



27 April – 2 May 2016

Pilgrimage to Bucharest

In the past few years young people have joined brothers from Taizé on pilgrimage, to discover the richness of Orthodox worship and spirituality, often forged over the centuries in times of great trial, but where faith in the Resurrection of Christ has helped so many believers to hold firm.

Meetings have taken place in Istanbul in 2013, celebrating Epiphany with the Patriarch of Constantinople and the other Christians of the city; in Moscow, taking part in the Holy Week and Easter services in 2011 and 2015; and in Kiev and Lviv, Ukraine, during the week following Easter 2015.

In 2016, we want to continue this journey together, making a pilgrimage to Bucharest, capital of Romania, to celebrate the mysteries of Holy Week (the Great Week as the Orthodox call it) and Easter. It will be an opportunity both to discover the vitality of today's Orthodox parishes and to talk about the challenges facing these communities in modern Romanian and European society. In this way we hope to enrich and support each other as we seek to bear witness to the Gospel.



This pilgrimage is open to around 150 young adults aged between 18 and 35 who have already been to Taizé or taken part in the European meetings. Please contact us at buc2016@taize.fr if you would like to participate.

Provisional programme of the pilgrimage

Wednesday 27 April

Arrivals: before 5 pm if possible

Welcome in the city centre (Orthodox Theology Faculty), opportunity to visit the city

Around 5pm, departure together to the host parishes

First prayer (Denie) in the parish followed by a welcome to the community

Distribution to accommodation, evening meal and getting to know your hosts

Maundy Thursday 28 April

Morning: Divine Liturgy of the Last Supper and the Washing of the Feet -
in several monasteries around the city centre

Lunch all together at the Theology Faculty

Discovering Romanian culture and traditions: choice of guided visits to various
museums, the Palace of Parliament, tour of the city centre

Around 5pm - Service of the 12 Gospels in the host parish

Evening with the hosts

Good Friday 29 April

Day of "black" fasting for Orthodox Christians, normally people eat only in the evening.

Participation in the Good Friday services in the host parish:

around midday and in the evening - Service of the Burial of the Holy Shroud

Morning and afternoon: free time, helping the hosts prepare for Easter, visits to signs
of hope and solidarity organised by the host parish

Holy Saturday 30 April

Day spent all together at the Holy Monastery of Cernica, outside Bucharest

Morning Liturgy (First Resurrection service commemorating the Harrowing of Hades)

Picnic lunch, bible introduction, time in silence and small groups

Return to Bucharest and the accommodation places to rest

Around midnight until 4am – Service of light and Easter Divine Liturgy in the host
parishes, followed by agape with the people of the parish. Return home to rest.

Easter Sunday, 1 May

Sunday celebrations with Christians from non-orthodox traditions

around midday: Solemn Easter vespers in a central church *or* in the host parish

Lunch with your hosts

Early evening: Audience with His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel

7.30pm Evening Prayer with songs from Taizé, St. Joseph's Roman-Catholic Cathedral

Easter Monday 2 May Departure