



Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage Report

From 7th of August to the 11th of August, Chi-Chi, Cheyenne, Nnenna and Tochukwu went on a camping trip to the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage. Here is an account of what happened on each day.

On Monday, we arrived at Father Stephen's house early in the morning, we were due to go with an extra pair of young people from the Kentish Town parish but we

had never met them before so we were nervous. Their names were Freya and Ryan. They were the loveliest pair of siblings. We set out on our expedition. It was a really long journey, everyone fell asleep apart from Chi-Chi and Cheyenne. They entertained themselves with chi-chi's phone and I spy and more. We made one stop at a burger bar and met up with St John's and St Alphege's. Then we continued the rest of the way to the pilgrimage site. It was around 2:30pm or so when we arrived and started setting up our tents in little designated sections called villages. Chi-chi and Cheyenne and Shania (from St John's) shared a tent, Freya and Nnenna ended up sharing a tent and Tochukwu and Ryan got to have personal tents.



We went to go check out the cafe and it was awesome. It had a snack bar, table tennis with decks of card on every table. There was also giant snakes and ladders and giant 4-in-a-row. Not to mention the lot of other board games out for everyone to use. Chi-Chi and Cheyenne were the first to meet someone new, her name was Michelle, and her best friend Chris (she's a girl). Chris was going through hard times that week, but the experience got her out from the dark place she was in.

After the little time we had to socialise with the other pilgrims, we were taken to the Shrine of Our Lady, we prayed a little bit and walked back to the site for dinner. For dinner we had a barbecue and on the night they threw us a disco. During the barbecue we were able to properly meet more people and they are all still so close to our hearts. After the disco we chilled in the cafe a little longer until the rain started. This rain has most of our tents flooded. The first night was treacherous. But that didn't bring down our spirits.

On Tuesday, we had bible study first thing in the morning. Nnenna was the first one to wake up. She woke up at 5:30 just to use the showers! She was determined to get there first. The showers were nice until everyone on the site had to use them. That's when they got disgusting! Bible study happened every morning. After bible study we had a mass, this also happens everyday. It was like no other mass we had ever experience. Everything usually said was sung. The gospel was acted and made engaging and fun for us to fully understand. There was never a dull moment. Later that day we went to Wells to eat fish and chips for lunch and enjoy the scenery.



On Wednesday, there were loads of fun activities for the pilgrims to enjoy. This included inflatables and rides that we could go on. There were also circus equipment, that day we found out that Nnenna could hoopla 5 hoops at a go, Tochukwu was a top juggler Chi-Chi could run and skip with hoola hoops around her ankles. This was such great fun.

Later that evening we attended a light ceremony. We also had appointed times to visit the Holy House, luckily for us we got 10:30pm whilst others unfortunately got times like 2:00am.

On Thursday it was Chi-Chi's birthday! Everyone was so excited. She got birthday wishes from almost everyone on the site. That's a whopping 200+ people. And her birthday was recognised during mass that day. Later that day Father Stephen and Judith took us to the beach, where we had sand sculpting competitions and had ice cream. That night there was another disco. It was great everyone had fun together and we were able to enjoy our last night with our new found family. We were all decorated with glow in the dark wrist bands and necklaces. It was great fun..

Friday seemed to have come around way too quickly and everyone was already feeling nostalgic, even though nobody had left. Tents were packed, vans were loaded and many many tears were shed. But all good things must come to an end eventually. The only good thing is that we will see them next year.

The four of us had so much fun, we want the whole youth group to come with us next year and experience what we had the privilege and pleasure of experiencing.

With our thanks to those who made it possible for us to go to this brilliant event.

Chi-Chi, Cheyenne, Nnenna and Tochukwu
SS Peter & Paul, Enfield Lock.



Cheyenne Sharp

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2017

What I enjoyed?

I enjoyed Bible studies, when they explained what certain readings meant and had group discussions about it.



Activities we did

We had a vast amount of activities to do such as inglatebles, a chocolate workshop and arts and crafts.



What I have learned

I have learned the true meaning of God and what I have to do to be a true Christian.

