



Pebble Prayer

*Walking the
Meditation Path
at St. Columba's*

*A Pilgrimage of
Prayer, Silence, and
Contemplation*

A SACRED LANDSCAPE



he Meditation Path at St. Columba's began with a vision.

In 1952, Father David Shrewsbury, working with architect Leonard Sutton Wood, began developing plans for an outdoor Stations of the Cross leading to a monumental Celtic Cross overlooking Tomales Bay. Bishop Karl Morgan Block approved the plans later that year.

The Great Celtic Cross was dedicated in 1957 through the generosity, craftsmanship, and vision of many people, including donor Jennie Crocker Henderson, architect Leonard Sutton Wood, artist Warren Chase Merritt, builder Del Bender, and numerous local artisans.

By 1965, the outdoor Stations of the Cross had been completed. Historical records tell us that worshipers were already walking the Stations on Good Friday that same year.

Today, the Stations of the Cross Path—also known as the Meditation Path—continues to welcome pilgrims seeking prayer, silence, and encounter with God. Through Pebble Prayer, we become part of its continuing story.

*The Great Celtic Cross was built by many hands.
The Meditation Path is being shaped by many prayers.*



A Note of Gratitude

*The historical narrative in this guide is based on the careful research of
Meg Linden, Church Historian of St. Columba's Inverness.*

We are grateful for her dedication to preserving the story of this sacred place.





PEBBLE PRAYER

The early Desert Fathers and Mothers sought God through lives of silence, simplicity, and continual prayer. Tradition tells us that some carried small pebbles while walking and praying, moving one pebble with each prayer offered or tossing it onto the ground as they prayed.

Inspired by that ancient practice, we invite you to carry several pebbles as you walk today.

With each pebble you might pray for:

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|  someone you love |  a thanksgiving |
|  someone who is suffering |  peace in our world |
|  a grief you carry |  or simply rest in God's presence |

After offering each prayer, toss one pebble from your pocket onto the Meditation Path, entrusting that prayer to God.

Over time, the Meditation Path itself becomes a living witness to prayer—each pebble recalling a prayer once offered, each pilgrim adding to the continuing story of this sacred place.

WALKING THE MEDITATION PATH



We begin together in the Meditation Chapel, where we quiet our hearts and prepare for the journey ahead.



Leaving the chapel, we walk into the church yard, where each pilgrim pauses to pick up a handful of pebbles from the ground before beginning the walk.
The stones with which we begin our pilgrimage are gathered from the very ground upon which we pray.



Walk the path in silence. Pause whenever you are drawn to do so. Allow each Station of the Cross to become an invitation to prayer.
After offering each prayer, toss one pebble from your pocket onto the Meditation Path, entrusting that prayer to God.



Upon reaching the Great Celtic Cross, we gather on the benches for a period of silent contemplation before returning together.

*May each step become prayer.
May each stone become a blessing.
May each pilgrim discover anew the presence of God along the way.*



Please pick up only naturally occurring pebbles from the church yard. As you pray, return them to the Meditation Path, where over time they become a visible witness to the prayers of all who have walked before us.

May this path continue to be shaped by prayer for generations to come.

