

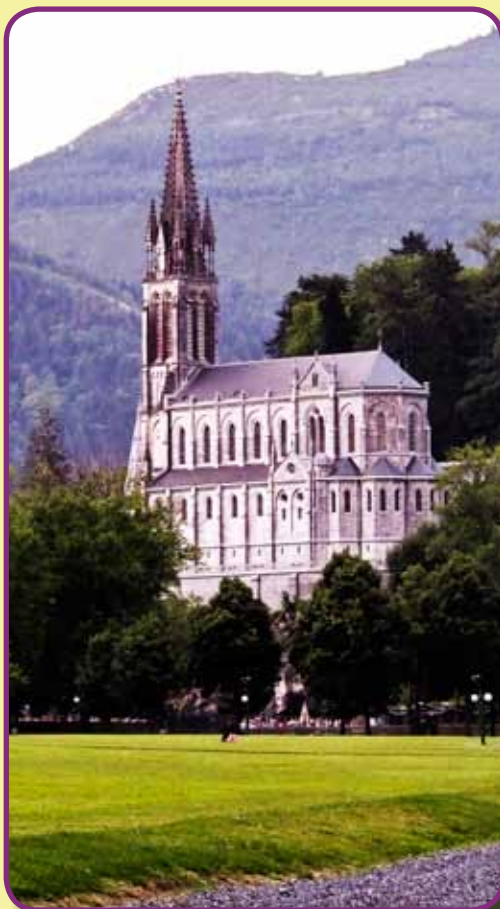
# Irish Trust Talk

[www.irishpilgrimagestrust.com](http://www.irishpilgrimagestrust.com)

Issue 94 - Spring 2016







## Safeguarding



**Mary Dunnion**  
**Designated Person**



**Dermot Wallace**  
**Deputy Designated Person**

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

## Day of Prayer at Lough Derg

The Irish Pilgrimage Trust will participate in a day of prayer at Lough Derg, Co. Donegal on Saturday the 17th of September 2016.

For more information and booking, please contact Mary Clancy 087 9070109 or Helen Kirwan 087 6817648



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# THE IRISH PILGRIMAGE TRUST

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# A word from the Chair

Denis McCarthy



## Welcome to the first edition of Trust Talk for 2016!

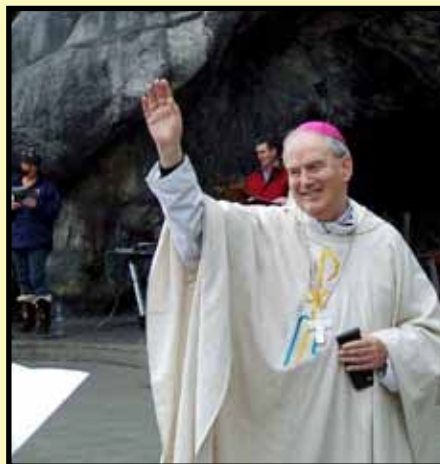
Easter is only around the corner and the preparations for our pilgrimage are now in full swing. All over the country group leaders are visiting young people, volunteer lists are being finalised and fundraising events are taking place to raise vital funds for the work of The Irish Pilgrimage Trust. Ber and her team in our head office are sifting through mounds of paperwork that would make



bureaucrats blush, and no doubt our intrepid cyclists are engaging in their final lung bursting training runs prior to starting on the cycle to Lourdes on the week before Easter. Of course, the end of all this preparation and effort

is to enable us to bring young people with special needs of various kinds to Lourdes on Easter Sunday. It is a simple idea that has had a profound impact on so many lives since the charity first came into existence. Many of us who have been lucky enough to volunteer with the Trust will have first-hand experience of this impact, and for many of us it is what drives us to continue the work that we do.

It is with sadness that I note the death of Bishop Dermot O'Mahony. Bishop Dermot went to his reward before Christmas and he will be missed by his many friends both inside and outside the Trust. Bishop Dermot was instrumental in the growth of the Trust in its early stages and served as its president for more than twenty years.



He was a man of decency and compassion who suffered from severe ill health for a substantial portion of his later life, a suffering he bore with great dignity. We will remember him in our prayers in Lourdes and thank Our Lady for the wonderful service he

gave to our organisation. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.*



In closing, may I thank Tom Doyle for his hard work in putting this edition of the Trust Talk together: it is an important publication that gives both present and past members of the Trust a connection into what's going on in the Trust today. I would also like to thank our benefactors, without whose generosity our pilgrimage would not be possible. The theme of pilgrimage 2016 is 'Thanks be to God', and I can think of nothing better to say than thanks be to God for all of you who make our work possible!



# Camino Cycle to raise funds for Group 110



Well done to Dr. John Porteous, who with some friends cycled 540k last October from Burgos to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. This was a sponsored cycle to raise funds for Group 110

## Sponsored climb on Ireland's Holy Mountain



Elaine Brady and Emma Martin accompanied by their dads, climb Croagh Patrick to raise funds for Group 136.

## Country Kickers Line Dancing Group

Country Kickers Line Dancing Group organised a Line Dancing Social event on the 5th July in The Silver Tassie Hotel in Donegal in aid of Group 173. One of the members of the group Carley, travelled with the group last Easter and was involved with her mum Sylvia in organising the event and also had a raffle on the night.



A huge thanks to Anthony Baker who organised the music and the dancing and also to all the group who came along and supported the night.

Photograph showing Anthony from Country Kickers presenting Catriona & Mary from the Irish Pilgrimage Trust Group 173 with a cheque for €500 the proceeds of the event.



# Lourdes is a life changer.....

**Siobhán Bradley**  
Youth Ministry Director  
Archdiocese of Tuam

**Towards the end of June 2015, I was very privileged to join Fr. Mike Murphy and a fine group of young men representing St. Colman's College, Claremorris for a pilgrimage of a very different kind as we headed out to Lourdes in association with the Wexford/Waterford branch of the Irish Pilgrimage Trust.**



For anyone who isn't aware, The Irish Pilgrimage Trust is a fantastic Irish Charity made up of some of the most caring, selfless and endearing people I have ever had the privilege to meet. For over 45 years now, the Trust has been travelling on pilgrimage to Lourdes with people with special needs, from all over Ireland. Their mission is simple...to invite pilgrims to travel with The Trust on a spiritual journey with a loving family of friends, where all individuals are valued and cherished as they are, with preference given to those who are disadvantaged, ill, disabled or marginalised.

It almost seems foolish to say that Lourdes is such a special place, but for anyone who hasn't experienced it for themselves, visiting Lourdes through the eyes of a helper is something quite remarkable. Lourdes is without doubt a very spiritual and moving place. You can't help but experience it as a place where the air is simply filled with love, helpfulness and friendliness.

Our own group of helpers, nurses and carers, who became true companions and friends to those being cared for on our pilgrimage, were nothing short of modern day saints. Nothing of the daily 'mini miracles' would be possible but for the helpers' total willingness to give, to love and to serve. For

me, my own heart was melted just observing our own Colman's boys being completely and totally present to the beautiful people they found themselves caring for on this trip. Whether in conversation or in action, they became Christ like in so many ways that they continuously inspired and challenged me throughout some tiring moments of our week to put into action the words "Christ has no body now but yours".



The focal point of the pilgrimage for many of our group including our carers and those being cared for was off course the Grotto itself. Here whether at midday or midnight, people made many visits and found great peace, consolation and healing. At the grotto, I felt that everyone became lost in his or her prayerful thoughts, while at the same time, became mindful of the suffering of others all around. Whether for themselves, or those at home, everyone in our group seemed to be praying so hard to our Lady to hear and answer their prayers that they found themselves at the candle shrine numerous times throughout the week.



Our own group's candle was lit and placed in a prominent position by Liam and Damien and it continued to light long after we had left Lourdes, its flickering flame expressing our heartfelt intentions and sentiments,

a feeling that nourished us all as we turned towards home.

The closing Mass, before our return home, marked the end of our very memorable journey together. And as Trish sang so poignantly the words of our closing hymn "Will you go where you don't know, and never be the same. Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be known, Will you use the faith you've found, to reshape the world around, Will you let my life be grown, in you and you in me", as carers, helpers and clients alike, we couldn't help but realise that we were no longer strangers but family and shedding a joyful tear recognising that although we were preparing to go our separate ways, Our Lourdes experience had been life changing and each one of us had been blessed to have been part of this most moving and uplifting experience.



The Lourdes experience is like no other, from spending time in the company of so many amazing like-minded and kind hearted people, I came home looking for more and more opportunities to help others, looking for more opportunities to be patient and kind, to give generously, to put the needs of others first, to persevere in the face of adversity, to remain humble and appreciate what is given to me and what is taken away, to keep my sense of humour, to quietly bear pain and hardship and to always treat others as I would like to be treated...what a life lesson in just one week, what a life lesson in just one place, and oh what a life changer is Lourdes.

**"I will go before you, as well as with you into each day"**

# Farewell Sr. Therese-Marie .....

## The Cork Nun!

Michael Galvin Group 126

We in the Irish Pilgrimage Trust and particularly those of us in the Southern Region, were saddened to hear of the passing last June, of Sr. Therese-Marie of the Poor Clare Convent, Rue de la Grotte.

She was originally from Mallow, hence her fond title 'The Cork Nun'! From the very beginning, Sr. Therese-Marie formed a very special relationship with Group 90, through Noreen Gregor (nee Doran) in the first instance, continuing right up to last Easter, when the current group enjoyed their last audience with Sr. Therese-Marie. Also close to Sr. Therese-Marie's affections and admiration was Group 126, a visit to her being an essential part of our Easter Pilgrimage each year.



She prayed fervently for the success of the Trust and particularly for the well-being of our young pilgrims. She also spoke regularly of her joy on hearing our arrival in Lourdes each Easter, with our colour, energy and song, marking the end of Winter and the beginning of a new "Lourdes" Season.

As a thirty five year old Mary Teresa O' Connell, working at the time in a souvenir shop in Lourdes, she responded to God's Call and entered the Poor Clare Monastery in Rue de la Grotte. There she would spend the next 55 years in a joyful, consecrated life. Over that time, she has received thousands of pilgrims, both individually and in large pilgrimage groups, bringing a listening ear, consolation and spiritual reassurance.

We in groups 90 and 126 in particular, will now greatly miss what was a special part of our Easter tradition... an audience with Sr. Therese Marie! We will miss the mystique of entering the Convent Parlour, the ringing of the Convent Announcing Bell, followed by those unmistakable footsteps and enthusiastic tones of that pure Cork accent.

*"Sr. Thérèse-Marie, we thank you for your encouragement, your Prayer, your enthusiastic welcome each year. I know that you will continue to pray and watch over us from your new home in Heaven, and we too will always remember you in our prayers. May you Rest in Peace".*



## Rose of Tralee travelling with Group 189



I travelled to Lourdes last June with my best friend CC and her mum Ann, with open eyes and an open heart. I had no idea what to expect. Ann had been before; so on the plane she over filled us in on her experiences the previous summer!

CC and I were going to be 'stage one' volunteers in the *piscines/baths*. I was so excited to take on this new experience but also feeling a little nervous too. I was overwhelmed at the feeling of peace & serenity when I stepped through the gates to the Domain. What really struck me most about volunteering in the baths was the fundamental act of kindness. It was an incredibly humanitarian experience for me, helping people in a very vulnerable & fragile state. I prayed for many things everyday when I was in Lourdes, but mainly I said **thank you** to God for all the wonderful things I've been blessed with in life.

The whole week for me was an incredibly spiritual and humbling experience, one I will never forget.

I am really looking forward to travelling back to Lourdes with Group 189 from Kerry. I am so fortunate to be in this group with one of our incredible Rose of Tralee chaperone team, Maureen Curtin. I hope my time in Lourdes this Easter is equally as special as my first time last summer.





# Photo Gallery





# Photo Gallery





# Lough Derg an ancient place of Pilgrimage

Helen Kirwan



September last saw about 100 people from the Trust travel to Lough Derg, the ancient place of pilgrimage located in south Donegal.

It has now become an annual pilgrimage for many carers, guests and friends of the Trust. Thousands of people go to Lough Derg each year. Many people from the Trust go and do the three day pilgrimage which entails fasting, praying, depriving oneself of sleep and walking barefoot during the Summer but many may not be physically able for the rigours of the three day but would like a short reflective day in the breathtakingly beauty of south Donegal.



Lough Derg began running One Day Retreats a number of years ago. The **One Day Retreat** welcomes people to the island to take some time to pray and reflect in one day. Since 2012 the Trust has been participating in these day retreats and in 2015 members of the Trust travelled from many areas but mostly from the North, North West and South East. For those from the South East it was part of a full weekend trip to the North West.

The day began with the short boat trip to the Island. Having reached the island the pilgrims enjoyed the cuppa and scones and then began to enjoy the peace and quiet of the island and taking in the beauty of the surrounding countryside. The prayers and reflections are directed by the priests and staff of the island. These include many traditional prayers such as the Stations of the Cross, confession and of course the celebration of Mass. The quiet room, the labyrinth and the gentle sound of the waters of the lake lapping against the pier enabled us to escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Everyone left the island that evening refreshed and renewed.

**“The Trust will once again participate in the One Day Retreat this year on the 17th September 2016”**



If you want a day to reflect, this one day retreat is an ideal opportunity.



While many from the Trust do the **Three Day Pilgrimage** as individuals, it is also hoped that members of the Trust will come together to do the Three Day Pilgrimage, during the summer of 2016.

If you want to really undertake something special and you are fit and healthy consider joining us to do the three day pilgrimage. We are planning to arrange dates this July when people from the Trust from various parts of the country will come together and undertake the Three Day Pilgrimage. We would love if you would join us.

It is a challenging three days but the sense of spiritual renewal and fulfilment make up for the challenges that one endures. Dates will be published on our website and everyone is welcome to join with us for either the one day retreat or the three day pilgrimage.





# James and his Mum tell their own stories

James & Pauline Byrne

## My trip to Lourdes with The Irish Pilgrimage Trust.

When my Mum told me that I was going to Lourdes I felt nervous, the leaders came to meet me at my house and one day they brought me out for tea. On the Easter Saturday I was excited getting my case packed but scared about being away from home for a week without my Mum or Dad. My Mum brought me to Derry to get the bus I was very sad and wasn't sure if I should go or not, Mum stayed with me a long time until I felt ready to go, John sat beside me on the trip to the airport.



At 2:00am the bus picked me up and we set off for Belfast airport. At about 4:00am we were at the airport, we got free chicken nuggets and chips and hot chocolate at Burger King. At 6.50 am we got on the plane. We arrived at Lourdes at 9.10am and by 9.45am we were at our beautiful hotel. When we were making our way to our room, we had to take the elevator to Level 2, Accidentally I pressed level 1 and when the doors opened we saw a big sign on the door and it said Lucy and one of the boys said "Who's Lucy", I laughed and then I pressed the right button. We then went to a really nice Mass. We did a lot of walking and Mass was different from home; it was great fun!

On the Tuesday we went to the Irish Mass I think there must have been 5000 people there it was very noisy and a lot of singing, my leader brought me outside for a walk because as I don't like a lot of noise. We visited the Grotto where Mary had appeared to St. Bernadette and we got to visit Bernadette's house, it was

great fun eating out. We had a trip to the beach. That was a great day. It was very hot and we got to soak all the leaders. We got water guns on another day and we were all trying to get each other wet. There was a



fancy dress party and disco but I didn't go because I don't like dressing up much but it was ok for me to stay in my room and Maureen my helper looked after me. We had a small Mass with Fr. Brendan and we lit candles at the grotto for our family and friends.



Before I knew it we had to get ready to come home, I think I was up for most of the night because we had to leave very early for the airport. I was very sad when I arrived back in Derry I didn't want to get off the bus because the week was over it was cold in Derry too. My Mum came to pick me up and I had a sore throat Mum brought me to the doctor and to see Dad because he was working that day. I really hope I get to go back again because it was the best week of my life and I made lots of new friends.



**When James was accepted to travel at Easter 2015 with group 173 I was feeling very nervous as he doesn't like change or had never been away from home before.**

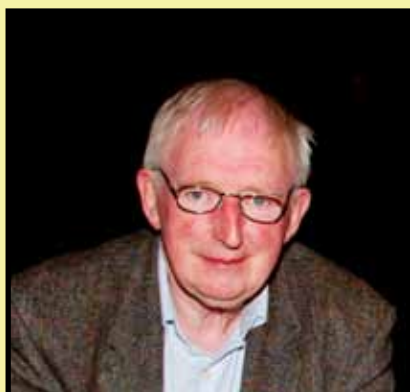
The group leader, nurse and two other helpers came to visit us at home to prepare for the trip to Lourdes. They went beyond the call of duty giving up their time visiting us on a few occasions, even taking James out for his tea.

By the time Easter Sunday arrived he was very excited. I brought him to his pick-up point. When it was time to get on the bus he got very upset that he didn't want to go. The leaders were all very understanding and helped talk through it with him, after about an hour the bus couldn't wait any longer and one of the men travelling with them asked if he could sit beside him and like a switch had been flicked James stopped being upset and said ok. After I arrived home the group leader rang me to say he had settled well and was in good form. The group leader kept in touch with me throughout the week and kept me informed of what he was doing and how much fun he was having.



On the day he returned he was more upset getting off the bus. He didn't want it to end; he made friends and had an absolute ball so much so that he wants to go back again. Group 173 had a reunion a few weeks after the trip, we all got to watch the DVD of the week and we all received copies of it. **It was very clear that James had a great time and whether he ever gets to go back again or not he will always have memories of Easter 2015 that he will cherish forever.**

# Brian McCarthy is 2016's "Kerry Person of the Year!"



**The Trust heartily congratulates Brian on winning the above title! As many of you will know, Brian's association with our Trust goes back a long way - to 1973.**

Several members of his family are also active in our organisation and son Denis is, of course, our current Chairperson – a role previously held by his Dad in the eighties!

While everyone agrees that Brian was unquestionably the most deserving of candidates for this prestigious award some perplexity followed its announcement. How could he be eligible for it? Wasn't he a Corkman? These niggling doubts were common to both sides of the county bounds, with Kerry people, while enthusiastically supporting Brian as the recipient of the award, secretly wondering how he had "transmogrified" into a Kerryman! Equally, citizens of Cork, who claimed him as their own, dearly longed for a headline like "Corkman is Kerryman of the Year" and feared that he would "go native" and shout for Kerry at Munster Finals!



Brian with Noel Shanahan in 2009

Fortunately, equilibrium was restored when the organisers revealed that a change in the selection criteria for the award had been made during the year. It was now no longer necessary for aspirants to have been born in Kerry – this sectarian stipulation had been removed! Henceforth, even someone born in Dublin or Uzbekistan, for instance, could be adjudged the **KPOTY!**

For 2016 and thereafter candidates would be assessed solely on their contribution to the enhancement of the "Kingdom" and its citizens under a number of headings which included commercial, social, cultural, etc. and Brian has truly delivered on all of these, in spades, for the betterment of his county of adoption. Winner Alright!

In particular Brian's company FEXCO, which he established in Killorglin on leaving AIB in 1981, has, thanks to his serial entrepreneurship, grown into an International Financial Technology organisation with truly global reach and now employs 2300 people of which 1200 are Irish based with the majority of these located at the Company's offices in South Kerry.



The McCarthy Family pictured at Iveagh House in January of this year on the occasion of Brian being awarded the title of "Kerry Person of the Year" From left to right: Denis, Susan, Ruth, Mary, Brian, John and Elizabeth, all of whom have travelled to Lourdes with the Trust. Denis is the current Chairperson.

## Some of Brian McCarthy's "milestones" with The Irish Pilgrimage Trust

**1973:** Brian is introduced to Bill and Anthea O'Grady, (*Trustee and Honorary Secretary respectively, of the newly formed IHCPT*) by Bill's cousin Eleanor Fleming (nee O'Grady), a colleague of Brian's in AIB Head Office. Anthea had been active in HCPT while resident in the UK and both passionately believed that Irish Special Needs children should be afforded the same opportunities to travel to Lourdes.





Group Photo of the entire Irish Pilgrimage Trust in 1975

A prominent North of Ireland businessman, the late Tom McAteer, shared this view and together they brought a small group of Irish children to Lourdes in 1972 via Gatwick where they joined the HCPT Pilgrimage.



"1973 Tarbes. Brian and Hymie Wyse alight from inaugural direct flight."

Determined to expand by flying direct, a 72 seat BAC 1-11 was chartered for Easter 1973 from Dublin and the following Groups were formed:

<u>Grp No.</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Grp. No.</u>	<u>Leader</u>
61	Fr. Phonsie Doran	62	Tom McAteer
63	Fintain McAneney	64	Moyna Troddyn
65	Bill O'Grady		

Brian McCarthy was recruited as a "helper", which is what we called carers in those days, for Group 65, thanks to the combined efforts of Anthea, Bill and Eleanor; **a lifelong journey had begun!**

**1974:** Enthused by his previous year's experiences Brian starts his own Group; No 66. At this time he is transferred from Dublin and posted to the AIB branch in Killorglin, Co Kerry. While in Lourdes a life-changing event takes place: He is introduced to Mary Nagle, a Doctor in Group 65.



Group 66 with Brian McCarthy, John Foley, Noel Shanahan and Bishop Billy Crean among the troups c. 1974

Cupid appears to have been hovering over Lourdes on that evening and unleashed a few darts as Mary and Brian were married in February of the following year and settled happily in the Kingdom!

**1975-89** Brian serves as a Trustee of IHCPT

**1985-87** Trust Chairman

Brian will be in Lourdes again this Easter with Group 358 – "Forever Friends"; should you see him don't forget to shout "Up Kerry" but beware; as they say in Cork, "he might give you a chase"!





# SAY 'YES' – It's all part of the plan!

**When at school we are often asked that question:**

***“What do want to be when you grow up?”***

Well, from 7 to 16 all I thought I wanted to be was a priest. But after my Leaving Cert came a change of plan – I had to work. I spent the next 16 years of my life working in Brunswick Superbowl in Derry, driving buses for Reddin's Coach Hire and managing the Maxol Station in Muff. I was also a volunteer with Special Olympics Ireland during all of this time. Through all of these experiences I was meeting people and serving people. The mix of paid and voluntary work that was my life was all very fulfilling and I really enjoyed doing. I was so busy with all this though that I slipped away from regular Sunday Mass when I was 22 years old. I became an 'A.C.E. Catholic' so to speak – no not 'ace' as in a number one – rather Ashes, Christmas and Easter! On reflection, I was unsettled in these years; the spiritual part of me was not been fed. I got the task of driving The Irish



Pilgrimage Trust Group 173 to the Airport on Easter Sunday morning 2000. I thought this was mad! 'Starting in the middle of the night (2am) to take a crowd of young ones with various disabilities that didn't really know each other, or those who were looking after them, to Lourdes to pray for a week.' A decent bus driver's assessment of the situation I think! I went back to Belfast Airport the following Saturday evening to lift the Group. They landed after a four-hour delay, around 11pm. I expected a really tired and disgruntled group after such a delay and obviously long day. I saw them coming down

the ramp helping each other to push trolleys of luggage and were singing what I come to know as 'Rise and Shine.' A joyful and bonded bunch now – not the same crew that left me the Sunday previous.

To a sceptical bus driver it was obvious that something happened in that week! This puzzled me so much that I said curiously to John Roddy, one of the carers, that if an extra male helper was needed the next year, I'd like to go. John approached me at the beginning of Lent 2001 and asked if I wanted to 'put my money where my mouth was.' My help was needed.

Now 28 years old – this was the first time I ever needed a passport! I booked the week off work in the Bowling Alley, in fact my boss there, Paddy Simpson, paid my fare for me when he heard what I was doing! I saw a living faith in a whole new light that week and thankfully have not lost that since! I now went to Mass again because I wanted to; I needed to. My God had something to say to me each week! My God had something for me to do. Part of that was to go to Lourdes each Easter. Thank you IPT and Group 173! In February 2007, out of the blue, I became a Type 1 Insulin Dependent Diabetic. That finished the bus driving! I lay



in hospital thinking about what I was going to do with the rest of my life and the thoughts of 'Priesthood' from my school days came back and wouldn't go away – I couldn't get it out of my head – a constant niggle, niggle, niggle! I went to Lourdes that Easter – still learning to cope with this new condition, but I felt safe in the assurance that I was with the best of care, which I had come to appreciate

over the previous years! Two of our guests that year were diabetic also – so there was plenty of chat with each other and comparing sugar levels! In July 2008, while at Fr Daniel McFaul's Ordination in Derry, the 'niggle' of Priesthood got the better of me!



I entered Seminary to start the journey of figuring out this niggling call. On reflection, I could now appreciate the hand of God in everything that had happened in my life: the good, the bad, the happy, and the sad – whatever it was it all had to all happen in the sequence it did to lead me to this moment where I write this reflection. Along the way I had come to trust the Lord that where I was been called was where and what was the plan for me. I had to commit to that plan and go with it. I could now understand better that all of what

happened was the Lord's invitation each time to do something, and my response was all that was needed. The grace of God would carry me then if I said 'YES'.

Mary, in reflection and trust, accepted God's plan and committed to going with it... she trusted that God would do the rest. Her 'YES' was total. Just as she took Jesus in her womb with her



everywhere she went until Christmas, we are invited to take Jesus with us everywhere we go; everyone we meet should get a glimpse of that Christmas joy in their encounter with us. We are to be a reflection of Christ.



At the wedding at Cana she invited the servants to *'Do whatever he tells you.'* She still speaks that message to us today: *'Do whatever he tells you'* (John 2:5). She invites us through Bernadette to experience the love, peace and joy of Lourdes so that we can become better servants who share the example of Christ and be a face of the mercy of God to all who encounter us by doing whatever he tells us. So God has an invitation for us all and wants our response. Our *'YES'*. I thank the Lord for the IPT Family and for all the circumstances that came together bringing me the graces to accept the invitation, say *'YES'* and allow the encounter that helped me return to my faith and move me towards discerning the call to the Priesthood. I travelled last Easter as a Deacon and Chaplain with Group 63. I was ordained a Priest in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on June 14th 2015 by Bishop Donal Mc Keown. Group 173 and Group 63 were there to share the day. I look forward to Easter 2016, my first Easter trip as a Priest, and the opportunity of saying thanks at the Grotto to the Lord, Mary and Bernadette for the life-changing gift that the Trust was for me. And for the many encounters, friendships and prayers since becoming part of the Trust Family! I pray many more say *'YES'* to the opportunity to share in the wonderful experience that is and only can be, ***The Trust Week in Lourdes.***

See you all there!  
**Fr. Sean O'Donnell**



## Cycle 2016



**"It has been the most awful of winters – constant rain and storm after storm".**



On another wet weekend between Storm Henry and Imogen a group of dedicated (or frankly crazy) cyclists gathered in Kilcuan to share a practice cycle of 60 kms around the pot holed byroads of Galway. We thought that the weather would put them off, but they came from all over the country – literally from Kerry to Donegal and from Mayo to Dublin – and off they went on a morning you would bring the dog in to sit by the fire.

Such is the dedication and commitment of this band of cyclists who every second year cycle the 1000km from the North of France to Lourdes during Holy Week. On Saturday, March 19th this same group will assemble at

Shannon Airport to catch a 7am flight to Paris. From the outskirts of the city they will cycle South and hope to arrive in Lourdes on Good Friday. You can follow their journey on the "Irish Pilgrimage Trust Cycle to Lourdes" Facebook page.

***This is the 17th time this event has been organised. From an initial six cyclists this pilgrimage on a bike has grown to over 100 people this year.***

We thank everyone who have encouraged and sponsored our cyclists up to now, and of course it is still not too late to support them with a donation. Say a prayer for the safety of the group and some nice weather. We look forward to being in Lourdes to welcome the young people of the Irish Pilgrimage Trust as they arrive on Easter Sunday.

**Dr. Michael McGloin**





# Hosanna House

## The perfect base for your Lourdes pilgrimage

For over 40 years, HCPT Hosanna House has been welcoming guests for their Summer pilgrimages to Lourdes. Irish groups will be staying there in June 2016 and further stays are available at other times for school, parish, diocese and disability groups.

Hosanna House is a unique place to stay:

- Stunning panoramic views of the Pyrénées
- An intimate chapel with beautiful stained glass windows
- Regular shuttles into Lourdes and elsewhere
- Close to an excellent range of outdoor activities and visitor attractions
- Fully accessible ensuite accommodation for groups of up to 40 people
- Local chefs providing authentic local cuisine on a full or half board basis

**Do you know a group that might enjoy staying at Hosanna House for a Lourdes pilgrimage? If so, please let us know by emailing [hq@hcpt.org.uk](mailto:hq@hcpt.org.uk) or call 00 44 1788 564646.**



Life-Changing Pilgrimage Holidays

# hcpt

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