



The Irish Pilgrimage Trust Statement

16th March 2020

Two weeks ago, we cancelled our annual Easter pilgrimage to Lourdes and postponed our biennial 2020 Cycle to Lourdes due to the health and safety risks posed by the COVID-19 Coronavirus to our volunteers, staff, cyclists and young people.

Immediately following An Taoiseach's introduction of nationwide restrictions to deal with the growing threat from COVID-19 Coronavirus The Irish Pilgrimage Trust decided to cancel all Trust meetings, Trust group gatherings and public fundraising events until 30th March 2020. It is likely that the public restrictions will extend beyond that date and if they do, we will then issue a further statement. In the meantime we can be contacted by telephone and email as usual.

We look forward to resuming full operation as soon as restrictions allow. The Trust is confident that our Easter pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place as it has done for the past 49 years starting on Easter Sunday 2021 and that the 2020 Cycle to Lourdes will take place from 27th March to the 4th April 2021.

At present, we are hopeful that our Summer Pilgrimages to Lourdes and our Friendship Weeks in our holiday home in Galway will go ahead. This will however depend on the developing situation with Covid-19 Coronavirus and advice received from Public Health Officials.

The Trust is extremely grateful to all those who have donated money, helped to fundraise and assisted in any way with the Trust to prepare for the Easter pilgrimage and the biennial cycle to Lourdes. All monies raised for Easter 2020 pilgrimage will go towards Easter pilgrimage 2021.

We pray to Our Lady to help us all through this difficult time .