

Valerie Wayling

In 1978, our first night was in Milan.. The next day we were taken to see Leonardo Da Vinci's 'Last Supper' and Milan Cathedral before driving on to Turin. An after dinner walk eventually took us past a church, where a service was in progress. We went in and stood at the back –and there was the Shroud.- with the lighting, the coloured robes of the clergy, the hymn singing-, and the Shroud – it was just magical . Our hotel was in a street just off the square, so in easy walking distance. The next morning, we were on the church steps before 7.00am and we joined nuns and others in a morning service, after which we could walk round and stand before the Shroud.. Father Rinaldi was a guide during part of the day and I seem to remember we met at least one important Cardinal and saw a few objects not on public display – but time has dimmed my memory. We also visited the Egyptian Museum. Because the hotel was so near, you could attend the morning service again the next day and, if you wished, try your luck later in the long queue outside the church. We returned to Milan airport in early afternoon.

The 2010 visit I found disappointing- the hotel was a good 30minutes drive from the centre of Turin. The coach and walking tour on Day 1 was interesting except that no-where was open- it being Monday! In answer to a specific question, we were told that, on Tuesday, once having seen the Shroud for the 3 minutes at our allotted time, you could **not** go in again, except to a confessional. Unfortunately the information that of course you go in the main entrance and sit in the pews was not passed on to all. One who did go in again, said that standing in front for that 3 allowed minutes he felt nothing, it was sitting for longer, looking and reflecting, which was far more moving and .made the trip worthwhile. I don't begrudge those who did go in a second, third or even 4th time- I just wish I'd known I could.

I mustn't forget your talks and the visit by Aldo – they were both highlights... but I still feel disappointed that this time *I* only saw the Shroud for 3 minutes and by 2025, I will be too old to even think of going again.