

# Irish Trust Talk



# The Irish Pilgrimage Trust



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# The Irish Pilgrimage Trust



The Trust was established in 1972 to provide special pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes for children and young people with special needs. The Trust continues to grow and on Easter Sunday 2018 1,140 pilgrim carers and Guests of the Trust travelled to Lourdes for the annual week long Easter pilgrimage.

The Trust is a Registered Charity - Charity Registered Number 20009953

**DONATE**

## The Irish Pilgrimage Trust is NOT State Funded!

We rely on the generosity of our donors and the fundraising by our Volunteers to finance the work and activities of the Trust

To DONATE

Go online to [www.irishpilgrimagetrust.com](http://www.irishpilgrimagetrust.com) or  
Contact 091-796622 or email:  
[info@irishpilgrimagetrust.com](mailto:info@irishpilgrimagetrust.com)

## The Irish Pilgrimage Trust Safeguarding



Designated Liaison  
Person  
**Bernadette  
Connolly**



Deputy Designated  
Liaison Person  
**Catherine  
Foley**

Persons Designated with responsibility for  
the safety, welfare and protection of our  
guests

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# A Word from the Chair

Helen Kirwan



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Spring Trust Talk! How the months have flown by and now we are all busily putting the final touches to our preparations for Easter! The excitement is mounting amid guests, families, carers and indeed all of us in the Trust. Group leaders are working hard planning the week's activities, packing bags, taking the group gear out of storage and a myriad of other things that help make the week in Lourdes such a success. Our special pilgrimage is approaching and we are all looking forward to sharing love, joy, laughter and fun.

This year the Welsh will lead the Trust mass on Thursday and their chosen theme for the year is "Cariad- God's love is the best love" The word *cariad* in Welsh means "sweetheart" and is indeed closely linked to the Irish word *cara* meaning friend.



How appropriate that friendship and love are the themes selected this year as friendship and love are the keystones of the Trust experience. A deep love for God and others is the very foundation of the Trust. God calls us to Lourdes to join together with Our Lady in celebrating our unique and special journey. Lourdes is a place where we come together as a family, the family of God, the Trust family, each group as a family for the week. God's love is abundant in the ways we relate to and care for each other as guests and carers who are part of this wonderful life giving family. We

create friendships and memories that last a lifetime during our week. I pray that each person who travels with the Trust this year truly experiences God's love as the best love. And remember we show God's love in how we work together, care for each other and especially in caring for all those special guests who travel with us.

This year has been a challenging one from an organisational point of view. Most of you who are lucky enough to be travelling this year will know that flights have created huge problems for us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our National Coordinator, Bernadette and indeed her team in Kilcuan who have worked tirelessly since last Summer on the flights. Most of the groups travelling have had to make big changes in their normal travel arrangements and travel long distances to far flung airports in order to fly to Lourdes. A huge thank you to all groups and especially group leaders who have cooperated with the office and shown the true spirit of the Trust in being patient and tolerant when asked to travel long arduous journeys to airports. The true spirit of the Trust is also very evident in how group leaders always endeavour to prioritise the guests in the group.

Over the past month I have been very lucky to visit all of the regions in the country. Meeting group leaders, regional officers, carers and many Trust helpers has been a very special experience. It has reinforced for me the passion, the care, the commitment and friendship that is so much part of the Trust. Thank you to all of you who have made me feel so welcome and thank you for the tireless work being carried out throughout the country.

This year over 400 guests will travel with us at Easter and approximately 150 guests will benefit from friendship weeks and Hosanna House pilgrimages. I welcome back groups who didn't travel last year and wish everyone a safe, enjoyable and fun filled week in Lourdes or indeed in Kilcuan or Cois Cuain. Those of you who are unable to travel, we assure you of our prayers at the grotto and we invite you to join us via the web for our Irish mass on Tuesday, the Trust mass on Thursday and our grotto mass on Friday morning. You

will be able to find more details of how to tune into these masses on the Trust website closer to Easter.

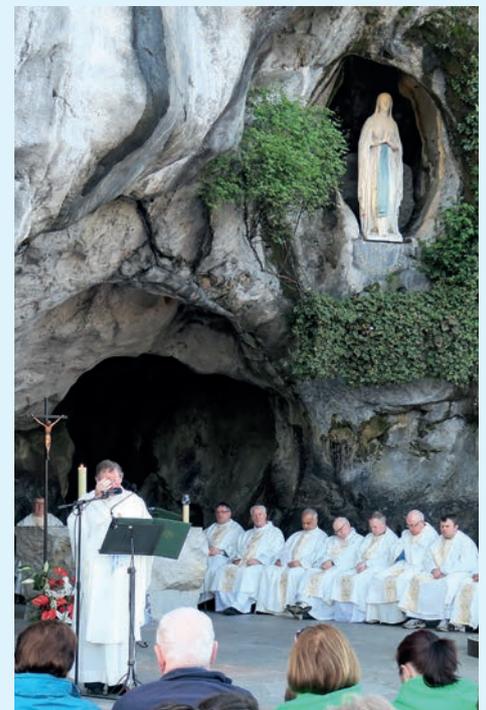


Early years of the Trust - Young guests enjoying a day trip to Gavarnie in the snow capped Pyrenees

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are planning a history of the Trust and we would welcome any information or photos that may help us in putting together this history. If you can help, please forward any relevant information to the office. We are also working on planning for the future and thank you for the input we have received from the regions on this strategy plan.

Finally, the very best of luck to everyone preparing for the pilgrimage and I look forward to seeing you in Lourdes!

Helen





## Annual Turbothon Fundraising Cycle event, Kenmare, Co. Kerry.

Sheila O'Sullivan from Group 90 along with a large group of her friends held a 14 hour Turbothon Cycle fundraiser in Kenmare on Saturday 16th February. The Turbothon is now an established annual event organised by Sheila to raise funds for the Trust's Easter pilgrimage to Lourdes for children and young people with special needs. Sheila and everyone involved are very grateful to all the volunteers who came along to lend their support by cycling the stationary bikes throughout the day. Everyone involved in the event was overwhelmed by the generosity and support of the local community and all who donated or contributed in any way.

A whopping €5,400 was raised. Sheila would like to sincerely thank Quills, Kenmare Tri Club, all cyclists and volunteers who helped make this such a successful event.



## North West Region

At the recent meeting of the North West Region held in Sligo tributes were paid to Mary Clancy, Honorary Secretary of the Trust. Mary will be stepping down from the Board of Trustees this summer after completing her 10 year term as Honorary Secretary of The Irish Pilgrimage Trust. She also served as Leader of Group 164 bringing many guests with special needs from the NW region on the Trust's annual Easter Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Mary will be continuing as a volunteer carer with Group 164 and also with FW 7 for it's annual summer holiday in Kilcuan, Clarinbridge later this year. She will also lead HH 513 to Lourdes at the end of July.

## Manual Handling and People Moving and Handling Training

There was a great turnout of members from the South East and East at the Trust's regional Manual Handling and People Moving and Handling Training course held in the Horse and Hound, Ballinaboola, Wexford on Saturday 23rd February 2019. The annual training is provided by the Trust to its members in preparation for the upcoming Children's Easter pilgrimage to Lourdes and the Summer programs in Hosanna House, Lourdes and in Kilcuan, Clarinbridge, Galway and in Cois Cuain, Kilrane, Rosslare Harbour, Co. Wexford.



A section of the group of trainees attending the Manual Handling Training in Ballinaboola, Co. Wexford recently



## Fundraising Tea Party in Kilcuan

The Kilcuan Fundraising Tea Party was held in late February and was a great success. This Tea Party is now an annual event and offers the local community an opportunity to support Kilcuan as well as promoting the Trust. The format includes having evening tea and delightful cakes, pastries and sandwiches, tea and coffee. Raffles take place at each table ensuring that each table will win at least two prizes. This is followed by an open raffle for a variety of spot prizes. The table quiz completes the evening with lots of prizes. Community support from Clarinbridge, Oranmore/Maree and further afield makes this a very entertaining evening. This year the tea party raised €1,500



# News & Events from around the Country

## Sharon Loughlin Fun Walk

On Sunday 1st July 2018 a large crowd took part in the annual Sharon Loughlin 5km & 8km Fun Walk around scenic Newtownmanor near Dromahair in Co. Leitrim. Sharon Loughlin RIP who sadly passed away on 7th Sep 2013 just 24 years old had travelled as a guest with The Irish Pilgrimage Trust's annual Easter Pilgrimage to Lourdes and had also joined the Friendship Week special holiday in Kilcuan, Clarinbridge, Galway. Sharon's parents John and Angela Loughlin organise this very special annual memorial Walk with the kind support of Newtownmanor Community Development, a local organisation formed in 2007 to promote, enhance and develop existing community and facilities in their area.



L to R John Longworth Philomena Dolan, Mary Clancy, Angela Loughlin and John Loughlin (Sharon's parents). Sharon Loughlin

On Sunday 3rd February 2019 Sharon's parents along with Newtownmanor Community Development and the local community gathered in the local hall after Mass where refreshments were served and a presentation of €1,420 was made to Mary Clancy on behalf of The Irish Pilgrimage Trust, proceeds from the 2018 Sharon Loughlin Fun Walk. This is a wonderful tribute to all involved and to Sharon's (RIP) memory. The Irish Pilgrimage Trust is very grateful to the family and community for its support.



## Jet Set Group 304 Mini-Reunion

Group 304 recently held a 'mini' Reunion in Dublin for their Lourdes 2018 Group. They had a very enjoyable and entertaining day out at Dublin Zoo in the Phoenix Park. The warm Autumn sunshine ensured the weather was bright and allowed the group to visit most of the enclosures and explore the wonders of the animal world. Dublin Zoo is one of the oldest in the world and yet it is very accessible. They provide concessions for visitors with special needs or persons who may require additional support. The facilities at the zoo also include a beautiful restaurant and several cafes. Although on this visit everyone brought their own sandwiches and sat outside in the autumn sunshine. The highlight is feeding time for the Elephants; there is a very large family of elephants in the Zoo including a very cute baby elephant. The African Planes are where the larger animals roam including a group of 10 or more Giraffes. Everyone had a really great time.



## Hosanna House & Friendship Weeks Summer 2019

The 2019 summer program begins with our first Hosanna House Lourdes pilgrimage from 14th to 21st June. Hosanna House groups 514 and 561 will be joined by two youth groups - 754 and 755. The youth groups are formed from transition year male students from the West of Ireland.

Hosanna House is a large villa located near the village of Bartres on the outskirts of Lourdes. The building is owned by our sister organisation HCPT and is located in the beautiful countryside with breathtaking views of the Pyrenees.

Our groups commute daily to Lourdes and join the ceremonies and events during the week. The Youth Groups provide invaluable support and fully participate. Evenings are spent enjoying the facilities and scenery around Hosanna House with wonderful meals and great entertainment.

Hosanna House Group 513 with YG 753 takes place from 26 July to 2nd August. Our final youth group 734 will be in Hosanna House from 2nd to 8th August.

For more information or an application form please contact our Office in Kilcuan on 091 796622.

Our Friendship Weeks in Kilcuan, Clarinbridge, Galway and Cois Cuain, in Kilrane, Co. Wexford commence in July. Both FW 7 and FW 6 commence their week long holiday in Kilcuan and Cois Cuain respectively on 13 July. These are followed by group FW 3 in Kilcuan from 4 - 9 August and FW 9 in Cois Cuain from 10 - 17 August.

FW 5 are due in Kilcuan from 11 - 16 August and the final week is a family group, FW 12 in Kilcuan from 18 - 23 August.

Kilcuan and Cois Cuain are Trust houses specially developed to cater for and support those who have additional needs, their carers and families. Both houses have excellent facilities and offer unique experiences in the west and south-east of Ireland. There is a high demand for places and spaces are limited.

In order to be considered for a place on our Friendship Weeks Application forms must be submitted to our office - The Irish Pilgrimage Trust, Kilcuan, Clarinbridge, Galway, H91 W596 on or before 31st May 2019.

# 2018 - YOU ARE SPECIAL Memories



# Memories from the Past



Celebration, joy and happiness in Lourdes

Each year since 1972 many very special memories have been created during The Irish Pilgrimage Trust's children's Easter pilgrimage to Lourdes. This is also true for the Trust's summertime trips to Hosanna House in Lourdes and the Friendship Weeks in Galway and Wexford at our beautiful facilities in Kilcuan and Cois Cuain.

One thing is for sure, once home both Guests and volunteers alike have a longing to return and to recapture the magic and the unique experience that is an Irish Pilgrimage Trust trip.



Group 63 during the Trust's Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1975

For the past couple of years the Trust has been active in assembling an archive and working to record our history, from the foundation of The Irish Pilgrimage

Trust back in 1972 to the present day. This is our Trust memory and its preservation is an important project, not just for now but for the future.

As we approach our 50th anniversary the Trust is anxious to gather as much information from the past and indeed to receive any artifacts or other memorabilia that past and present members might like to share.

John O'Reilly, former Trust Chairperson is undertaking this task and is appealing for any information or any other items that would be of interest to the project to be made available. Please feel free to contact the office in Kilcuan and we will be happy to put you in touch with John.

**You can phone 091 796622 or email [info@irishpilgrimagetrust.com](mailto:info@irishpilgrimagetrust.com) to get in touch with John or the Trust**



The Trust's sponsored Camino de Santiago de Compostela walk takes place over seven days in Galicia, north western Spain from the 22 - 29 June 2019.

Our group will walk the final 117 kms from Sarria to Santiago to raise much needed funds for The Irish Pilgrimage Trust. The funds are dedicated to our special holiday home, Cois Cuain near Rosslare Harbour in Co. Wexford. The house provides holiday breaks for families and groups caring for children and young people with special needs.

All participants raise €1,000 in sponsorship and pay their fare. Accommodation, breakfast and evening meals are included in the registration fee.

**Contact our office on 091 796622 for further information and details.**



The Irish Pilgrimage Trust Cyclists arriving into Lourdes, Easter 2018

## CYCLE 2020 - The Irish Pilgrimage Trust's Sponsored Cycle to Lourdes

Our sponsored Cycle to Lourdes will take place in France once again in 2020. This will be the 19th running of the event. Registration opened at the end of November and we are delighted with the response to date. This year we have restricted the number to 100 cyclists plus our support crew that includes transport, logistics, accommodation, catering, medical, and mechanical backup.

In line with established tradition the Cycle will be formally launched in Hotel Roissy in Lourdes on Thursday evening 25th April 2019 during our annual Children's Easter pilgrimage. Further details will be announced during the week in Lourdes. We look forward to welcoming everyone for a chat and light refreshments.

**Contact James McHugh on 087 2508074 or email [jmchugh@irishpilgrimagetrust.com](mailto:jmchugh@irishpilgrimagetrust.com)**

## A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE

Please consider leaving a gift in your will to help ensure that the life changing work of The Irish Pilgrimage Trust can continue for many years to come.

Find out more by contacting Bernadette Connolly on 091 796622 or email [bconnolly@irishpilgrimagetrust.com](mailto:bconnolly@irishpilgrimagetrust.com)

Many of our guests make the trip to Lourdes despite huge challenges. This is only made possible by careful preparation and advance planning, working with our guests, their family, medical advice and the complete Trust care team.

“My trip to Lourdes was the best experience ever!”

“They treated me like I’m like any other person”  
(Hannah O’Sullivan aged 15)

For many guests it is the first time that they go on holiday without their parents and the trip to Lourdes gives their parents an opportunity to get some respite.

In all cases our Trust carers are volunteers who freely give their time, expertise and caring skills. Their volunteering ensures that maximum value is gained from donations and fund raising to the benefit of our guests.

“It’s about valuing people for who they are, in their hearts” (Denis McCarthy, former Trust Chairperson)

The Trust doesn’t get any money from the state so its entirely driven by voluntary contributions



### YES! I wish to support the work of The Irish Pilgrimage Trust

I would like to make monthly contributions of €21  or my choice of  €

Please debit my account on the 10th day of each month

If you are a PAYE Taxpayer your annual donation of €250 can be enhanced by allowing The Irish Pilgrimage Trust to claim a tax refund (example:- €250 + Tax Refund €112.5 = €362.5 total value of donation)

NOTE: Single European Payments Area (SEPA) requirements mean that BIC and IBAN codes are mandatory fields when setting up direct debit retail electronic payments. Your BIC and IBAN numbers can be found on your bank statement or by contacting your bank.

The Irish Pilgrimage Trust unique mandate reference (completed by the TRUST)

By signing this mandate form you authorise The Irish Pilgrimage Trust to send instructions to your bank to debit your account in accordance with the instructions from The Irish Pilgrimage Trust. You have the right to a refund under the terms and conditions of your agreement with your bank. A refund must be claimed within 8 weeks of starting from the date on which your account was debited. The Irish Pilgrimage Trust will send confirmation of your direct debit information no less than 7 days before your first direct debit is due to commence.

You are required to complete all fields marked \*

*Name	<input type="text"/>		
*Address	<input type="text"/>		
	<input type="text"/>		
	<input type="text"/>	Postcode	<input type="text"/>
*IBAN	<input type="text"/>	*BIC	<input type="text"/>
*Signature	<input type="text"/>	*Date	<input type="text"/>

Please return the completed form to The Irish Pilgrimage Trust, Kilcuan, Clarinbridge, Galway H91 W596  
You can also make a donation online at [www.irishpilgrimagetrust.com](http://www.irishpilgrimagetrust.com)

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