

PRINIAN  
HOTEL  
Garage



# Irish Trust Talk



Spring 2011  
No 84

# Message from the Chairman



*John O'Reilly and Gabriel Higgins at St Michael's Gate during the Planning Meetings in February 2011.*

Dear All,

With Easter so late this year landing on Sunday 24th April there is still lots of time for preparation and we are expecting some excellent weather this year. The next time Easter is so late will be 25th April 2038; now that's a long time away!!

This year will be the 40th Pilgrimage the IHCPT has taken to Lourdes at Easter since its humble beginnings back in 1972. To all those who have been involved at some stage over those 40 years, on behalf of the Trust, I would like to say a special thank you for the contribution you made to ensure that we are still thriving after so many years. You and your families will be in our thoughts and prayers during the week but especially when we celebrate the Irish Mass on Tuesday 26th April at 10am.

A very big Thank You to all the Group Leaders for the huge amount of work that is involved in organising their groups. Also thanks to the group nurses and other helpers who have been involved in the home visits which is a very important part of the preparations as it's the first time you meet the young people who will be travelling to Lourdes and see their excitement at the prospect of getting away for a week's holiday.

This year we have four flights booked taking over 1,100 guests and carers to Lourdes on Easter Sunday morning from Belfast, Dublin, Cork and Shannon. We will be joined by 40 members of the Croatia Group who are flying from Zagreb for the first time. Be sure to give them a warm welcome when you see them.

The office and shop that was located in the Hemicycle last year with the HCPT will be relocated to a new venue called the "Base". This will be in the building beside the

"Chapelle de Notre Dame" where we have had the Sunday Welcome Mass in recent years. Please come along and buy lots of goodies for your group, family, friends and even something for yourself!

The Hosanna House Pilgrimage will take place this year from 10th to 17th June with a total of 90 guests and helpers enjoying the country air up beside Bartres; a quiet village where Bernadette spent some of her younger years.

Congratulations to Vivienne Connolly for organising the Nationwide programme that aired in January and showed Group 136 having a whale of a time on the beach in Rosslare. The programme also beautifully profiled the new home in Kilrane, now known as Cois Cuain ("beside the harbour"). Other TV stars were Bridget Loughlin, Chair of the Eastern Region who appeared on TV 3 Ireland AM along with Anthony Curran guest with group 174 in 2010 and David Whitty carer with group 69. Well done to you all for helping to raise awareness of the Trust through the national media.

If you are travelling to Lourdes at Easter I look forward to seeing you there, if you can't make it this year we will say a prayer for you and light a candle at the Grotto.

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](mailto:joreilly05@gmail.com) or through the office in Kilcuan on 091-976622.

Rise & Shine  
John O'Reilly  
March 2011.

*Group 70 enjoy the Trust Mass 2010.*



# IHCPT The Irish Pilgrimage Trust

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## Board Members

Fr Michael McGrath	Trust Chaplain
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Liam Ahern	Liturgies Co-ordinator Hosanna House Challenging Behaviour
Dr Bridget Keane	Trust Doctor Family Group Selection
Teresa Lee	Trust Nurse Risk Assessment
Gabriel Higgins	Protection Officer Merchandise Jet Set
Damian McNicholl	Northern Treasurer PRO Regional Chairs Co-ordinator
Tom Doyle	Trust Talk Risk Assessment
Denis McCarthy	Insurance Merchandise
Helen Kirwan	Merchandise Students
James White	Vice-Chairman Treasurer
Carol Chapman	HCPT representative

Charity No 5992

## WANTED PUBLIC RELATIONS PROFESSIONAL

The Trust is seeking to find someone experienced in Public Relations who would like to volunteer to help the Trust on a part time basis with PR. Please contact us if you have some PR and Media experience and would be willing to give some time to helping the Trust in this area.

## Trust Talk... ...Digital

We are continuing to distribute the Trust Talk by email. If you are not currently receiving a copy, or you know someone who would like to receive a copy by email please email us at [info@irishpilgrimagetrust.com](mailto:info@irishpilgrimagetrust.com) and we will add you to our list.

If you would prefer to receive a copy of Trust Talk by post, please send us your full name and address.



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# Easter 2011

# Croatia 2011

Easter approaches quickly as we prepare to celebrate our 40th anniversary. To coincide with this birthday we have been given the honour of organising the international mass on the Thursday. Preparations are ongoing since last Easter and my thanks must go to the myriad of people involved in the organising the various liturgies throughout the week. This year's theme is Praying with Bernadette and this will be in evidence throughout the liturgies. Cardinal Brady has accepted our invitation to join in our birthday celebrations and he will be our chief celebrant. Fr Richard Scriven is the musical director for the Thursday mass and Gerry Sheehan is the musical director for the Irish mass on Tuesday.

As has been our policy over the years the music will be a mixture of familiar hymns and some new hymns. We have tried to reflect our Celtic heritage in the masses both through our music and our traditional dance. While we will strive for perfection in relation to the organisational issues, the Trust is about participation whatever a person's disability.

One of the highlights for me of last year's Irish Mass was when of our young guests side by side with his helper read the prayer one word at a time in mutual support. It will not be about good diction and punctuation, it will be about participation and involvement.

This year for both the Tuesday and Thursday mass we are hoping to use the signed Our Father, using the basic signs that children would have learned in school, again it's not about accuracy rather involvement. Our youth groups will be working on this over the coming weeks.

Our Irish mass on Tuesday may have similarities to the Thursday mass, however it was agreed by the organisers that it is a separate celebration and it is not being used as a practice for the Thursday mass.. Last year I recorded which groups were involved in the various liturgies throughout the week, therefore groups who were not involved last year will be involved this year. I will be in contact with group leaders before we travel in relation to the readings that their groups have. Remember it may not be daunting for the carer to speak in front of large crowds but it certainly is daunting for many of our young guests. If your group is involved in the readings, singing, dancing or one of the many other tasks to be done, please attend the practices on time.

Musicians and singers are more than welcome to join our choirs. I wish you well and hope you get as much joy and pleasure out of the week as we have had organising it.

Have a great week and enjoy!  
Liam Ahern



This year there will be 2 groups travelling from Croatia with a total of 40 people travelling. The Croatian group normally travel by bus to Lourdes but this year will be flying to Barcelona and then getting a bus to Lourdes. They will arrive in Lourdes on Easter Sunday and leave the following Sunday the 1st May. At the moment they are busy fundraising and preparing for travelling.

*Above: Croatia on the move!*

*Below: Fr. Benny conducts Group 109.*

## BIRTHS

Congratulations to James Digney (93) and Grainne Digney (67) on the birth of baby Eoin born on 21st October 2010. And also to Noel Keenan (93), and his wife Caroline, on the birth of baby Ella born on Christmas Day. Best wishes to them both and God's blessing on the newly born.

## NEW TRUSTEES

Helen Kirwan from the Southeast and Tom Doyle from the East have joined the Board as new Trustees in January this year. An election to join the Board of Trustees was held at the Pre Pilgrimage meeting in Kilcuan on Saturday 26th and Aiden Grealish and Annette McDermott were elected.

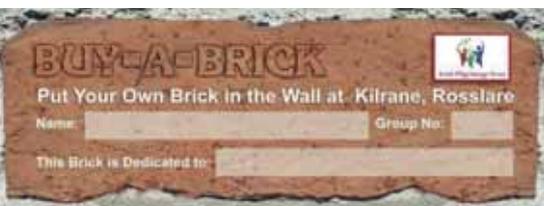


# Kilrane Christened

Our new holiday home in Wexford has been formally named Cois Cuain. Cois Cuain was featured on Nationwide on 4th February resulting in a lot of interest for bookings throughout the summer. However, we are still taking bookings so please contact us for information.

## Brick for Cois Cuain

This was a huge success last year and this year we will sell some more "Bricks". These will be for sale in the Base in Lourdes or through the office. As before each brick will cost €10 and names will be remembered on our special memorial book at Cois Cuain.



# OUR FRIENDS REMEMBERED

## BREIGE MORGAN

*'A Special Person'*

In the early evening of 12 October 2010, the tragic and devastating news that Breige had died so unexpectedly spread throughout the country. Breige was Group 103's devoted nurse and an enthusiastic worker for the Trust. Her larger than life personality has only served to leave an immense void within her Group, the Trust, her local children's community, her Parish and especially her family. The devastating loss to her parents; Sally and Patrick, to Ann-Marie and John, her sister and brother, is unimaginable. We were very privileged to appreciate at first hand her sense of humour, her generosity of spirit and true goodness which she gave to many children and their families.

## JOHN B. O'SHEA.

John B. O'Shea, Killorglin, Co. Kerry (Group 107. 1980-1995). John was Deputy Group Leader for years and always Mr. Moneybags. He was a man of great organising skills. His immense generosity and caring nature endeared him to the young people who always responded to his unique charismatic presence.

## MICHAEL C. AHERN

Michael C. Ahern, Killorglin, Co. Kerry (Group 66 and Group 189). Michael enjoyed his trips to Lourdes as a helper. He shared his many talents with the young people in the Group. His engagement with his fellow helpers in thought provoking debate contributed greatly to understanding, as he well described it himself, the bigger picture of life.

Our sincere sympathies and prayers to our many helpers and guests who have lost family members during the past year.

Roy Murphy	163	Keelin Frawley	113
Fr Paul D'Arcy	64	John B O'Shea	107
Evelyn Murphy	67	Hugh Brannigan	63
Oran McGlinchey	103	Audrey Favier	107
Brid Cunningham	190	Michael C Ahern	66 and 189
Aoife Battles	103	Therese Deacy	Friendship Week
Kevin Breen	162	Elizabeth Mulvey	70 & 164
Breige Morgan	103	Fr Francis Doyle	203
Miley Connors	136	Brid Crowley	Cyclist
Damian Murphy	164	Eanna Curtayne	Due to travel 2011

*MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.*



# HOSANNA HOUSE

## *My Week in Lourdes*

I have been travelling to Hosanna House in Bartres for the past 17 years. First as a carer and then I graduated to group leader of Group 513 which I presently do. I can very clearly recall my first visit with Fr Hugh O'Byrne who invited me to come along with the group as a carer.

Yes of course I was so nervous going as I really didn't know what to expect and had no experience of dealing with people with special needs. On day 1 all fears disappeared very quickly and I was on auto pilot for the week. Thinking about my first visit and the memories that were created I am so happy to have taken part in such a life changing experience. It can get very emotional at times, as some pilgrims are really sick. But, they always keep their chins up no matter what. They make you appreciate how lucky we are to be in good health.

Hosanna House is a place that will hold a special place in my heart forever as I make friends young and old there on every trip. It is situated in such a tranquil setting in the foothill of the Pyrenees and to watch the sunrise and sunset is breathtaking. The group have the freedom to experience the beautiful walks in the gardens with a spiritual aspect, up to the sheepfold and on Bartres. There is something special about Hosanna House, something magical, that attracts me, and my fellow volunteers back every year. It has a surreal atmosphere there one that I believe that cannot be recreated.

The group participate in all activities at the grotto which are planned and booked before travelling. The grotto is another place where it is like a dream, the place is always shrouded in silence. Thousands of

people flock here every day to give praise and it is a beautiful place. You can just sit here for hours if you wanted to and just enjoy the peace.

The day trip is very popular and of course the daily picnics, the evening entertainment and the sports evening. Many of the helpers re-live their youth again and have great fun.

So, for me to describe Lourdes in a few words I would say very enjoyable, very tiring because of the early morning, life changing experience and of course inspiring. Would I go back? Yes in a heart beat.

Many of my friends ask me why I go to Lourdes each year, get up early every morning, and put myself through the rigours of working such a long day with an inherent lack of sleep. What I say to them is simple. I really love it.

In hindsight, looking back on the last few years, I couldn't have asked for more. Although, I feel exhausted, fatigued and worn-out every year, Lourdes has been, and will continue to be, a memorable experience for me. I don't think my experience in Lourdes would have had been as enjoyable if it wasn't for the group of people I was amongst.

I am really looking forward to, and planning my return for this year's pilgrimage.

Liam Buttle  
Group leader 513



# Lourdes with The Irish Pilgrimage Trust

*By Andrew Murphy and Justin Cassidy, Students of St. Michael's College, Dublin 4, write about their week in Lourdes with The Pilgrimage Trust.....*

At the beginning of 5th Year, the Chaplaincy Team in St. Michael's gave us a talk about the amazing experiences many people have had while in Lourdes. Our teacher, Mr. O'Flynn, was one of the main speakers on the day. He has been going to Lourdes for almost 15 years now and he explained to us why he returns there so often. Through the course of his talk, he offered us a highly insightful personal perspective on Lourdes and, in so doing, shared with us the special phenomenon that is Lourdes today.

Many students present were taken by the opportunity offered to us to be the first school group from St. Michael's to travel with IHCPT (The Irish Pilgrimage Trust). In the end, 8 Fifth Year students were selected and from that moment our pilgrimage to Lourdes began.

Ms. Annette McDermott gathered us together for several meetings at Ely House prior to travelling. At these meetings we were made aware exactly what we were getting ourselves into. There was a huge amount of preparation and commitment to be put into the pilgrimage. We met our individual group leaders who explained our duties to us as we built up to the big week. Finally, the day arrived and we set off to France. We were all blissfully unaware of the life-changing experience that was in store.

We arrived in Lourdes in the South of France on Monday 5th April. On that morning we travelled to the varying hotels where our groups were staying. Each group contained 11 young enthusiastic pilgrims and 11 carers, offering a ratio of 1:1. We had our breakfast that morning with our respective groups and at that point our role as helpers started. This immediately showed us that we had our work cut out for us. The challenge of caring for these amazing people was a 24 hour job and it was something none of us students

had any experience of. The fact that we had to care for our pilgrims in everyday tasks such as going to the bathroom, helping at meal times, walking with them and simply just having a friendly conversation was a real and privileged challenge. It put everything into perspective for us, and showed us how much we take for granted in our lives.

Throughout the week we developed many friendships, relationships and feelings that will never be forgotten. In our respective groups we participated in many activities and events including going to the Lourdes baths, taking day tours, praying at the Grotto and the Stations of the Cross. One particular event that moved us all deeply was the International Mass in the Underground Basilica. It was like a concert with many performers, colours, singing and dancing. Words cannot describe the energy shown by the pilgrims at this mass.

Throughout the week fatigue caught up with us but our ambition and determination helped us to carry on. Having known nothing about Lourdes, we all realised after the week what a special place it is. It is like a different world full of joy and happiness and we now see why people keep returning. We would like to thank Annette McDermott, Mr. Jason Kelly, Mr. Jonathan Traynor and Ms. Irene Scott for accompanying us on the trip. Who knows, maybe this is the first of 15 plus pilgrimages that we will go on!





## 2011 IHCPT Walk to Santiago de Compostela

### The Way of St. James 25th June – 2nd July 2011

It is proposed that following the success of the IHCPT Compostela Walks in 2007 & 2009 that another walk will be organised for 2011 from 25th June 2011 – 2nd July 2011. The proceeds of the walk will be for the work of the Trust and specifically for Cois Cuain our holiday home in Kilrane, Co. Wexford.

The cost of the walk is 500 euro and this will include: Bus Transfers; Dinner, Bed & Breakfast for 7 days; Santiago Passport; Luggage transfers along the route; The price will not include: Flights; Personal and Travel Insurance; Lunches

**Saturday 25th June 2011** Arrive in Santiago Airport and transfer by bus to Sarria (1.5hrs)

<b>Sunday:</b> Sarria – Portomarin	22km
<b>Monday:</b> Portomarin – Palas de Rei	25km
<b>Tuesday:</b> Palas de Rei – Melide	15km
<b>Wednesday:</b> Melide – Arzúa	14km
<b>Thursday:</b> Arzúa – Lavacolla	29km
<b>Friday:</b> Lavacolla – Santiago	12km
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117km</b>

The Way of St. James is the pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain, where legend has it that the remains of the apostle, Saint James the Great, are buried.

The Way of St James was one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during medieval times. Legend has it that St. James' remains were carried by boat from Jerusalem to northern Spain where they were buried on the site of what is now the city of Santiago de Compostela.

There are many pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostela. However, IHCPT – The Irish Pilgrimage Trust is planning a walk along the ancient pilgrim path, also known as Camino Frances from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela. The route was proclaimed the first European Cultural Route by the Council of Europe in October 1987 and was also named one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites in 1993.

If you would like to join us for our 2011 Walk to Santiago de Compostela please contact the office for an application form asap. We will be asking all participants to raise 1000 euro.



# RING OF KERRY CHARITY CYCLE

## SATURDAY 2 ND JULY 2011.

# Cyclists Wanted!



IRISH PILGRIMAGE TRUST  
Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle  
Saturday, 2nd July, 2011

The Irish Pilgrimage Trust take children with special needs to Lourdes every Easter for a week long holiday of a lifetime.

Cycle for us and raise vital funds by participating in this cycle through the picturesque Ring of Kerry

2 Nights Killarney Accommodation to Cyclists who raise €750 or more for the IPT - contact us for more details

For further information please contact:

For further information please visit the following links:  
Facebook address: Ring of Kerry Cycle 2011 - Irish Pilgrimage Trust Page  
For Registration Contact: [www.ringofkerrycycle-ihcpt.com](http://www.ringofkerrycycle-ihcpt.com)

The annual Ring of Kerry cycle will be held on Saturday 2nd July 2011 and promises to be a wonderful day out.

Thousands (4,554 cycled in 2010) of participants will cycle the spectacular and rugged Ring of Kerry for charities including the Irish Pilgrimage Trust. The cycle begins at 6 o'clock on the Saturday morning in Killarney. Last batch of cyclists leave Killarney at 8 o'clock in the morning. They travel at their own pace and a backup service is provided until the last cyclist is back in Killarney.

Cyclists travel through some of the most beautiful and spectacular countryside in Ireland - the same route travelled during the summer, by thousands of tourists from all over the world. This 112-mile trip takes roughly 10 hours and so cyclists return back to Killarney after 4 p.m. extremely weary but much fulfilled. Rain, hail or snow does not take from their enjoyment on the day as the atmosphere, camaraderie and good will is beyond description.

On the following day, if not too weary after a great day and night of merriment and fun, participants can attend the Munster Final in Killarney and if Cork and Kerry are involved, this clash is reputed to be far better than any All-Ireland.

We are appealing to keen cyclists (and those who fancy getting fit) to take part. Regular stops are organized to soothe weary legs, and provide much needed refreshments.

A festival atmosphere reigns throughout all the towns on the Ring of Kerry on the day. Any individual cyclist who raises €750 for Irish Pilgrimage Trust will be offered two nights free accommodation. 15 friends @ €50 per head will provide this luxury for you. Bookings will be made immediately on receipt of €750. Early booking is advisable, as Killarney and environs can be quite busy in July.

The cycle is a fantastic fundraiser and a real challenge for those, who abandoned their bikes in the garden shed many years ago. If you would like to take part in the cycle, or if you know someone who might enjoy this event, check underneath for all details.

The Irish Pilgrimage Trust would be very grateful if you would nominate us as your chosen charity for this year's cycle.

To do this, please register  
[www.ringofkerrycycle-ihcpt.com](http://www.ringofkerrycycle-ihcpt.com)

Sponsor cards, details of cycle etc will be sent to you.

Once registered with us, there is no need to register again on The Ring of Kerry Cycle web site.

For further information, please visit the following links:

Facebook:  
[Ring of Kerry Cycle 2011 - Irish Pilgrimage Trust Page](http://www.ringofkerrycycle-ihcpt.com)

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

or

<http://www.mediaconcepts.ie/ihcpt>

Insurance: Event Insurance (public liability and personal accident) is provided by Cycling Ireland. Join Cycling Ireland for €10.

Cyclists - How to prepare for the Cycle? See Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle Website 2011.



# Regional Celebrations of 40 years

The Northern Region celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Trust on 27th February. Mass was celebrated in the Church of St Therese,



Banbridge. Bishop McAreavey, Bishop of Dromore and former chaplain with IHCPT, was the main celebrant. There was tea and birthday cake in the adjoining parish centre afterwards.

*Pictured left the 40th Anniversary cake is cut and above right a photo of Group 93 in 1976.*



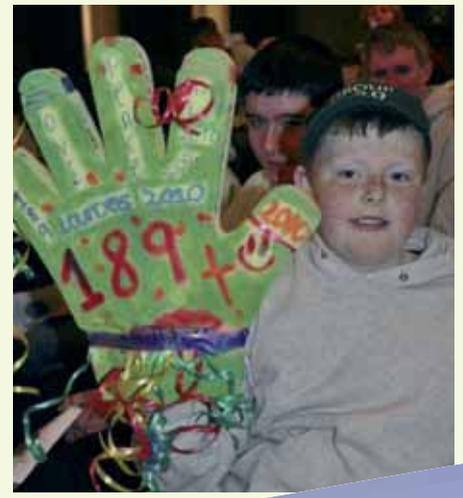
years. IHCPT members, in their way, have done the same for hundreds of Irish children and their families over the last 40 years. Bishop Brennan asked all the children and young children present to come to the altar and receive a special blessing. Members of the congregation participated in the prayers of the faithful and offertory procession. A large number of group chaplains were also in attendance. The choir, under the guidance of Yvonne Busher and Fr Brian Whelan had us all believing we were, in fact, in Lourdes, as song after song stirred up and brought great memories to the fore. Our mass celebration was brought to a lively and enjoyable conclusion as all present raised the roof with our favourite song 'Rise and Shine'.

Down in the Southeast 40 years of the Trust was celebrated on Sunday 30th January 2011. A day of celebration was held in the South-East region as they held a thanksgiving Mass to mark the 40 year anniversary of the Children's Pilgrimage Trust to Lourdes.

Over 250 people, amongst them children, young adults, carers and benefactors of IHCPT came to join in the fun and recall great memories. The celebrations began with beautiful singing from the choir as they filled the church with the words of 'colour the world with gladness, colour the world with song, colour the world with a rainbow of love, colour the world with love.' Bishop Dennis Brennan welcomed everyone. He thanked them for coming and taking the time to remember and appreciate the work of such a great organisation. Later on, in his homily, he compared the ideas of the founder members of IHCPT to that of Walt Disney. 'If you think it, you can do it' he said. Walt Disney has brought great joy, wonder and imagination to children and adults over the

Afterwards, everyone filled in to the Community Centre in Clonard, where the ladies committee had a wonderful spread of sandwiches and treats for all. A scrumptious chocolate cake, complete with a 40 year birthday candle, and depicting the dancers was lit and everyone sang Happy Birthday IHCPT. We are already looking forward to celebrating the 45th year of IHCPT.





# Lourdes 2010



