



Strategic Plan 2022 to 2025



THE IRISH PILGRIMAGE TRUST

CHARITY NUMBER 5992
CRO NUMBER 20009953

Date	Version	Description	Author	Approved
08 April 2022	1.0	DRAFT Strategic Plan 2022 to 2025	B Connolly	

Objects of The Irish Pilgrimage Trust:

We bring people with additional needs on pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes and on holiday in Ireland and we fundraise to cover their costs

Notes

Introduction

The very first Irish Pilgrimage Trust pilgrimage to Lourdes was in 1972 which followed in the inspiring footsteps of Doctor Michael Strode in the HCPT. Since then hundreds of young people with either a medical condition or physical, emotional, intellectual or social needs have been given the opportunity to travel on pilgrimage with the Trust for an unforgettable week's holiday while being cared for by dedicated carers.

The past few decades have shown a great growth and rapid development of the Irish Pilgrimage Trust. These changes have not just been in the increasing number of guests and carers travelling to Lourdes but are also evident in the important issues such as health and safety, safeguarding and increased clerical/documentation needs of the Trust. This important work needs to be continually developed and applied to what we do as a Trust whether on pilgrimage in Lourdes or Hosanna House or during the other Trust activities including Friendship weeks, the biennial Cycle to Lourdes and the Camino de Santiago.

For the first time in its history, the Trust could not engage in all its charitable activities in 2020, 2021 and 2022 due to Covid19 and restarting Trust activities presents new challenges to the Trust.

This Strategic Plan outlines the goals of the Trust for 2022 to 2025 and the direction we need to take having celebrated the 50th anniversary of The Irish Pilgrimage Trust. This plan is necessary to ensure the continuation of the Trust and fulfil our charitable purpose as outlined in our objects.

The Irish Pilgrimage Trust

Mission, Vision and Values

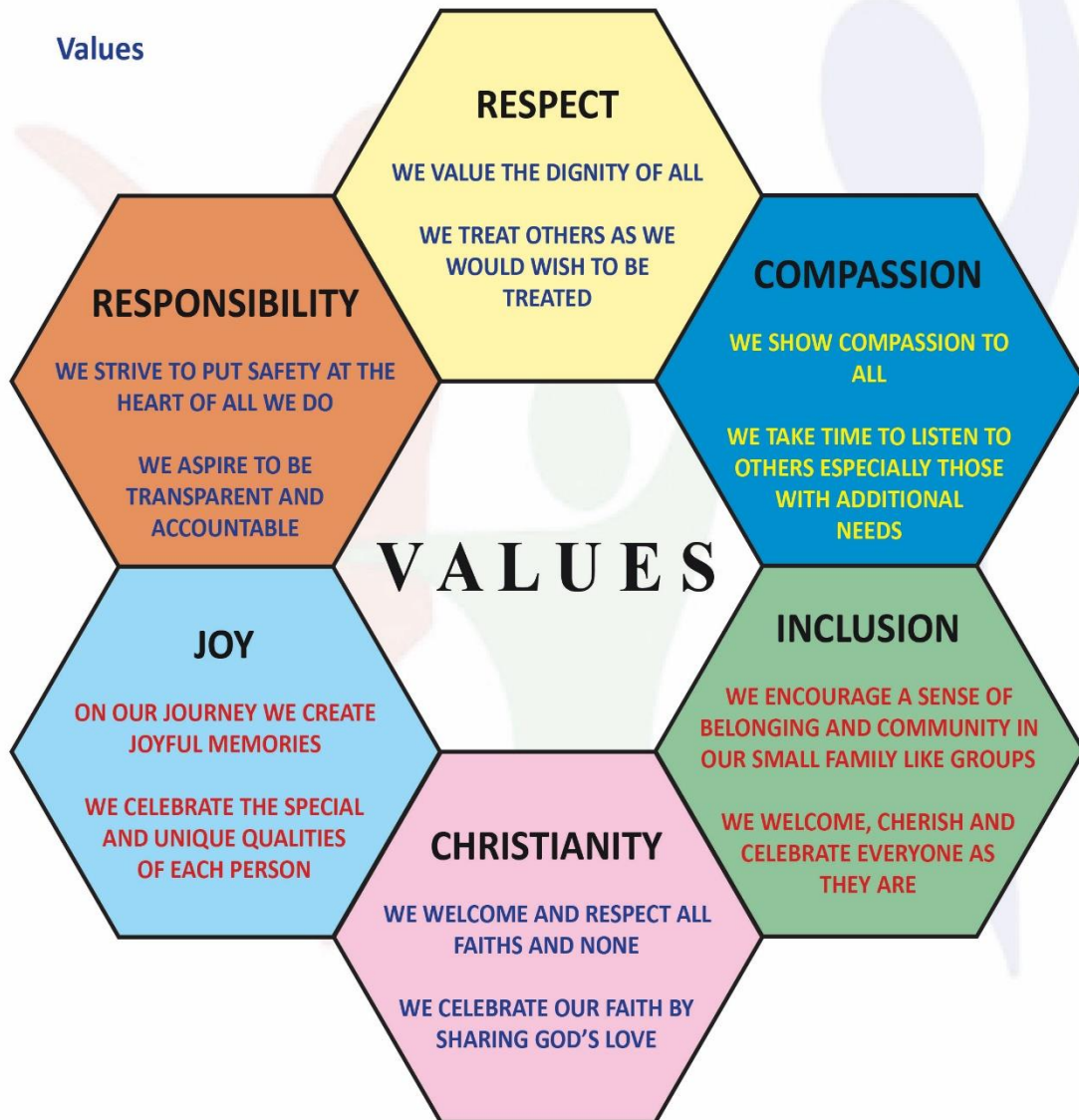
Mission

The Irish Pilgrimage Trust is a voluntary, Christian and charitable organisation that provides the opportunity for people with additional needs to go on volunteer supported pilgrimages and holidays to Lourdes and in Ireland. Our aim is to cherish the uniqueness of each person through sharing the gift of God's love with joy.

Vision

Enriching the lives of our Trust family

Values



Our Strategic Goals are to:

1. Offer safe, enjoyable and memorable pilgrimages/holidays to our selected guests in Lourdes and in Ireland.
2. Enable more people to join us
3. Continue to develop the spiritual side of our Trust
4. Be accountable.

Goal One:

To offer safe, enjoyable and memorable pilgrimages/holidays to our selected guests in Lourdes and in Ireland.

A week on holiday with the Trust offers an independent supported holiday to young people with additional needs and a break from caring for their families. In order to offer this, we need to provide training and support for our volunteers in areas such as safeguarding and providing guest care.

Actions to achieve this goal

- Recommence the annual Easter pilgrimage to Lourdes beginning in 2023 with the aim of enabling as many as possible of the 47 groups who have travelled in the past to travel again.
- Recommence our Summer Pilgrimages to Hosanna House, Lourdes.
- Develop and expand our Friendship Week Programme in Ireland so that each of our seven regions has at least one Friendship Week every year.
- Resume fundraising to cover the costs of the holidays for our guests.
- Continue to provide facilities for holidays to other charities, families and organisations caring for people with additional needs at our houses in Galway and Wexford.



Goal Two: Enable more people to join us

Guests:

To spread the word in order to encourage more people to participate in our holidays.

Volunteers

To attract volunteers who will dedicate their time to supporting the work of the Trust.

Medical volunteers

To attract volunteer nurses and doctors to join us on pilgrimage/holiday.

Actions to achieve this goal:

- Promote the Trust through word of mouth, social media, schools, local media, hospitals and parishes.
- Continue with the second level student carer program.
- Encourage and support suitable volunteers to develop their leadership skills and take on leadership roles within the Trust.
- Continue with the student nurse placement program in association with the Atlantic Technological University.
- Establish links with at least one other third level college to develop a similar program for student nurses and medical students.
- Develop links with the GP training scheme to encourage young doctors to become involved in the Trust.



Goal Three

Continue to develop the spiritual side of our Trust

We want to continue to foster a sense of pilgrimage whether we are in Lourdes or in Ireland. It is very important that there is a spiritual element to our pilgrimages and our holidays.

Actions to achieve this goal:

- Encourage more chaplains to join our pilgrimages in Lourdes
- Encourage groups to fully participate in all pilgrimage aspects of Lourdes.
- Continue to develop liturgies that are suitable for the young people we care for.
- Develop a programme for training lay chaplains to join our groups in Lourdes.
- Support groups in incorporating time for reflection in their weekly programme.
- Encourage time for reflection at all Trust meetings.



Goal Four

Be accountable

We must

- Ensure the safety of all involved in the Trust.
- Comply with Charities Regulator Governance Code.
- Be accountable as per the Code of Practice
- Review our Safeguarding Policy and Code of Practice and update as necessary.
- Review and update our strategic plan regularly to reflect new challenges.



This Irish Pilgrimage Trust Strategic Plan 2022 to 2025 is a series of steps and goals which will hopefully guide and steer the Trust to continued development and successful pilgrimages to Lourdes and holidays in Ireland. While we acknowledge the fantastic work that has been done to date since the first journey to Lourdes, there is a need to constantly grow and strive to achieve best practice within The Irish Pilgrimage Trust. We can only do this with the input and work of all those who volunteer with the Trust and are employed by Trust.



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