

Helpers needed!



Lourdes Christmas Party Saturday 6th December, 12 Noon

Can you spare some time on Saturday 6th December 2014
If so then your help would be gratefully accepted at our Annual
Christmas Party for Assisted Pilgrims.

Mass will begin at 12 noon in the church followed by Christmas lunch for assisted
pilgrims and a festive buffet for all helpers in the church hall
at

**St. Aloysius Church, Prince Consort Road, Hebburn,
Tyne & Wear. NE31 1BE**

**If you are willing to help then please contact Elaine Scannell
elaine.scan@btinternet.com**

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

A huge thanks to Nick and Catherine McTernan who were married in July. Nick and Catherine set up a 'Just Giving' page and donated all of their wedding donations totalling over £3K to the Lourdes Hospitalite Fund. Thanks must also go to the Henzell family for organising the Kellett Cup Race Night which raised £1600 and also to Mick Hetherington who continues to raise thousands for Hospitalite funds. The prices of van hire and purchase of necessary equipment for the pilgrimage week is ever increasing and we rely on such fundraising events to help.

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION on Vigil of the Immaculate Conception Friday 5th December 2014 at St. Mary's Parish, Hexham

Homemade Soup and Roll will be served afterwards to raise funds for the
Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund

Prayers please

Please keep Tony Carter ,who is
seriously ill in your prayers.

Newsletter Information

In order to reduce printing and postage costs we would
like to email as many newsletters as possible in the fu-
ture . If you are willing to receive your newsletter by
email then could you please forward your email address
to Elaine Scannell at elaine.scan@btinternet.com



Pilgrimage Dates for 2015 - Friday 31st July - Friday 7th August



Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle



Lourdes Hospitalité Newsletter November 2014

Visit www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk

MEMORIES FROM 2014 PILGRIMAGE by *John Wilders (First time Youth Helper)*



'As a first timer to Lourdes I had absolutely no idea what to expect from this summers pilgrimage. One thing I did have to go on was the fact that pretty much everyone I know who has been to Lourdes before has been back, sometimes again and again. However, when you describe Lourdes to somebody who has never been before it is very difficult to make it sound like the extraordinary experience that young people tell of year on year. I can confirm that the pilgrimage is essentially a week of hard work and devotion to helping others less fortunate than ourselves. So how is it that this small French town attracts so many young people each year? 2014 in fact was the highest number of young people that had ever gone to Lourdes from our Diocese. Well, I'll tell you, or rather, try and tell you since it is very difficult to put it into words. One can try and rationalise the various physical and measurable factors that could be the key to truly understanding Lourdes.

The weather was mostly fine and there were a number of reflective services that were terrific to both attend and help out in through the music group. But, none of these really answer the question properly. That's because the real reason why Lourdes is such a truly special place to come to and do a weeks service is because of something that seems all too obvious now; the people. Every young person, pilgrim and passer-by in Lourdes is always welcoming and full of gratitude and joy. Lourdes is a place where you feel appreciated by everyone and really rather special, even if you've just taken an elderly gentleman a cup of tea. At the end of each day, you can lie down, exhausted, and feel like you have helped at least one person in some way, which not only makes them feel better but you also feel better about yourself. I will undoubtedly be returning to Lourdes again next year.'

‘ I had never been to Lourdes before, I was really nervous and had no idea what to expect. I only knew 3 people on the pilgrimage and I wasn’t even on their bus. I had never met the two lads I was sharing a room with, I didn’t know what I was doing and not ashamed to admit that I felt totally out of my depth! My first shift started with dread as I was pounced upon by an Anna to push a wheelchair to a random church I hadn’t heard of and didn’t know where it was. Standing in the hospital, I didn’t know what was going on, nothing made sense. Then I soon began to understand... the Accueil Pilgrims taught me about the healing nature of Lourdes and the glorious hope that prayer can bring to people. Lourdes gave me a chance to learn about myself, what I am capable of and I got to learn more about the people behind their disabilities. The Accueil Pilgrims were an inspiration to me, they helped to build me up, gave me confidence and taught me so much about living! Lourdes scared me before I went. Now...I can’t wait for my next chance to go. I learned a great deal, met some amazing people, made new friends and prayed. More importantly though it gave me the opportunity to trust in God and boy...did He come through with a knockout!!’ *By Paddy Denton*



A fantastic Youth Team

‘Thank you Hexham and Newcastle Diocesan Youth Team who should all be very proud of themselves as they acted and conducted themselves in a very professional manner. The level of care they gave me was second to none; they looked after me; put up with my jokes; fed me and mostly important they kept me on the straight and narrow... the only problem was I couldn’t understand them as I am a ‘Smoggy’ and they don’t speak English the same as we do!’ *From Andy (the Smoggy) Hodgson - Accueil Pilgrim*

