

Irish Trust Talk

FEATURES:

- Camino - Pilgrimage Trust Walk
- Lourdes 2011 with The Irish Pilgrimage Trust
- Ring of Kerry Cycle 2011
- A Holy Land is Born
- Lourdes Trip 2011 to Hosanna House

Autumn 2011

Trust TalkDigital

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PANCAKE FUNDRAISING PARTY Shrove Tuesday, 21st February 2012

Run a pancake party, at home or at work,

Invite family, friends or colleagues and
Share pancakes and stories!

Collect €2 per pancake
Send photos for Trust website
to info@irishpilgrimagetrust.com

Christmas Cards

Christmas cards are a very important source of advertising and income for the Irish Pilgrimage Trust. Our range is simple and uncomplicated and we hope that they will serve you well this year as you send greetings at Christmas.

See back the page of this issue for details.



Contents

IHCPT The Irish Pilgrimage Trust	3
Message from the Chairman	4
A Holy Land is Born	5
Lourdes 2011 with The Irish Pilgrimage Trust	6
Pilgrimage Trust Walk	7
Lourdes History 2011	10
The Big Walk	11
Supporters Club	12
IHCPT Cycle 2012	13
Ring of Kerry Cycle 2011	14
Lourdes Trip 2011 to Hosanna House	15
Christmas Cards 2011	16

IHCPT The Irish Pilgrimage Trust

IHCPT - The Irish Pilgrimage Trust

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Trust Talk

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New Group Leader Training

Annette McDermott

Jet Set

Hosanna House

Aidan Grealis

Student Officer

Cycle 2012

Mary Dunnion

Safeguarding

Deputy Trust Nurse

Carol Chapman

HCPT representative

Board of Trustees

Charity No.: 5992

Nurses Required

The Irish Pilgrimage Trust is always on the look out for nurses who would like to travel as a volunteer with a group on our pilgrimage at Easter. Are you or do you know of a nurse who might like to volunteer with Trust?

For further information please email:

info@irishpilgrimage.com

or telephone 091 796622

Message from the Chairman



Welcome to the autumn edition of Trust Talk. We are now into October which is the start of our Pilgrimage year, may I wish you and your families the very best wishes for the coming season. Since the last edition we have celebrated the 40th Pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter. It was a wonderful week with over 1,100 people from all over Ireland making the journey to Lourdes to help celebrate the special event. There were many highlights of the week but the special memories include Fr. Michael McGrath, the Trust Chaplain's homily at the Irish Mass on the Tuesday when he had us all signing "Mama Mia" and another special moment was the impromptu sign along while waiting for the giant photo on the steps of the Rosary Basilica. This year the IHCPT hosted the Trust Mass on Thursday and we had Cardinal Brady lead us in that special celebration. Many thanks to all who were involved in the preparation of that unique Mass and to those that participated on the day including readers, signers, musicians and dancers.

I am delighted to report that Cois Cuan has had an excellent first year with nearly full occupancy every week during the summer months. It had a great head start following the Nationwide programme that featured Group 136 led by Vivienne Connolly in their bright yellow rain jackets. Many thanks to those involved on the ground managing the house and welcoming all our visitors, special thanks to Maureen and Jimmy, Mary Wade and Deirdre Franey. If you are planning a group reunion or a helpers meeting it is a wonderful place to go, a very spacious house, amazing views and the very best of the sunny Southeast weather.

In June the Hosanna House groups set off for their annual week in the foot hills of the Pyrenees, they

had a wonderful time. Another big event during the summer was the Big Walk organised by Vinny Finn which involved 10 people walking from St. Mel's Cathedral in Longford to Lourdes. It took then 12 days, sore limbs but very satisfied with their huge achievement. They also raised over €20,000 for the Trust, a very special thank you from all at IHCPT.

Since Easter we have had a number of changes in Group Leaders, Regional officers and Trustees. The following are the proposed new Group Leaders at the time of writing for Easter 2012, may I say to each of you thank you for taking on this very important role and may you enjoy every moment of being a Group Leader:

William Rowan	95 Northwest
Kenneth Moran	109 Northwest
Louise Staunton	164 Northwest
Michael Carroll	165 Midlands
Karl Cronin	175 East
Louise O Hagan	190 North
Kieran Coffey	305 Jet Set
Paul Ahern	307 Jet Set
Ann Marie Lardner	751 students

We have also had changes in Regional officers, these include:

Dr John Porteous	Vice Chairperson North
Eoghan O Grady	Treasurer South
Laura Watts	Treasurer East
Deirdre Newell	Vice chairperson West
Fr Sean Neylon	Chaplain West



A Holy Land is Born

Fr Dan Carroll Chaplain Southeast
Patricia King Treasurer Northwest
John Henry PRO Northwest

As regards the Board of Trustees we had Gabriel Higgins retire after 15 years on the Board, a very big thank you to Gabriel for all her exceptional hard work over the years especially as Protection Officer. We have elected Annette McDermott and Aiden Grealis to the Board who were nominated from the election process in March and we subsequently appointed Mary Dunnion, a nurse from Northern Ireland.

Thank you to everyone who is involved in this great organisation, it really is one big family where we all look out for each other and share a laugh or a cry during our Pilgrimage to Lourdes; it must be one of the most unique experiences in the world.



Next year we will be asking everyone connected to the Trust to hold a Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday by inviting family and friends to their home or place of work to share pancakes and to ask for a €2 donation for every pancake they eat. Please take photos and send them to us for posting on the web site.

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 or through the office in Kilcuan on 091-796622.

Rise & Shine
John O'Reilly

*By Eleanor Pauline Dunne
(Group 514; Hosanna House)*

The music of the truth
Bernadette's soft reply

"Yes, I saw The Lady"

truth climbed the Pyrenees
rose out
of the gushing torrent of the Cave
trickled gently
in the spring of the Massabeille
bore testimony in healing waters

"Yes I saw The Lady"

"Build a chapel" The Lady said
a Basilica grew
from pennies spinning round the globe
two million souls

"Let the processions begin"
candles lit they wend their way
travellers from far and near
Rosaries
beads slip through our fingers
decades in varied languages too
to compliment each country
a decade in Irish
Ár n-Athair atá ar neamh

To grace the Basilica
a golden crown from Ireland

Blindness gone
sight to see
the Wonders of God's World
crutches left behind

Truth a beacon light
a lighthouse flashing
on a worldwide ocean

With sweet tones
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

Lourdes 2011 with The Irish Pilgrimage Trust

Lourdes, Easter week, hosted the 40th Anniversary of The Irish Pilgrimage Trust. Over 1000 people traveled on this amazing pilgrimage from all over Ireland, of which 500 were children with special needs. I had the privilege this year of leading a youth group from Mayo which comprised of 10 students from 5th year in St Josephs Secondary school Castlebar, 10 students from 5th year in St Michaels Secondary School Claremorris and 6 leaders, Fr.Micheal Murphy, Lisa Walsh, Marese O'Hora, Elaine Madden, Ann Marie Lardner and of course myself (Aiden Grealis).



Our Group was set up last September when we called to both schools and spoke to the 5th Year students about a youth group to go to Lourdes. We gave them information about The Irish Pilgrimage Trust, what the organisation is all about and what happens in Lourdes during the Easter Pilgrimage. We gave application forms to the girls to fill in from which we received a large number

pilgrimage and what it all entailed. We had people from the Irish Pilgrimage Trust, including some past members of the youth group, speak to them on their experiences of Lourdes over the years. Marie Jordan, a manual handling instructor from the HSE, held a manual handling training course for them which as well as showing them the importance of lifting properly, also demonstrated the proper way to push a wheelchair, practical things that would be very helpful in Lourdes. Noelle King from Castlebar helped our students with some sign language which also proved to be beneficial over the week in Lourdes with some groups having children who were deaf.



We also met with their parents and discussed everything about their trip to Lourdes. Each student had to pay their own fare & fundraise for the children whose week is paid for. The young people organized many fundraising activities both inside and outside of school.

of applications. Unfortunately we could only bring 20 students on the trip, 10 from each school.

By the time Easter Sunday arrived everyone was full of excitement as we set off for Lourdes. It was late on Sunday evening when we arrived so we had a quick look around to get our bearings for the week. Monday morning after breakfast, our group split up into twos', each couple working with a different group from the West of Ireland for the week ahead. These groups comprised of 10 children, 10 carer's, a nurse and chaplain and now two youth members. Most groups during the week would have Mass each day and a visit the Grotto where our Lady Appeared to St. Bernadette. Other things to do during the week, were a visit to the Baths, the Stations of the Cross, the places associated with St Bernadette, the Cite Secours while not

Once the group was formed, we had meetings every month in either Claremorris or Castlebar at which our students had an opportunity to bond as a group, while learning about the Trust, the

IHCPT Camino Walk

25th June to 2nd July, 2011

On 25th June, Teresa, James, Joan, Sheila, Bridget, Pat, Mary, GERALYN, Mary and Tommy flew from Dublin to walk over 6 days from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela. We each paid €410 and paid for our own airfare and also raised money for the Trust. In total about €5000 has been raised to date for the Trust which will go towards the cost of our new holiday home Cois Cuain in Kilrane near Rosslare Harbour people and families with special needs.



forgetting to light a candle for everyone's intentions.

On Tuesday all the Irish groups had one large Mass where Cardinal Sean Brady was the chief celebrant of the Mass, while on Thursday the whole pilgrimage gathered in the underground Basilica for the international Mass. The Irish groups were in charge of organizing the liturgies this year and our youth group was to the fore in the choir and in leading two beautiful mimes. The liturgies in Lourdes are very vibrant and colourful; with around 5,000 people participating in the international Mass. Wednesday is a day out for everyone with groups going to such diverse places as the mountains, beach or Zoo. Thursday night is 'fancy dress' party night, pure fun, while Friday night was full of tears as they all say good bye. Our students received so much from the trip to Lourdes with the Irish Pilgrimage Trust and I know they will treasure this experience in their hearts for the rest of their lives. The Irish Pilgrimage Trust is such a remarkable charity that helps so many people, able and with special needs over the last 40 years.

Aiden Grealis,
Youth Group 751



On arrival in Santiago airport our group of 10 walkers were transported by bus to Hotel Mar de Plata in Sarria. The bus journey took an hour and a half and it would take us 6 days walking to return to Santiago! The group were to walk a total of 117 Km over the 6 days with a walk of 29km to be completed on Thursday 30th June. This was very difficult particularly in the first couple of days where temperatures were over 40degrees and shade was limited. However on Friday the (by now) sturdy walkers only had 11km to walk and did this easily. We arrived in time for the Pilgrim's mass in the Cathedral which was very special for us and we then went proudly to the passport office to get our passports stamped and to receive our certificate of completion of the Camino. We were so proud of that. In spite of blood and sweat, blisters, heat exhaustion, fatigue, we had DONE IT!!!

WELL DONE TO ALL!!!

Photo Gallery



David Henderson (Group 89) & Laura Watts (Group 175)



Peter Tweed and Catriona Gallagher
Group 309



Aine Friel Fundraiser



Photo Gallery



Past Trustees

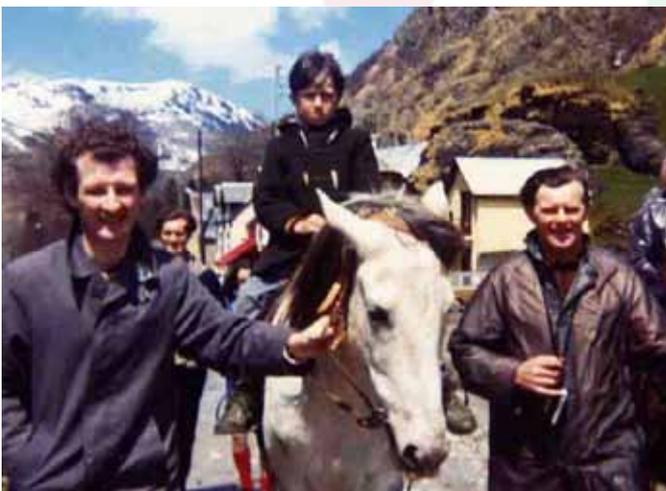


Lourdes History 2011



The Irish Trust started quietly and we had no idea that it would develop into the wonderful organization it is now 40 years later. As a nurse working in England I became aware of the HCPT, (founded in 1954 by Dr Michael Strode) and travelled to Lourdes with them 1962 – 1964. It was a time of great transformation in the Church following Vatican 2 and the Trust was to the forefront with gentle guidance and support with all that was new. It was a life changing time for many of us. In 1968 and still in touch with the HCPT but now married and living in Dublin I made contact with them with an offer to send Green Shield trading stamps to help with their fund raising. It was not to be! Instead it was suggested that I get a few people together and set up an “Irish” Trust. That one telephone call was all it took; the rest as it is said is history!

So in 1971 the Irish Handicapped Children’s Pilgrimage Trust (IHCPT) now named the Irish Pilgrimage Trust was set up, the founding trustees were: Fr. Fonsie Doran CSsR, Mary Dunne, Brian Joyce, Peter McKimm, Anthea and Bill O’Grady. In 1972 the first 14 young people from the 32 counties of Ireland travelled to Lourdes at Easter. With the children there were 14 adults, Group Leaders Fintan McAneney and Tom McAteer, chaplains Frs.’ Joe Mullen and Fonsie Doran, who



were supported by Dr Kevin Greenan, nurses, and other intrepid travelers! It was our first holiday/pilgrimage, the hard work had paid off and it had been an amazing success! We were overjoyed and despite the tough times in the 1970’s we went headlong into our next and subsequent pilgrimages!

Over the years things have changed and developed, but the balance of a pilgrimage with lively yet reflective liturgies, plus fun and great friendships has remained the same. In the 1970’s young people with physical or learning disabilities were often resident in special schools and hospitals, so to fly to Lourdes, stay in hotels and be out and about hail, rain, sun or snow (we get the lot!) was a very different experience. At this time, and with the support of our President Bishop Dermot O’Mahony, we received the patronage of the Irish Hierarchy. This facilitated the



spread of the Trust throughout the island of Ireland.

Over the years it has not always been plain sailing. In 1978 we coped with a postal and telephone strike, and with no mobiles (can you imagine it?) and most calls through a telephone operator, it was a challenge! Added to that, there was an airline dispute - with flight time confirmation only 48 hours ahead! Undaunted, we met each crisis and succeeded with the help of many people and lots of prayers.

The Trust grew through faith, hope, generosity and friendship. Many helpers initially were “volunteered” to go to Lourdes but soon got hooked and recruited their families and friends, and so we increased and multiplied! A certain “press ganged” volunteer told his work colleagues he was off to the south of France for his holidays, and only when he returned overwhelmed by the week, did the truth come out that he had not been on a beach (as they had been led to believe) but in Lourdes! Subsequently many of his friends also joined up! We had a number of helpers who were in their early

The Big Walk

careers in A I B and as they were moved around the country we took advantage setting up small Trust groups and continuing the spread of our gospel!

Every Easter over 2000 young people from around the world fill the town of Lourdes with their joie de vivre, it is an amazing sight! What is also very evident is the number of young able-bodied men and women who care for the children. These, with their great generosity of spirit and energy are the future of the Trust and their youthful exuberance is infectious as they give their time, money and enthusiasm to all aspects of the work of the Trust.



As the IHCPT started 40 years ago from a connection with the HCPT in England, so also from the Irish Trust in the same way have the American, Slovakian and Croatian Trusts been formed. A second generation helper founded the Trust in Croatia, so we have come full circle! These pioneers have also taken that one big step in faith, hope and enthusiasm to bring this wonderful organization to even more young people with special needs. The IHCPT has always been known as the "Trust" and so Trust we do! May the future bring joy and happiness to those who both give and receive and who are nurtured by the care and love of all those in our Trust.

*Is ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.
In the shelter of each other, people live.*

Anthea O'Grady



Longford to Lourdes

On the 3rd of June 2011 a group of 8 walkers left Longford town on foot and began a 1200km walk all the way to Lourdes. Each day the Group walked in relays, with each walker doing about 15km.



They assembled in Longford walked through Tullamore, Carlow, Enniscorthy and onto Rosslare Harbour where they took the Ferry to France. On arrival in Cherbourg and approximately 950k to go they continued their walk through Avranches, Rennes, Nantes and Bordeaux and finally reached their destination in Lourdes on 12th June. On arrival in Lourdes, they were greeted by a large crowd of well wishers at St. Michael's Gate and the group participated in the Lourdes Ceremonies. On the 24th July 2011 Vinny Finn who organised The Big Walk presented a cheque of €23,000 to The Irish Pilgrimage Trust, North West Region.



Supporters Club

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

**National Co-ordinator, IHCPT The Irish Pilgrimage Trust,
Kilcuan, Clarenbridge, Co. Galway.**

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

Name _____
Group Number _____
Address _____

Telephone _____

Please include me/us on the mailing list to receive a copy of the Trust 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 : €

I/we have completed the attached Bankers Order.

Monthly Contributions	Annual Contributions	
€ 5.00	€ 60.00	Eligible for tax refund to the Trust.
€ 10.00	€ 120.00	<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	€ 300.00	
Other: €	Other: €	

BANKERS ORDER

To: **The Manager**

Bank: Branch:

I/we authorise you to debit my/our account numbered:

With the sum of €

For the credit of The Irish Pilgrimage Trust:

AIB Bank, Lynch's Castle, Galway.

Sort Code: 937096

Account Number: 41444561

Please charge these payments to my/our account monthly/annually commencing with a payment on the first day of 201..

Please do not charge my/our account with any fees as the Trust is a revenue approved "Eligible Charity" number CHY5992.

Account Name:

Authorised signature(s): Date:

Please cancel all previous standing orders in favour of IHCPT - The Irish Pilgrimage Trust.

An Invitation To You

September 2011

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 have now opened a new holiday home "Cois Cuan" located at Kilrane in Wexford, near Rosslare Harbour. This house is available to groups of up to 17 people or families for holidays. All these developments can be reviewed on 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 Connolly
National Co-ordinator



IHCPT Cycle 2012



Cycle 2012 will be the 15th biennial cycle to Lourdes organized by IHCPT.

There were six cyclists on the first trip in 1984 - next Easter, 28 years later 150 men and women will take the challenge.

We still have a few places available :- are you up for it?

We look forward to your support on Cycle 2012. Our cyclists, back-up, donors and all those who pray for our success are all an essential part of our team.



NO FEAR OF EXTINCTION

All across the country, if you are observant and look carefully, you can spot a new species of animal. Biologists are now confident that this breed is thriving. In the very distinctive green and white uniform, the IHCPT cyclist does not hibernate - in fact activity levels increase over the winter months as we approach Easter. Keep an eyes open, and if you see one, toot your horn to show your support.



Every second year, since 1984, IHCPT has organised a cycle from Ireland to Lourdes. Over the years the numbers have increased from an initial 6 cyclists to nearly 150 in 2010. Last year, our sister organisation HCPT had their historic inaugural cycle and these events will run on alternate years. To date, we have 110 cyclists signed on for Cycle 2012. We would welcome new members, and promise you an experience of a life-time. Our cyclists rely on the good will and the generosity of the public to make this event a success. All cyclists pay their own fare so that all funds raised go to IHCPT to support their activities.

For information
cycle@irishpilgrimagetrust.com
Cycle 2012, Kilcuan, Clarenbridge, Co. Galway

Ring of Kerry Cycle 2011

A fundraiser for the Irish Pilgrimage Trust.

The Irish Pilgrimage Trust was one of the seven charities involved in organising the annual Ring of Kerry cycle and is set to raise over €50k from the fundraising event, which will help ensure that many deserving children and families can benefit from the annual trip to Lourdes.

The cycle is a fantastic fundraising event with a real challenge for those who abandoned their bikes in the garden shed many years ago. Over 5,000 participants cycled the beautiful, rugged Ring of Kerry on Saturday the 2nd of July 2011. Almost 300 cyclists participated on behalf of the Trust - the highest number of all the participating



charities involved. It included many former (and future!), Lourdes cyclists taking part in the event.

The cyclists set off from Killarney at 6 o'clock on the Saturday morning, with the last batch of cyclists leaving at 8am. The 112 mile trip takes roughly 10 hours, so cyclists return back to Killarney after 4pm extremely weary but very fulfilled.

A full range of support services was provided by volunteers on the day, including a backup service until the last cyclist arrived back in Killarney. Refreshment stops were dotted along the route,



with buttered brack, homemade sandwiches and drinks provided for the hungry and thirsty cyclists. As an added incentive, cyclists who raised €750 for the Irish Pilgrimage Trust were offered two nights' free accommodation. Happily, the sun shone on the day - adding to the enjoyment of this great event.

Keep the annual Ring of Kerry cycle in mind as we head into winter - it is a fantastic experience, well worth taking part in, while raising thousands of euros for a range of worthy charities.

For more information on the event, see: www.ringofkerrycycle.ie



Lourdes Trip 2011 to Hosanna House



We departed with a group of 45 people from 10th to 17th June 2011. The breakdown of the group consisted of clients, active age and helpers. The age of the clients varied from early twenties to eighty.

As we were flying from Dublin Airport to Toulouse at 12.50 pm., the day started very early to collect the group along the way. At that early hour of the morning everyone was very excited about the trip and by the time we got to the airport all were on first name terms and decked with their hats and neck scarves. We were met in Toulouse by staff from Hosanna House and we travelled on to Lourdes by bus.

Of course, as all group leaders would agree the work that goes into preparing for the week is immense but once the group is chosen, helpers are in place, transport booked and the programme for the week prepared, it is all systems go.

The programme for the week consists of: daily mass and visits to the grotto, Blessed Sacrament and Torchlight processions, the baths, the stations, a visit to the City of the poor, Garvanie and many more attractions around Lourdes and Hosanna House, depending on the weather. We had a beautiful evening for the Bar-B-Que with the discovery of new culinary talents in the group. It was a tonic, just sitting in the sunshine and soaking up the tranquil views of the mountains and with singing, dancing and a treasure hunt afterwards to finish the evening in style.

The truth is, the purpose of the pilgrimage to Lourdes is to take these special people away on a holiday they perhaps otherwise might not have had. Where they will have lots of fun and perhaps some good memories about positive spiritual experiences they have been a part of too. They seemed to visibly blossom, becoming more confident and relaxed as the week went by.

The week in Lourdes was probably one of the best weeks of my life, filled with laughter, fun, amazing people and incredible enjoyment, not forgetting the intense spirituality that underpins the Lourdes experience. It is an honour to be a part of these special people's lives, if even for a short time and the week that they have is something that they too will remember for the rest of their lives.

I enjoyed so much putting others first and I feel privileged to have been part of lots of unscripted special moments that occurred out of the everyday. The Lourdes experience has also greatly invigorated my own faith and relationship with God. I had forgotten how much joy and meaning can come from singing!

Describing a week in Lourdes is not easy to put into words ... all I can say is it never fails to amaze and I feel privileged to be a part of it.

Liam Buttle
Group Leader
Group 513



Christmas Cards 2011

Christmas cards are a very important source of advertising and income for the Irish Pilgrimage Trust. Our range is simple and uncomplicated and we hope that they will serve you well this year as you send greetings at Christmas. Thank you for your donations and your purchase. It makes a huge difference.

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Co. Galway
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Fax (091) 796916

A



B



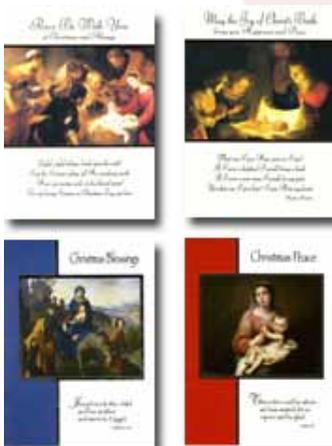
C



D



E



Number of Packs required	Ref.	Title of Card	Cost (Excl. Postage)	Totals (Incl. Postage)
	A	Peace & Joy	€ 5.00	
	B	Christmas Children	€ 5.00	
	C	Shepards & Kings	€ 5.00	
	D	Christmas Snowmen	€ 5.00	
	E	Traditional	€ 5.00	

Postage and packing prices
(Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland)

For 1 pack add €1.35 For 2-3 packs add €3.85
For 4-6 packs add €6.00 For 7-12 packs add €7.50
Other costs on request.

Purchase Total:	
Postage:	
Donation:	
Total:	

In the case that your choice is not available please indicate your alternate choices in order of preference.

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

 POSTAL CODE _____