

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle - Pilgrimage to Lourdes



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 Email – lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk



I would like to thank you for volunteering for the 2019 Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Your offer of help on the Pilgrimage is greatly appreciated because we need it to make our pilgrimage one that gives the best service to our sick and assisted pilgrims, to those who need outreach and to all other pilgrims. I am very aware of the ever increasing financial costs of the pilgrimage and this is all the more reason for me to be very grateful for your offer of service.

The enclosed Helpers Form is important, so I ask that you complete and return it as soon as possible, but BEFORE Tuesday 30th April so that we can forward your information to the Safeguarding Office to get all necessary checks done. This does take some time to sort out, so I ask you to do this fairly quickly.

Pilgrimage ID badges. All helpers need a photo ID Security Badge for the Accueil St Frai. Your digital photograph should be emailed into the Pilgrimage Office – lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk - as soon as possible, clearly indicating who the image is. Usual rules apply: head and shoulders passport style photo against a plain background not a holiday snap and not a copy of a photograph!!

We continue to encourage all helpers to follow the guidelines we issued a few years ago about being fit for service whilst on pilgrimage and being able to offer the best care for those we undertake to look after whilst in Lourdes. To look after ourselves so that we can look after others is important. It is important to remind ourselves that we are also pilgrims undertaking this special pilgrimage to Lourdes. We are not there just to “do some work”, or “be on shift” but we are pilgrims too. The suggestion of a “Grand Silence” after 2am each night is important to remember during our time in Lourdes. How can people be fit for service if only getting a few hours sleep or over-drinking the night before being asked to care for sick pilgrims? I ask for your generous response to this request.

I thank you very much for your support to the pilgrimage and your offer of help in Lourdes. The voluntary service that we offer to those in our care is an integral part of every pilgrimage to Lourdes and I am delighted that you wish to be part of that.

With prayers and best wishes

Father Peter Stott.

Rev Father Peter J Stott
Pilgrimage Director

Dates for Meetings

Youth Meeting:

FRIDAY 14th June at 6.30pm St. Hilda's Church Sunderland. **ALL YOUTH MUST ATTEND.**

Preparation Day:

SUNDAY 16th June at Cardinal Hume School, Gateshead; 10am – 4pm. **ALL HELPERS MUST ATTEND. Please make sure that you can be free.**