordan, it says some of them thought about their own baptism. Why did they think about their baptism here?

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5. What makes you think that the author didn't have a swim in the River Jordan?

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6. When the pilgrims got to the monastery on the hill, how do you know they hadn't seen any, or many, camels before?

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7. The author uses a descriptive technique to describe the camel. Write it out using quote marks ("")

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8. What descriptive technique does the author use? (Simile/Metaphor/ Alliteration)

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9. Can you write 3 facts about the Dead Sea?

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10. How do you know that 1 hour wasn't enough for the pilgrims at the Dead Sea?

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Pilgrimage comprehension: Holy Land Diary.



Saturday 27 April - Day Five

Another day on pilgrimage. Bethlehem starts up its day once again. Today we are heading East. The first stop of the day is on the outskirts of Jericho, where we celebrate our pilgrimage Mass in the Latin Catholic parish church. Father Richard Plunkett gives the homily on the readings; we had heard Jesus encouraging his followers to believe in him, and if they do they will perform great works.

The next stop was the banks of the River Jordan, to the place where it is believed that John the Baptist baptised Jesus. Here we reflected on our own baptism, and renewed our baptismal promises. Father David had blessed the water in his bottle and sprayed us pilgrims (soaking the nearest). Among the other people who had travelled to the Jordan river were some who braved the rather murky water to bathe or some we think to be baptised - a beautiful idea if only the water looked cleaner!

Boarding the coaches we travel on to the base of the Mount of Temptation, the place where Jesus was tempted by the Devil. From our stop we can see the monastery on the hill, but attention is distracted by a camel, some of the pilgrims had a ride on this 'ship of the desert'. A short journey takes us to our lunch stop at the 'Inn of Temptation' - the name of which we hope is created from the nearby mountain rather than the menu!

The final stop of the day is the Dead Sea, the lowest point not submerged in water on the planet. As we drive, a sign is pointed out which signifies sea level - and we keep heading down the sloping road (fortunately without the buses sinking beneath water). Many pilgrims have come prepared for the strange experience of 'swimming' in the Dead Sea, armed with swim wear & towels. As many will know, the very high salt content of the water at this place (we are told about 25%) means that it is almost impossible for the human body to sink, and so we see many people simply floating on the surface of the cool water - watch out for sunburn as the 35C temperature is very hot for many of the pilgrims (me in particular!). Our hour visit here disappears too soon for some (well we assume that is why they are back somewhat late for the bus), and we head back to Bethlehem.

There is plenty of time to freshen up, to visit Manger Square and to take advantage of the offer of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Dinner in the hotel this evening, and no more trips today. Tomorrow we leave Bethlehem, so many of us pilgrims start to pack once again ready for the trip to transfer up to Tiberius, Galilee.