

From the Chairperson.....

Greeting at this the conclusion of the 2005 Pilgrimage Year and the beginning of the new pilgrimage year. A heartfelt thanks to all who were part of IHCPT in the past twelve months - here at home in Ireland, benefactors, parents, carers, regional members. It was a memorable year: a wonderful pilgrimage, a successful visit to Hosanna House in June and a great year in our House in Kilcuan. Thanks again to everyone who contributed to all that was IHCPT in 2004-2005.

It has been a year of change in the life of the Church. For many of us (of a younger generation!) we have had the experience of only one pope: John Paul II. Many of us can recall his youthful ministry which changed the image and role of the papacy, that reached out to many nations and impacted on so many people. Those of us who were in Lourdes at Easter this year will surely always remember that he 'returned to his Father's house' on the final day of our pilgrimage. In the weeks after our pilgrimage we, with the whole church, welcomed Benedict XVI and continue to pray for him and his ministry as Pope as this critical time in the Church and the world.

The past year has been a time of change for IHCPT also. A year ago this newsletter saluted the contribution of Michael McGloin and Angela Keane to the Trust as members of the Board of Trustees. In autumn we bid adieu to Desmond Keane and acknowledged his work. Earlier this year we welcomed new members onto the Board: John O'Reilly, James White and Bridget Keane. At our February meeting, through a process of election, Damian McNicholl and Liam Ahearn were nominated as members. I am also pleased and honoured to continue as Chairperson during the coming pilgrimage year and I welcome Mr Gerry Martin as Vice-Chairperson. In welcoming Gerry I wish to acknowledge and thank Dan Collins for his contribution to the work of the Trust as Vice-Chairperson over the past two years. Due to work commitments Dan has decided to step down as Vice-Chairperson but continues as a member of the Board and will co-ordinate the important work with new group leaders.

For those involved in Friendship weeks in Kilcuan I hope you enjoy your stay at OUR HOUSE in Ireland. Well done to you all. Well done to our Hosanna House groups who are back from Lourdes and by all accounts enjoyed the wonderful facilities of Hosanna House in Bartres. To those involved in Easter groups enjoy the tranquil months of the summer before work begins for Easter 2006 at regional level: sending out application forms, beginning the work of fund raising and inviting new recruits to be helpers next year in Lourdes.

Pope Benedict XVI in his sermon at the Installation Mass in St Peter's Square in April high lighted a vital mission of Christ and his Church as going out into the desert to seek those who are lost. The pope spoke of the many 'deserts' that exist in our world today: the desert of poverty, the desert of hunger and thirst, the desert of abandonment, of loneliness, of destroyed love. There is the desert of God's darkness, the emptiness of souls no longer aware of their dignity or the goal of human life. The new pope commented that "the external desert in the world are growing because the internal deserts have become so vast". As I reflect on the work of IHCPT I am heartened to think that the work we do in response to Mary's invitation is in harmony with what Pope Benedict XVI speaks about. In a real way we are enabled to be part of Christ's work to seek the lost, to go out into the wilderness and shoulder the yoke that burdens many people down. In a busy world when it is often difficult to know whether we are truly living out our Christian faith IHCPT gives each of us the chance to be truly christian and to be Christ to each other.

Thank you for your commitment. Thank you and your family for the generosity of time and effort that you and they give to the work of the Trust. May God bless you all for the work you are doing. Thanks from all the young people who travel with us and from their families.

With best wishes.



Richard Scriven

IHCPT The Irish Pilgrimage Trust



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Charity Number 5992

Things to note

E111: Please remember to apply in adequate time for the European Health Insurance Card which replaced the E111 medical form in 2004. One card is needed for every individual or member of the family. If a person is a holder of a medical card or a DPS scheme card application can be made online at 2www.ehic.ie. An application form can also be downloaded from this site. Alternatively you local Health Board centre can provide the forms. The card is valid for two years.

Helpers Forms: This continues to be an area of concern. While the situation has vastly improved in the past two years there is still work to be done. Again this pilgrimage year we are asking that the **LIST OF CARERS** be submitted to Kilcuan before January 31st and all **CARER FORMS AND FARES** lodged at the office before **FEBRUARY 28TH 2006**. For administrative reasons group leaders are asked to adhere to these dates.

Moving and Handling: IHCPT will host another session which will train instructors to give courses in Moving and Handling. It is hoped that the course will be given in Kilcuan and accommodation will be provided. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested please contact the office at Kilcuan. This person does not necessarily have to be someone who travels to Lourdes with us but is prepared to give a commitment to the Trust to provide training for our carers. This will be a valuable qualification for the person who takes this course and will enable us to provide training at seminars during the coming year. This group instruction is essential for the continued work of IHCPT as it enables us to provide training to key helpers in each group. This training of helpers is a stipulated requirement by our insurers. Members from each group will have to attend a training course before Easter 2006.

Trust Directory: The Trust Directory will be available on CD at the September meeting. Please notify the office of changes of address, phone numbers or email address.

Code of Practice: The Code of Practice will be available at the September Meeting. Please make yourself aware of the contents of this book and take some time in the group to discuss the various protocols of IHCPT. A copy of the Code of Practice is sent to the family of each young person who travels with us to Lourdes or is part of a Friendship Week in Kilcuan.

Group Leaders' Manual: A new edition of the Group Leaders' Manual is presently being prepared. It will be available for each group leader at the September meeting. This book will contain vital information about the working of the Trust and will outline all protocols of IHCPT.

Headed Paper: Please make sure that all correspondence on behalf of the Trust is written on the up to date edition of headed paper. Please get rid of all old paper - the detail on the end of the paper is not accurate on the old paper.

Receipt Books: It is the policy of IHCPT that all money received at group, regional or national level is receipted using the IHCPT Receipt Book. Please make sure that all money is properly acknowledged with a note of thanks and a receipt. Please note also the requirement that at least two people count and prepare money for lodgement. Receipt books are available from HQ.

Hosanna House Group Leaders' Renewal Weekends: HCPT will host a two Renewal Weekends for Group Leaders in Hosanna House in October. Group leaders are invited to attend one of these weekends if they so wish. Each participant is asked to contribute to the flight from Ireland to Stanstead - IHCPT will fund all other costs. Please contact HQ if your wish to participate.

Im Memoriam: Please notify HQ of names of deceased young people, carers, group members and benefactors to be entered into the *Im Memoriam* book.

Irish Trust Talk: The September edition of Irish Trust Talk will be prepared during August. Please forward material and photos to the Office before August 15th. We would particularly love to receive photos of your group from Lourdes or your re-union here in Ireland.

Website: The IHCPT website will be updated in June. Please check it out! It is planned that each group would have a page linked to the site. Each group will be invited to submit text and photos for inclusion. Group Leaders might like to consider nominating one person in their group to take responsibility for PRO in their group.


www.ihcpt.com

NEWS FROM KILCUAN

Over the past few months a lot of work has been taking place in Kilcuan. Following a number of suggestions from groups who use Kilcuan - our own friendship groups and visiting groups - some changes and additions have been put in place. New curtains have been provided for all bedrooms, the floors in the public areas have been cleaned and treated by a specialist, the small room at the entrance has been prepared as a quiet relaxing space, a new coffee dock has been constructed in the corner of the dining area, a photo display board has been installed and a welcoming board placed at the front door.

A wonderful addition to the house has been the provision of a new flat screen television set and audio system and Karoke machine. Funding for this was provided by the North Western Region.

Externally a beautiful gazebo has been constructed providing decking and seating area all specifically constructed to be accessible by all our visitors. Funding for this project was jointly provided by the Western Region and the Supermacs' Sponsorship.



La Brise is the IHCPT cycling club. The Slieve Aughty cycle will take place on July 17th 2005. Starting time is 10.00 at The Shannon Oaks Hotel in Portumna. There will be the option of a 65 mile cycle or a route of 25 miles - a great preparation for the IHCPT cycle next year.

Plans are well advanced for the cycle next year. Good luck to all planning to participate and thanks to all who are organising this vital aspect of our pilgrimage. From a money point of view it provides us with a source of income that has enabled the Trust to go from strength to strength. But more importantly, in some ways, is the pilgrimage experience itself for the participants. This is a great week and one that is full of ups and downs (not just the hilly route!) and great way to get fit.

the slieve aughty tour

Kalendarium 2005 -2006

Dates for your Diary

Date	Meeting	Venue
June 10th 2005	Hosanna House Pilgrimage	Lourdes
July 16th 2005	Cycle 2006 Cycle Meeting	Kilcuan
July 17th 2005	Slieve Aughty Cycle	Shannon Oaks
Jul 1st 2005	Mailing of the Newsletter	Kilcuan
September 9th 2005	Trustees Meeting	Kilcuan
September 10th 2005	Group Leaders' Meeting	Kilcuan
September 10th 2005	New Group Leaders Training	Kilcuan
September 20th 2005	Mailing of the Newsletter	Kilcuan
September 24th 2005	Meeting for Cyclist	Kilcuan
September 25th 2005	Training Cycle	Kilcuan
September 20th 2005	Autumn Newsletter in the post	Kilcuan
October 28th 2005	Hosanna House Renewal Weekend	Lourdes
November 1st 2005	Final Day for receipt of Application Forms	Kilcuan
November 4th 2005	Hosanna House Renewal Weekend	Lourdes
November 12th 2005	Trustees Meeting	TBC
November 2005	Moving and Handling Training Course for Instructors	Kilcuan
December 8th 2005	Invitations, deferrals etc will be posted from HQ	Kilcuan
December 9th 2005	Visit of HCPT Staff to Kilcuan	Kilcuan
December 10th 2005	Trustees Meeting	Kilcuan
January 7th 2006	Visit of Board of HCPT and IHCPT to Br Michael Strode	Caldey Island, Wales
January 14th 2006	Trustees Meeting	Kilcuan
January 20th 2006	Mailing of the Newsletter	Kilcuan
January 31st 2006	List of Carers to be submitted to HQ	Kilcuan
February 11th 2006	International Planning Meeting	Lourdes
February 2006	Cycle Training - Date to be Confirmed	Kilkenny
February 28th 2006	All Carers forms and fares to be in HQ - Early Bird Closing Date	Kilcuan
March 3rd 2006	CEO to contact Group Leaders about Carers Forms	
March 10th 2006	Trustees Meeting	Kilcuan
March 11st 2006	Pre Pilgrimage Meeting	Kilcuan
March 24th 2006	Mailing of the Newsletter	Kilcuan
April 1st/2nd 2006	Cyclist Meeting and Pre Lourdes Cycle	Kilcuan
April 8th 2006	Cyclist Depart	TBC
April 14th 2006	Cyclist arrive in Lourdes	Lourdes
April 16th 2006	Easter Sunday	Pilgrimage 2005
May 26/27th May 2006	Trustees AGM	Kilcuan

GROUP LEADERS' MEETING SEPTEMBER 2005

The First National Meeting of the Pilgrimage Year is Saturday 9th September in Kilcuan. To facilitate forward planning this meeting is anchored each year around the weekend of the All Ireland Hurling Final.

Cead Mile Failte

Welcome to new regional officers and new group leaders:

Thanks again to the out-going officers and group leaders. Welcome to all new group leaders and thank you for taking up the job. There will be a training day for all new officers in Kilcuan on September 10th 2004.



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Irish Trust Talk

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