

Marian Pilgrimage : Day Two : Friday 8 May 2020

The Shrine of Our Lady of Kalwaria, Poland



Kalwaria is one of the most frequently visited pilgrimage centres of Poland. Over a million pilgrims visit this devotional complex every year. Today we join the. Many Highland Pilgrims have been there before- most recently during the World Youth Day at Krakow in 2016. Krakow is only about twenty-two miles from Kalwaria.

The origins of the Sanctuary of Kalwaria go back to 1601, when Mikołaj Zebrzydowski erected a chapel a Chapel on Mount Zarek dedicated to the Crucifixion of Christ, following a model in chalk of the Chapel of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem. Shortly thereafter, Mikołaj Zebrzydowski built a chapel dedicated to the Tomb of Christ. This church, dedicated to the Madonna of the Angels, was consecrated by the Bishop of Krakow, Piotr Tylicki, on the 4th of October 1609.

For the development of the Calvary, the decisive elements were that writings of Christian Adrian Cruys in which he describes the Holy Land at the time of Jesus Christ. This inspired Mikołaj Zebrzydowski to found new Calvaries. He built the Stations dedicated to the Passion of Christ. Today's Basilica is mostly the work of Magdalena Czartoryska, who died in 1694, and her son, Józef, who continued the successive works.

Today the Kalwaria Shrine is in the custody of the Franciscans of the Bernardine Reform:

You might like this Australian link: [WYD2016 Blog 6 - A Pilgrim's Guide to Kalwaria Zebrzydowska](#). It is on You Tube



*"Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Our life, our sweetness and our hope!"*

Visiting Kalwaria Pope John Paul preached to pilgrims.

Let St John Paul speak to us on our Pilgrimage.

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

Today I come to this Shrine as a pilgrim, as I used to come when I was a child and as a young man. I come before Our Lady of Calvary as I used to come as Bishop of Kraków to entrust to

her the problems of the Archdiocese and of those whom God had entrusted to my pastoral care. I come here and, now as then, I repeat: Hail, Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy!

How many times have I seen that *the Mother of the Son of God turns her eyes of mercy upon the concerns of the afflicted*, that she obtains for them the grace to resolve difficult problems, and that they, in their powerlessness, come to a fuller realization of the amazing power and wisdom of Divine Providence? Has this not been the experience of the generations of pilgrims who have come here for four hundred years? Indeed it has. Otherwise today's celebration would not be taking place. You would not be here, dear friends, you who tread the Paths of Kalwaria, tracing the steps of Christ's Passion and Cross and following his Mother's journey of compassion and glory. This place wondrously helps the heart and mind to gain deeper insight into the mystery of that *bond which united the suffering Saviour and his co-suffering Mother*. At the centre of this mystery of love everyone who comes here rediscovers himself, his life, his daily existence, his weakness and, at the same time, the power of faith and hope: that power which springs up from the assurance that the Mother does not abandon her children at times of trouble, but leads them to her Son and entrusts them to his mercy.



So today as we remember with thanksgiving the End of The War in Europe (VE Day 1945), we recall that the people of Poland had to wait until 1993 when the last post Soviet troops left the country. The road to Freedom was also a road of Martyrdom. We recall the Catholic martyrs of Auschwitz, Sr Maria Benedicata of the Cross, a convert from Judaism who died in 1942. Fr Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan, gave his life that another, a family man, might live. Each of these saints are commemorated in St Mary's.



Many of us will also be familiar with the courageous witness to Faith of Fr Jerzy Popiełuszko [14 September 1947¹ – 19 October 1984], a Polish Catholic priest who became associated with the Solidarity trade union movement in opposition to Communist Poland. He was murdered in 1984 by three agents of the Security Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. They were shortly thereafter tried and convicted of the murder.

He has been recognized as a martyr by the Church, and was beatified on 6 June 2010.

