

Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2019

There were 78 pilgrims both adults and children from the Diocese of Chichester attending the Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham. Below is a report from some of our young pilgrims.

The children's weekend pilgrimage to Walsingham was really good. There was lots to do and time to be with friends and make new ones.

After finding our rooms, we went to the Shrine church to look at the Holy House. *I hadn't been before and it felt very special. We lit blue or red candles and prayed for our families (Morwenna).* After supper we had a big service in the Shrine church for everyone and we realised how many children were there from lots of different places. *We went down some steps to a well and had a sip of holy water. A priest made the sign of the cross on our foreheads and poured holy water on our hands, reminding us of God's love (Millie).*

Saturday was great. We walked the Holy Mile along the road to the Slipper Chapel and had the Ministry of the Word there. (Owen) A group from St Leonards acted out the gospel story of Jesus turning water into wine. *We walked back a different way and some of us did it in bare feet. It made me think of Jesus and other people walking the way of the cross, but we did it to be like the pilgrims visiting the shrine (Joseph).* When we got back to the shrine we continued the Mass in the Church. *I liked the singing and the guitars. We sang songs like "My Lighthouse", "Shine Jesus shine" and "Here we are to worship". (Morwenna)*

I enjoyed the activities on Saturday afternoon. There was a bouncy castle and other inflatables. We did face painting, decorated stones and candle holders. I made friends with lots of other children and it made me feel happy. (Tianna). We had some free time to go to the shops

In the evening we went to the Disco which was fun. (Millie)

Sunday we had to pack our bags which was sad. I had enjoyed sharing a room with my friends (Morwenna). We went to the playground when we had some free time before the morning Eucharist in the Shrine church. After lunch we had Benediction and Last Visit before starting on the long journey home.

We can't wait to go again next year. Thank you to everyone who organised the weekend.

St Andrews West Tarring