



ALERT BAY PILGRIMAGE

July 18-20, 2025

Prayer before a Pilgrimage

Lord Jesus Christ, we are setting out today to a special place dedicated to Your worship. As we travel to this holy site, send us Your angels to keep us safe from any harm and tragedy that we may face along the way. Help us to have a prayerful and peaceful disposition during the entirety of our journey. Grant us a restful travel so that we may have the energy to enthusiastically encounter and commune with You at our destination, Our Lady of Assumption Church.

Once we have reached our destination, open our hearts so that we may experience wholly Your love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness and presence in that holy place. Inspire us to appreciate the significance of the place in relation to our Catholic Christian faith, its beauty and grandeur as an oblation to Your glory, and its solemn atmosphere as a reflection of heavenly peace. Bestow upon us the appropriate disposition for a devout prayer, deep reflection and meaningful meditation, all in the pursuit of a profound communion with You.



After a blessing from Fr Roger, we were away! We travelled up island and landed for lunch in Port MacNeill, checked out the World's Largest Burl, the info center and had a nice walk along the waterfront. Arriving on Cormorant Island, we checked in with Fr. David and were warmly greeted by Thumper. Having the lay of the land we checked into Alert Bay Lodge (highly recommended), had a great dinner at Orca Restaurant and settled in for the evening. We arrived at Our Lady of the Assumption at 9am for the rosary followed by Mass at 9:30. Mass was notably special in that a family came to remember their matriach that had died in November 2024. Back in the day, she was a nurse in Alert Bay, met her RCMP husband there and they were married in this little church! We were so privileged to share this moment with this family! Fr. David had a wonderful homily about service and then, along with seven other pilgrims, we shared coffee and stories behind the altar curtains, in the "hall". NB - the "rectory" was a truck and camper parked beside the church! Saturday afternoon our group divided and some went whale watching, others went to a dance ceremony at the Big House. Another beautiful fresh seafood dinner, chowder followed by sockeye salmon, we again spent some time having fun playing Yamslam and Spoons - lots of giggles and memories! In the morning after another wonderful breakfast by our hosts, we headed to Telegraph Cove which is being wonderfully rebuilt - fantastic as it was full of interesting historical buildings and stories! What a great pilgrimage for us!

