

Coro de Cómpeta Tour to Ireland

16th –20th April 2026

Westport, County Mayo, Ireland

The cobbled streets of Cómpeta were alive with the sound of music on an early summer's day in May 2024 when an Irish Choir from the west of Ireland came to our village to sing for us and with us in Parroquia Nuestra Señora de la Asunción.

Fast forward 23 months later and 60 voices were reunited in harmony at a recital in Holy Trinity Church of Ireland in Westport, Co. Mayo. Coro de Cómpeta was hosted by Cór Mhaigheo Eo , both choirs performing an extensive repertoire and coming together for a finale featuring Fauré's Cantique and O Love (Elaine Hagenberg).

An extraordinarily beautiful 19th century church and an appreciative audience made it a memorable and uplifting experience. "Beautiful performance", "The recital was super", "A wonderful concert , it was absolutely fabulous".



Kylemore Abbey Visit

A personal highlight for many was a day at Kylemore Abbey where we sang at mass for the Benedictine Community. Mother Abbess Karol O' Connell commented that "For a village choir you are very professional", high praise indeed from the Kodály trained Mother

Abbess. Rob, on behalf of the choir gifted a basket of produce from Cómpeta.



Later we explored the Victorian Walled Garden, marvelled at the historical love story at the Castle and tried out the acoustics in the Gothic church against the backdrop of Diamond Hill, and avoided being run over by the girls and boy racer on mobility scooters in our group.

Exploring the West of Ireland

We travelled back to Westport taking in Leenane with its magnificent fjord, the Doolough valley, Delphi, Louisburgh - gateway to the islands, the famine memorial and Croagh Patrick.

In all we spent four unforgettable days on the Wild Atlantic Way, some sampled fresh oysters with Paraic at Croagh Patrick seafoods farm, the Dutch community organised a tour of Achill and the northern coast of Clew Bay, a hardy 3 conquered Croagh Patrick to capture views of the 365 islands, others boarded Westport Cruises to head out the bay spotting seals and sea birds, and we all ate the best of Irish food and enjoyed trad sessions til late. Throw in a walking tour of Westport and a spot of retail therapy and the shopaholics were happy.



BEANNACHT / BLESSING

May the nourishment of
the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of
the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the
ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around you,
an invisible cloak
to mind your life.

John O'Donohue

SUNDAY PAPER
REFLECTION

Trip Information

On the morning of departure an Irish blessing penned by the eminent writer, John O' Donohue, seemed apt as the coach departed Westport en route to Dublin airport.

When: 16th to 20th April 2026

Where: Westport, County Mayo, and Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Garden, Connemara. Co. Galway, Ireland.

Accommodation: Clew Bay Hotel, James Street, Westport

Restaurants: The West, Clew Bay Hotel restaurant, Cronin's Sheebeen Gastropub, Kylemore Abbey Café

Transport: Michael Moran Coach Hire

Airlines: Aer Lingus Malaga – Dublin, Ryanair Malaga – Dublin, Ryanair Malaga - Ireland West (Knock).

Compiled by choir member, Máiréad de Búrca

24th May 2026