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Summer 2020

Dear Pilgrim Friends

OBERRAMMERGAU/ASSISI May 11th to 18th 2022 - Update

I'm pleased to report excellent progress with preparations for our visit to the rearranged Passion Play in May 2022, and I enclose a copy of the new brochure that I've agreed with Maranatha Tours that gives details of our itinerary and other arrangements that are in place.

Our current travel plan is to fly via Manchester to Florence. I informed you at an earlier point that we would explore the option of land-based travel. The logistics of doing this have led us to offer rail/coach travel as the preferred option for the other two visits I am to lead, and to retain the flight plan we originally adopted for this trip. The Lufthansa plan we currently 'project' will not be firm until May 2021, and in the meantime we will continue to review the benefit of other possible flight options.

The itinerary itself has not changed – so we are to have three nights in Assisi, so we can be inspired by the lives of Francis and Clare, followed by two nights at the Franciscan mountain retreat of La Verna, before driving through the Alps to Oberammergau, followed by a return flight from Munich to Manchester.

If anyone wishes to make independent travel arrangements and meet up with us in Assisi we will be pleased to negotiate a 'land-based' only arrangement. Similarly if you might prefer to transfer your booking to one of my other trips, that will also be possible. Details of these are as follows:

1. **Oberammergau and Luther/Bach:** July 28st to August 6th 2022. We travel by Eurostar from St Pancras to Brussels overnight. Then coach for two nights in Wittenberg, where Luther nailed his 95 theses, and three nights in Eisenach where Bach was born, and Luther translated the bible into German. Then coach travel for two nights in Oberammergau, before our return by Eurostar.
2. **Oberammergau and the Black Forest:** August 17th to 25th 2022. We travel by Eurostar from St Pancras to Brussels overnight. Then coach to Freudenstadt to enjoy a four day relaxing holiday and spiritual retreat in the stunning Black Forest area. Then by coach for our two night stay in Oberammergau, before returning via Luxembourg to Brussels and Eurostar to St Pancras.

Brochures that include details of the itinerary of the above trips are available on request.

I'm delighted that a high proportion of those who booked for 2020 have asked that we retain their booking and deposit for 2022. However we do have places available on all three visits, if you know of others who might wish to join us. We can also offer a poster for use in your church on request. Oberammergau are currently giving priority to groups who booked in 2020 but please note that a rise in applications is expected in 2022, so we would suggest that other people who wish to join us do this before 1st October.

In addition to the deposit you paid of £250, it is now time to make a further first stage payment of an additional £250, i.e. a total of £500 per person. (This is required due to the fact that Oberammergau expect 'stage payments' to be made in advance of the event. You will shortly therefore be receiving a Stage Payment Form from Maranatha Tours requesting this amount, and a surprise gift!

The 'projected' price for this trip is currently £1900.00, and is based on pound/euro exchange rate of 1.20, although by 2022, the markets expect the Pound to significantly strengthen. If this is the case, we would adjust your final account accordingly. It's expected that the single room supplement will be £284. All this will be firmed up in May 2021 when the travel plan is settled. If the final price is not within your budget, and you decide to cancel at that point, all payments made up to that date will be fully refunded.

I will be offering opportunity for our group to meet up with each other in 2021 and in the meantime I will ensure you are kept updated with relevant information.

Every blessing

