

# Irish Trust Talk

Spring 2010  
No 82



# Message from the Chairman

*As we go to press preparations for Easter 2010 are well underway, all the young people selected for the Pilgrimage have been contacted and are as excited about travelling as we are about bringing them.*

*I am writing this on my way home from a planning meeting in Lourdes, it's the 10th February and when we left the temperature was 0 degrees, snow falling with more snow forecast, something we rarely see at Easter time unless when up in Gavarnie.*

*We hope and pray that this year's Pilgrimage will be as successful as previous years and with Easter Sunday falling on 4th April we hope the weather will be kind to us.*

*A big Thank You to all Group Leaders for the huge amount of work that goes into preparing the groups for the week away. They, their deputies, nurses, chaplains and other members of the team put in long hours going to meetings, arranging home visits, selecting helpers, fund raising, planning the daily activities and the many other bits and pieces that often go unnoticed but make the week so special for our guests. I also wish to thank the staff in Kilcuan, Bernadette, Maureen, Pat and Zoë for their commitment and extra hours that go into making sure the whole operation runs smoothly. This year we have 1,120 seats booked on 7 flights travelling out of Belfast, Dublin, Cork, Shannon and Knock on Easter Sunday to Lourdes and back the following Saturday. We also have 133 cyclists plus a support team of 22 flying to Dinard on Saturday 27th March to do the extraordinarily difficult 7 day/870km cycle to Lourdes arriving on Good Friday 2nd April. We wish them Bon Voyage and thank them for the commitment they give to this arduous event and for the fantastic fund raising they do. A special thank you to Pat Jordan and Michael McGloin for their time and effort in organising this amazing event since 1984. For more details on the cycle please check our website.*

*Our other overseas Pilgrimage is the Hosanna House week taking place this year from 11th to 18th June, a total of 90 helpers and guests will travel to the hillside outside Lourdes near the town of Bartres to enjoy a very special week.*

*In recent months the Trust web site has been revamped and it now includes a "Donate" button to make it easier for people to make a contribution to the work of the Trust. Please direct friends and family to the web site ([www.irishpilgrimagestrust.com](http://www.irishpilgrimagestrust.com)) so that they can keep up with what's happening and help us with our fund raising. Also added is a link that will bring you directly to the Lourdes "web cam" at the*

*Grotto, one click and you are right there looking at the Grotto. We hope the "web cam" will be working on Friday 9th April at 7:30am Irish time when we hold our annual Mass at the Grotto for deceased helpers, guests and friends of the Trust. Do log-in and join us that morning.*

*I am delighted to report that our new respite home in Kilrane, Rosslare, Co. Wexford is nearly completed following extensive renovations. The result will be an 18 bed facility catering for groups of various sizes to use for weekends or longer holidays; we hope to have it available from June 2010.*

*On a sadder note you will have heard about the retirement of Bishop Dermot O'Mahony, in early December 2009, as President of the Trust, a position he held since 1976. On behalf of the Trustees and the many, many helpers who knew Bishop Dermot, I wish to express our sincere thanks for his wise counsel, constant support of the work we do, for his great big smile and of course for the wonderful homilies we've had the pleasure of listening to over the years. We wish him peace and happiness in his retirement.*

*If you are travelling to Lourdes at Easter I look forward to seeing you there, if you can't make it this year we will say a prayer for you and light a candle at the Grotto.*

*Finally, if you have any comments or questions on the work of the Trust please feel free to contact me directly on [joreilly05@gmail.com](mailto:joreilly05@gmail.com) or through the office in Kilcuan on 091-976622.*

*Rise & Shine  
John O'Reilly  
February 2010*



John O'Reilly (left), chairperson IHCPT, with Gerry Martin (right), chairperson 2006-2009, at Lourdes Airport Easter 2009

# IHCPT The Irish Pilgrimage Trust

IHCPT-The Irish Pilgrimage Trust  
Kilcuan, Clarenbridge, Co Galway

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## Board Members

Fr Michael McGrath	Trust Chaplain
Mary Clancy	Honorary Secretary
	Deputy Protection Officer
Liam Ahern	Liturgies Co-ordinator
	Hosanna House
	Challenging Behaviour
Dr Bridget Keane	Trust Doctor
	Family Group Selection
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	Risk Assessment
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	Merchandise
	Jet Set
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	PRO
	Regional Chairs Co-ordinator
Fr Richard Scriven	Trust Talk
Denis McCarthy	Insurance
	Merchandise
Mary Wade	Trust Nurse
James White	Vice-Chairman
	Treasurer
Carol Chapman	HCPT representative

Charity No 5992

**NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!**  
**ON - LINE DONATION**

logon to

[www.mediaconcepts.ie/ihcptappeal](http://www.mediaconcepts.ie/ihcptappeal)

You are invited to help the work of the Trust  
through this on-line appeal.

Please send the link to your friends.

## Trust Talk... ...Going Digital

This is the final full printed edition of *The Trust Talk*. From now on, we will distribute this by email and it will also be available to read or download on our website. If you would like us to email a copy to you of our next newsletter, **please complete the slip below and return to us**. If you do not have an email address and do not have access to our website and would like to continue receiving a newsletter by post, **please complete the slip and return it to us**.

Please detach, complete and return it to us at The Irish Pilgrimage Trust, Kilcuan, Clarenbridge, Co Galway



**I would like to receive a copy of Trust Talk BY POST:**

Name:

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# Pilgrimage 2010

With Bernadette let us make the sign of the Cross.

The theme for this year is **With Bernadette let us make the sign of the Cross.** Our liturgies and prayer time will reflect upon this theme, remembering how at baptism we were all signed with the sign of the cross.

## Bishop Tony returns for his third pilgrimage with IHCPT



We are delighted that Bishop Tony Farquhar, Bishop of Down and Connor will be joining our Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year. This will be Bishop Tony's third time to travel with us to Lourdes and we look forward to his joining us again this year. Bishop Tony is an auxiliary bishop in Belfast, the diocese of Down and Connor, and during the week in Lourdes he will visit as many of the northern groups as is possible... a busy time guaranteed for him again this year.

## A Week of Prayer and Processions

The cyclists will have arrived in Lourdes on Good Friday and on Saturday evening they will celebrate the Easter Vigil in the Church of the Poor Clare's. The first liturgy of the pilgrimage will be celebrated in St Bernadette's Basilica (Cote Carmel) on Sunday evening at 5.30pm. Monday night is a night of meetings: Doctors and Nurses, chaplains and young people with hearing impairments gather in the ALBA hotel. The youth groups will also meet on Monday evening. Bishop Tony will be the principal celebrant of the Benefactors' Mass on Tuesday in the Basilica of St Bernadette at 10.00am. HCPT will host the Torch Light Procession on Tuesday night and many of the groups will participate in this beautiful walk of



Going to Lourdes isn't all about prayer, you know!  
Group 136 hanging out to dry!

light and prayer. The service of reconciliation will take place on Wednesday night in the Rosary Basilica. The HCPT Benefactors' Mass will take place on Thursday morning in the Underground Basilica and will be hosted by the Central Services Group. Bishop John Rawsthorne, President of HCPT, will be the main celebrant and he will be joined by the bishops and priests of the Trust. The HCPT theme this year is *Called to Serve*. Many groups will return again on Thursday afternoon to the Domaine for the Blessed Sacrament Procession and the Blessing of the Sick. On Friday morning IHCPT will celebrate mass at the Grotto for deceased helpers of the Trust. During the week groups will visit the Baths, have their own group masses, celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Sick. In the middle of what is often a very busy week the groups will also try to get some quiet time down at the Grotto.

## OUR FRIENDS REMEMBERED

Fintan McAnaney	63
Nancy Dervan	163
Marie McCourt	190
Patrick Leahy	90
Frank O'Neill	Cyclist/Forever Friends
Lisa Doyle	174
Catherine O'Connor	303
Andrew Cash	69
Shauna Shivers	63
Katie Nicholson	113
Dympna O'Donnell	110
Maurice Sauven	HCPT
Michael Devlin	63
Pauric Hynes	108

Our sincere sympathies and prayers  
to our many helpers who  
have lost family members during the past year.

May they rest in peace

# An Invitation To You

## THE IRISH PILGRIMAGE TRUST

### SUPPORTERS CLUB

Please fill in all the details below to help us keep our records accurate and return the form to:

**National Coordinator, Irish Pilgrimage Trust, Kilcuan, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway.**

March 2010

Dear Friend of The Trust,

I am taking this opportunity to write to you on behalf of the Trust.

The Trust thankfully is strong and vibrant and continuing to grow and prosper. We have more people than ever wishing to travel to Lourdes with us at Easter time and Hosanna House in June, both carers and guests. Our house at Kilcuan is a great facility for both The Trust and other caring organisations providing a great holiday spot for our guests and respite for their families and carers. We are now about to embark on a new holiday home located at Kilrane in Wexford, near Rosslare Harbour. This house will be available to groups of up to 18 people or families for holidays. All these developments can be reviewed on our website. [www.irishpilgrimagestrust.com](http://www.irishpilgrimagestrust.com)

One of our greatest challenges each year is the dreaded fundraising and in the current times, we believe that this will get more difficult. Also our costs of getting to Lourdes are increasing faster due to increases in fuel prices. Traditionally, most of the fundraising as you know has been done by the groups and this is now more difficult than ever. In an effort to share this responsibility, we are asking the wider Trust Family to get involved. This can be done either passively or actively. We attach a standing order form for anyone who might wish to make a donation monthly or annually. Any annual payment of over €250 is eligible for a tax refund to The Irish Pilgrimage Trust. Alternatively, if anyone wishes to get involved, you can contact HQ, any regional officer or group leader in your area. Names and contact details can be got from us in Kilcuan.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Bernadette O'Connell,  
National Co-ordinator

Name: ..... Group Number: .....  
(If applicable)

Home address: .....

Telephone: ..... (Home/Work)

Please include me/us on the mailing list to receive a copy of the IHCPT newsletter.  
Yes/No

I/we would like to make the following contribution to the **IRISH PILGRIMAGE TRUST** fund raising

By pledging to pay €..... monthly/annually. Please circle as appropriate

I/we have enclosed an annual cheque for the draw: €.....

I/we have completed the attached Banker's Order

Monthly Contributions	Annual Contribution	
€5.00	€60	Eligible for Tax Refund to The Trust.
€10.00	€120	<i>Any annual payment in excess of €250, see covering letter. Please complete the top of this form and return to Kilcuan.</i>
€25.00	€300	
Other: €	Other: €	

*The section below should be completed and given to your Bank.*

#### BANKERS ORDER

To: The Manager,

Bank: ..... Branch: .....

I/we authorise you to debit my/our account number: .....

With the sum of EUR.....

For the credit of Irish Pilgrimage Trust **ACCOUNT NO: 41444-561**  
**Allied Irish Banks, Lynch's Castle, Galway. Sort Code: 93-70-96**

Please charge these payments to my/our account monthly/annually commencing with a payment on the 1st..... 20... Please do not charge my/our account any fees as the IHCPT is a Revenue approved "Eligible Charity" number CHY5992.

Account Name: .....

Authorised Signature(s) .....

Date: .....

This cancels all previous standing orders in favour of IHCPT – The Irish Pilgrimage Trust.

# Muchas Gracias from Peru to all in IHCPT

## IHCPT supports project in Peru



In 2006 IHCPT entered into an outreach contact with a service for young people with intellectual disability in Peru. Called *El Caminito de la Esperanza (The Path of Hope)* Angela Keane, a former Trustee and member of group 135, this contact was established in 2006. Angela, who returned to Ireland in 2008, has visited twice since then and gives us an update on the work of *El Caminito de la Esperanza*...

El Caminito continues and we are now three years old. We have settled into our new premises which we purchased with the Mental Health Clinic. We have a large therapy/play room with an office, toilet & shower for hygiene programmes. There are over 100 special children registered in the clinic with an average of 60 children using the clinic each week. We presently have two full time nurses employed who are doing a great job. Both nurses go on training each year for two weeks. They each have a month's annual leave and their health & pension benefits are paid.

Since March 2009 there is now a teacher sanctioned and paid for by the Dept. of Education in Ayacucho. There is also a final year psychology student on placement for one year. Throughout the year volunteers, mainly from the USA, come on work placement for 2-4 weeks. The staff are working well together and offer a good service to the special children of Ayacucho and the city's surrounding areas. The staff continue the educational programme for parents with workshops one night a month.

To-date we have purchased eight wheelchairs and provide bus fares for some of the families to attend the centre. The staff visit five children at home each week offering a therapy programme as the children cannot avail of the clinic due to lack of transport. This would not have been possible without the financial support of the Trust. The project also avails of "The Ann Sullivan Institute in Lima" lectures on intellectual disability that are transmitted on the internet every two months. On these occasions we invite all the parents from the clinic, teachers from the special school and mainstream schools to attend, we have the opportunity of emailing questions from the group which will be dealt with on air. This is proving to be a great system.

I came back to work in Ireland last August '08 and have returned to Ayacucho on two occasions. Prior to my return I gave a commitment to the families, children & staff that I would remain involved for three years, so I will continue to work/visit the clinic for the next two years. I communicate with the staff regularly on both skype & through email.

Dr. Lorenzo Puertes, a psychologist originally from Lima, but working & living in the USA for the past 40years, is also involved in the programme and provides staff training and support. He too visits the clinic twice each year.

Sr. Anne Carbon, a Columban Sister, is the president of the Mental Health Clinic and also-over sees our programme. *Muchas gracias*

## HOSANNA HOUSE 2010

Two groups of IHCPT pilgrims will travel to Lourdes in June. Group 513, led by Liam Buttle, and Group 514, led by Peter Cassidy, will leave Ireland on 11th June and return to Ireland on the 18th June. This is a pilgrimage with a difference. Using the wonderful facilities in Hosanna House high in the hills around Lourdes the groups have access to the Grotto and yet avail of the tranquility and beauty of the Pyrenees. One significant change this year will be that the pilgrims will travel by plane to Toulouse and transfer to Hosanna House by coach. This year the group will also enjoy the newly refurbished Hosanna House. This pilgrimage is for adults and costs €750. Applications are available from HQ - details on page three.

## LOURDES 2010

All in Kilcuan Office are in full speed ahead mode! With only days now to the departure of the Easter pilgrimage the office staff are providing full support to Group leaders and regional officers as final plans are put in place. 1080 people are due to travel with IHCPT this year: 425 young people will be accompanied by the carers in the 49 groups among which there will be 18 doctors, over 40 nurses and 40 priests. This year there will be 20 pilgrims in the Forever Friends group that will stay in the Chapelle et Parc hotel. There are two family groups - groups that host parents and young children. There are six groups that invite young adults. There is one new group this year: group 191 based in Waterford and led by Seamus Purcell and Declan Finn. There are three youth groups (751 from the North West, 752 from Dublin and 754 from Belfast) who do not have guests travelling with them but offer support services to groups with guests. Again this year we are delighted that a number of secondary school students will join various groups.

# Kilrane...

## Our House in the South East



*We announced in 2005 our plans to extend the work of IHCPT The Irish Pilgrimage Trust here in Ireland. IHCPT have been travelling to Lourdes since the early 70s and the pilgrimage continues to be the anchor of the work of the Trust. Over the years the energies and resources of the Trust have been extended to other areas: the IHCPT Cycle has grown from strength to strength and continues to be an essential part of our work; two groups travel to Hosanna House each year; we have a strong association with DUH, the Croatian group that participate in the pilgrimage of Easter Week; we part support financially the work of the Slovakian group; we were active in the formation of the American arm of HCPT:ASCPG. In 1998 Kilcuan was opened and continues to be a great facility here in Ireland, extending the work of the family of IHCPT here in Ireland. Each year Kilcuan welcomes young people with their carers to the wonderful facilities just a few miles from Galway, a gateway to the west, on the doorstep of the Burren and in the heart of the west.*

*In 2005 IHCPT was successful in its application for funding for a further project. A grant was secured from the Dormant Accounts Fund and encouraged with the success in the West our focus now turned to the South East. After much planning and discussion, site visits and consideration the Trust purchased a property in 2009 and work, begun earlier this year, will be completed soon.*

*Read on to find out more about the latest chapter in our exciting story.....*

The house at Kilrane is in the final stages of completion. We are currently at the point of planning the kitchen and fixtures and fittings for the bedrooms and bathrooms. We are also looking at décor and furnishings. We are very pleased with progress and costs are in line with budgets. It is expected that the builders will be handing over the house to us in mid-April.

At that stage we will be endeavouring to get it habitable by early May. We are confident that we will be able to accommodate the Trustees AGM on 15th of May. Also we will be able to hold the past trustees dinner that night. (Talk about leading with the chin!!)

At the end of May we expect to have a fully functional house which will accommodate 17 people very comfortably. This number is restricted by bed spaces. The rest of the house is large enough to accommodate more, this will allow us to expand in future by adding more bed spaces if required. We will also have the 'old' bus from Kilcuan.

We would hope to have a "soft" launch this year with the expectation that the house will be promoted fully for 2011. This will allow us to iron out any issues. Also during 2010 we will expect to work on the grounds and if funds allow a prayer/quiet space and a play area for our younger guests.

We would hope that a number of our own groups would book it for this summer and book spaces for 2011 onwards. As with Kilcuan it will also be open to like minded organisations who need to provide holidays for their friends. In the current economic climate there are less and less options for respite. The house also lends itself to use by a family or families who would benefit from a holiday. These people are unlikely to be heard through normal channels so if any one is aware of deserving cases please contact HQ.

### **Promotion**

The house is primarily for use by our own groups and to this end we would like to encourage our own groups to book friendship weeks, reunion weekends or group helpers get together as soon as possible. We will also offer the facility to other like minded groups through our normal channels in

HQ. If anyone knows of a deserving group or family please let HQ know.

### Location

The house is located near St Helen's Bay, Kilrane Co. Wexford. Kilrane is approx 14 miles from Wexford town near Rosslare Harbour. It is a very popular holiday area, see [www.wexfordtourism.com](http://www.wexfordtourism.com). Within a short distance there are many attractions: the Irish National Heritage Park at Ferrycarrig (<http://www.inhp.com>); Blackwater Open Farm ([www.blackwateropenfarm.ie](http://www.blackwateropenfarm.ie)); Wicklow's Historic Gaol: A Story of Crime, Cruelty, Exile and Misery (222.wicklowhistoricalgaol.com); the National Rebellion Centre at Enniscorthy ([www.1798centre.ie](http://www.1798centre.ie)); Horseriding at Barntown ([www.kingsfordequestrian.com](http://www.kingsfordequestrian.com)); Kilmokea Gardens ([www.kilmokea.com](http://www.kilmokea.com)) are all a small sample of the variety of local attractions. Further afield is Wales - only a day trip - or the beautiful counties of Waterford (by car or ferry at Passage East) and Kilkenny.

### Fundraising

We must remember this is a national facility and the responsibility of the 32 counties to support it. We appreciate it is easier to fundraise for it in the south east due to its location.

We expect to pay for it over the next five years. Events to be organised for 2010 are a Tour of Wexford cycle date to be

arranged. We expect to run this annually in conjunction with Wexford Wheelers.

A concert is also to be held in conjunction with Barntown parish in Wexford at the end of September in Rowe

St. Church Wexford; the church holds 700 people. The Concert will be headlined by the Reverend Tenors and Guests. The tenors include our own Fr. Jim Fegan. We think that this will not interfere with Group fund raising. It is hoped that other regions will also contribute.

### Administration

It is expected that the house will be administered by Kilcuan supported by a local committee. Currently the local committee comprises the following; Mary Wade, Helen Kirwan, Maureen Rossiter, Jimmy Rossiter, Pat Goff, Fr Brian Whelan, James White, Pauline Franey, Deirdre Franey, Ella Hudson. We would welcome more volunteers to join. Please contact any of the above.

PS. The house hasn't a name yet! To date we simply refer to it as 'our house in Kilrane'. It will be great to give it a name. If you have any ideas... email [boconnell@irishpilgrimagetrust.com](mailto:boconnell@irishpilgrimagetrust.com)



## Kilcuan Our Home in the West



Our house in the West.....Kilcuan was opened in 1997 and continues to go from success to success. Set in the beautiful grounds of the Brothers of Charity in Clarenbridge, Kilcuan looks forward to another busy season with over 20 bookings confirmed for this year. The house is equipped to a very high standard with its beautifully designed oratory and extensive grounds. Many of the groups who have enjoyed the house previously return again to enjoy the excellent facilities of the house and the great possibilities that the house offers.

More information from HQ at Kilcuan:  
Tel: 091 796622; Fax: 091 796916;  
Email: [info@irishpilgrimagetrust.com](mailto:info@irishpilgrimagetrust.com)

## You Too Can Help



## Buy a Brick

You are invited to buy a brick and have a loved one remembered in our building in Kilrane. Each brick costs €10 and names will be remembered on our Lourdes pilgrimages and entered into a special memorial book at Kilrane.

More information from HQ: see page three for details.





# Jottings.....

## THANKS

A word of thanks to all who bought and used our Christmas cards this year. A great way to spread the word about IHCPT and bring the Good News of Christ's birth to all. The sale of the Christmas cards and the donations that often accompany the purchases contribute to the work of the Trust.

## News from Croatia....

The Croatian group will arrive in Lourdes on Easter Monday. Led by Ivan Naukovic the group are busy fundraising at the moment and the group of 28 will travel overland arriving in Lourdes on Easter Monday. With their strong red and white national colours and huge flag it is hard to miss the group in Lourdes. Travelling since 2003 the Croatian group are now an important part of the Easter Pilgrimage. We look forward to meeting many of our old friends again this year in Lourdes.

## News from HCPT....

During the past few months work on Hosanna House has been progressing well. Upgrading of facilities will benefit groups during this pilgrimage year. Next year it is hoped that there will be a HCPT cycle to Lourdes. Based on a similar model as the biennial IHCPT cycle this will be a great opportunity for cyclists to pedal their way from England through France to arrive for the 2011 pilgrimage. More information about HCPT and Hosanna House on [www.hcpt.org.uk](http://www.hcpt.org.uk)

## IHCPT is on FACEBOOK

Over the past number of months the IHCPT cyclists have availed of FACEBOOK to put up news about the cycle, exchange information and post photos. Worth having a look at and it will be an opportunity to follow the cycle during Holy Week this year. Log on to FACEBOOK and search for IHCPT Cycle to Lourdes.

## [www.irishpilgrimustrust.com](http://www.irishpilgrimustrust.com)

Have you visited the IHCPT website lately? Completely redesigned the website contains lots to tell you about us. A great new video presentation is also available which tells our story and invites you to help with the work of the Trust.

## Killorglin lit up

Group 189 literally lit up Killorglin last December when they commissioned a *Memory Tree* in the town for Christmas. Lights were available for people to purchase and names of loved ones remembered were inscribed on a specially commissioned plaque under the tree. A great community effort and wonderful publicity for IHCPT. Well done to the South.



Some pictures from the 2009 pilgrimage: John O'Reilly with Kilcuan staff and members of Dublin Diocesan Children's Pilgrimage; Croatia after the Irish Mass; Group 61 doing Rise and Shine; Wexford in fancy dress.

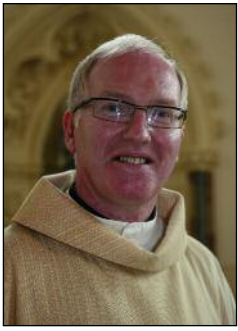
*We need your pictures.... please send some pictures to [info@irishpilgrimustrust.com](mailto:info@irishpilgrimustrust.com)  
We love to get pictures of your time with IHCPT.*

## CODE OF PRACTICE

A new edition of Code of Practice of the Trust has been prepared. This important document is a summary of our protocols and reflects best practice for organisations that work with young people. A copy of the CODE OF PRACTICE can be had from our office in Kilcuan or downloaded from our website: [www.irishpilgrimustrust.com](http://www.irishpilgrimustrust.com)

# Walking the Way of Mary to the Lord

*Richard Scriven celebrates 25 years of Priesthood and still on the bus!*



*On August 22nd 2009 Rev Richard Scriven was joined by a host of friends and family to celebrate 25 years of priesthood. Ordained in 1984 Richard worked in the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle for two years before returning to Ireland to take up an appointment in St Kieran's College in Kilkenny. In 1988 He travelled to Lourdes for the first time with IHCPT with Group 174. In 1995 he accepted the invitation to become Trust*

*Chaplain and for the past 15 years he has been a member of the board, chairperson for three years from 2003 until 2006.*

*Richard reflects on his time with the Trust.....*

I joined IHCPT for the first time in 1988, got on a bus at The Parade in Kilkenny at 4.00am on Easter Sunday morning with a group of young people and their helpers. I still remember that morning... sitting up at the front of the bus, with a group of people (some who had travelled to Lourdes previously, others first timers like myself) most who had not been to bed and were full of song and mirth! I remember distinctly asking myself: how did I ever agree to this? What moment of weakness got me on this bus? Well 22 years later, and I am still on the bus... it has been a significant part of my priestly life... Lourdes and Kilcuan, cycles and walks; great celebrations in St Bernadette's Basilica to celebrate 40 years of HCPT filmed by the BBC; the following year we brought our edition of Riverdance as we celebrated 25 years. Fireworks to announce the Jubilee Year; cardinals and dignitaries to celebrate the golden jubilee of IHCPT and the year of Ireland's triple crown; jubilee walks in 2008 - foot and mouth in 2001; cycles every second year; groups and regional meetings, trips to Trustees meeting - Birr, Dun Laoighaire and Galway - joining the HCPT Board in



Above: pictured with cyclists John Hogan, Anne Forde, Paud O'Reilly, Ann Quelly and Eamonn Dunne. Below: Richard pictured with IHCPT Board Members Gabriel Higgins, Bridgid Keane, Gerry Martin, Liam Ahern, John Lynch, John O'Reilly and Teresa Lee. Below left: Bishop Dermot with Br Michael Strode (Founder of HCPT); below right: Group 174 at the Kilkenny gathering.



England; participating in the liturgies in Lourdes and accompanying the various bishops who joined Bishop Dermot; working with Croatia and meeting the Americans; admiring the work of dedicated helpers who are the heart of the Trust; looking forward to the fulfilment of plans in the South East begun during my time as chairperson; renewing old friendships and remembering helpers from the early years; praying for those who died at the Grotto Mass each Easter; the colours, the numbers, trips to Gavarnie, a night cap in John Willies, an ice cream on the footpath, a lunch visit to a hotel; sing songs in the Madonna and being *fear an tí...* Yes, I'm still on the bus!

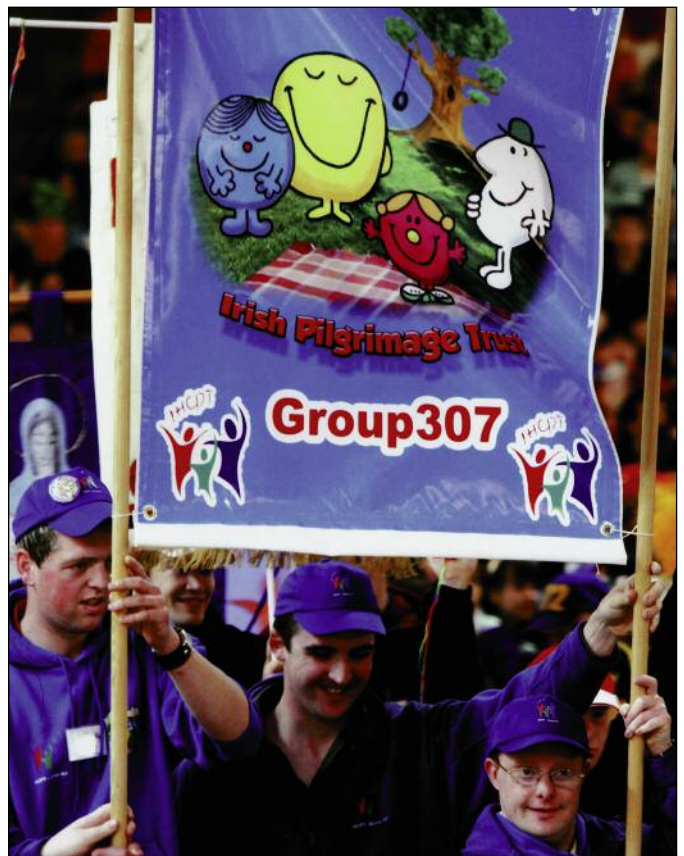
Alongside all of this there has been 25 years of priesthood – it is a different Ireland now and a different Church to that in which I was ordained in 1984.... Who would have ever looked into a looking glass and seen that which has been the last 25 years? A church racked with pain and distress; a church that has not lived up to the message of Jesus; a church that has struggled in response to reports of evil deeds and evil doers, many people who have been hurt by priests and religious. During the past 25 years we have embraced new millenniums and new decades, new popes and new presidents but it has also been a time of great darkness and sadness – great distress and hurt for those who have been hurt; great sadness also for those of us who are committed to our faith and continue to try each day to walk the way of the Lord.

But there has been moments of light also which has helped plot a way through the darkness. As I reflect back on 25 years and look back on the path that the Lord has led me there has been times of great joy and grace and many of these moments have been within my work and time with the Trust. The Trust has been an important part of my journey to date and I thank God for those who have blessed me along the way.

The healing and repair of our Church will be done I believe at a local level. IHCPT has an important part to play in this work: it provides a safe and secure place for our young people to worship and come to know the Lord and the Trust enables many people to be at the heart of the Church. The celebrations of last August marked 25 years of my priesthood. It marked my time in England in the 1980s and my work in schools in Kilkenny. The story would have been different without the Trust. I am glad that last August also acknowledged the work of the Trust and the contribution that it has been to my years of priesthood. It would have been different without it. With many others who have travelled to Lourdes over the years I am glad that my life has been different because of the Trust. It is a testimony to those who sowed the seed back in the 50s in England and in the 70s in Ireland that our lives have been greatly enriched by our time together walking the way of Mary to the Lord. Yes, I am still on the bus!



# SOME MEMORIES OF 2009



From left clockwise: Congratulations to James Digney and Grainne Farrell pictured with the Digney family at their wedding in October '09; Group 307 lift high the banner at the end of the Trust Mass; Bishop Dermot and Bishop Willie Walsh with Fr Michael McGrath (Trust Chaplain) and Fr Raymond McCullagh (Group 190) at the end of the Trust Mass 2009; Patrick Coyle and Bishop Dermot at Richard Scriven's Jubilee celebration; Group 164 prepare for the day; The Patchwork Quilt is brought in procession at the Irish Mass; Bishop Dermot congratulates Hetty Keane who won the early bird ticket; Group 309 Let It Shine.



# CYCLE 2010

14th  
Cycle



Practice  
Cycle -  
July 2009.

## Bigger and bigger!

Like a lot of great traditions, the first cycle in 1984 started as a simple idea and in a small way. There were a mere six cyclists who loaded their bags and their tents into a simple minibus and headed for France by ferry after cycling from Galway to Rosslare.

Now, 26 years later, the numbers having grown year on year, and we have registered more than 170 people for Cycle 2010. Already this group have met twice in Kilcuan for practice cycles. As you drive the byways of Ireland you are likely to meet one of our cyclists in their distinctive "La Brise Cycle Club" outfit.

## Recession! What recession?

It is a testament to the generosity of Irish people that Cycle 2010 will have even greater numbers than any year previously.

On one hand there is the great commitment and generosity of spirit of the cyclists who undertake to train, fundraise and donate their time to the project. In addition, the cyclists pay their own fare and must provide their bicycles and cycle gear.

On the other hand is the great generosity of our benefactors. Each cyclist must raise at least €2500 in sponsorship.

The groups will leave from Shannon on Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and immediately on arriving in **Dinard**, they will mount their bikes and cycle to **Rennes**. Next day, on to **Nantes** and on Monday the peloton will arrive in beautiful **La Rochelle**. Next day they wind their way through the lands of Cardinal Richelieu (of the "Three Musketeers" fame) to **Royan**. On Wednesday the cycle takes a ferry across the Gironde and the route winds through the finest vineyards to Bordeaux. Thursday is a long but level cycle to **Mont-de-Marsan** and on Good Friday the peloton climbs into the Pyrenees to arrive in **Lourdes**.



We invite you to be part of Cycle 2010. Please pray for the success of the cycle and the safety of the participants. If you would like to sponsor a cyclist, please contact one of your local cyclists or send a donation to:

**IHCPT Cycle 2010,  
Kilcuan,  
Clarenbridge, Co. Galway**

On  
**March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
170 cyclists will  
depart Ireland on the  
**14<sup>th</sup> biennial 1000km**  
Sponsored Cycle to  
**Lourdes**

Follow the cyclists on  
**Facebook** as they  
prepare and train –  
look up  
**"IHCPT Cycle to  
Lourdes"**



Keep a look out for our cyclists  
training in all parts of the country

