



## **The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem**



### **Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic**

### **PILGRIMAGE 2021**

**VELEHRAD, Czech Republic, 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021**





Velehrad web links:

[www.velehradinfo.cz](http://www.velehradinfo.cz)  
[www.farnostvelehrad.cz](http://www.farnostvelehrad.cz)

## History

**Velehrad** has been one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Moravia and Central Europe for 800 years. The first twelve Cistercian monks came to the valley of stream Salaška to build their convent not far from the village Veligrad (today it is Staré Město). The founders of the monastery were **Přemysl Otakar I.** - the king of Bohemia and Vladislav Jindřich - the Moravian margrave with the participation of Robert - the Bishop of Olomouc. This gives Velehrad a royal majesty. However, thanks to its position Velehrad retains primarily the memory of **Ss Cyril and Methodius** evangelism of Great Moravia, the beginning of Slavic literature and culture in general. It carries the mission to be the intersection of nations and meeting place of Eastern and Western Christianity. The foundations of today's ecumenism were laid through the Unionist Congresses in the twentieth century. Velehrad became a place to fight for the human rights of religious freedom (National pilgrimage in 1985). The importance of Velehrad was emphasized by **Pope John Paul II.**

He declared Ss Cyril and Methodius common patrons of Europe in 1980 and Velehrad was the first place he visited after the fall of communism in 1990.



## Pilgrimage Route

This official pilgrimage route with twenty stone stations connects Velehrad and former Veligrad - Staré Město. It is built along the bike path connecting these two places. The Pilgrimage to be held will consist of a symbolic walk through the Sanctuary's main sites.



There are some important places on the reconstructed pilgrim area which are worth seeing. In front of the basilica there is the big cross that reminds us of the visit of Pope John Paul II, in addition to uncovered remains of the original buildings and enclosing walls. One of the walls offers space for the Chapels of Nations.

## Organization

- **Velehrad is 280 km. distance from Prague and 160 km. from Vienna. The organization will arrange bus transportation from the airports of Prague and Vienna.**
- **Registration forms, bus transport information, accommodation details and other organization details will be communicated soon.**