

Dear Pilgrim,



Thank you for showing an interest in travelling to Lourdes with the Archdiocese of St. Andrews & Edinburgh in July 2019.

Last year was the 160th Anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to St. Bernadette.

January 7th, 2019 is the 175th Anniversary of the birth of St. Bernadette and she was baptised on 9th January. She died 140 years ago, on 16th April. To mark these significant dates on Bernadette's journey of faith, the reliquary containing relics of St. Bernadette, will be placed in the Grotto after every International Mass, on Sunday and Wednesday, for people to process past instead of the recitation of the Angelus.

The Lourdes topic for 2019 focuses on a Year of Bernadette, with the theme of 'Blessed are the Poor', a reminder that in Lourdes things come in a different order. The sick pilgrims are not an inconvenience, but are to be valued, cherished and loved, because in a way they unlock the underlying message of Lourdes.

For some of you this may be the first time you have thought about going to Lourdes, while for others it may be a return visit. Whichever it is, you will be welcome and I hope that your time in Lourdes may bring you many blessings and graces and help you to come closer to Jesus, through Mary.

The theme will be formally launched in Lourdes in 2019, when pilgrims gather to celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes, on 11th February, the anniversary of the first apparition.

Here in the Archdiocese there will be a Mass on 17th February in St. Cuthbert's, Slateford Road, Edinburgh at 3.00 p.m. at which the theme will be launched locally. The theme, during the pilgrimage season, will be used to help us reflect and pray on the graces that are presented to us by coming on pilgrimage.

Our time in Lourdes provides an opportunity for us, as individuals, as the family of the Archdiocese in Lourdes, and as the family of the wider family that is the universal Church, to reflect and pray to find out how best we can play our part in responding to those words chosen for the theme.

Despite a very difficult and uncertain financial situation affecting us all, there remains a great spirit of enthusiasm in our parishes, and especially in our young people. The planning is already underway, the organising committee are working hard, in addition to their own responsibilities, to ensure the necessary detailed arrangements are in place. Along with the sacrifices we make to go, in a way, these efforts mark the beginning of the pilgrimage. They are just as important as our arrival in Lourdes itself.

Helped by the commitment and example of the helpers, young and old, the prayer times and the fun times, the support and example of those staying in the Accueil Marie Saint Frai, we will come together as a family and journey together, in support and prayer, enabling us all to rediscover afresh the abiding presence of God, who is our constant companion in all that we say and do.

As it was for Our Lady and St. Bernadette, may this great time of prayer draw us ever closer to God, and to each other, and so experience the joy of mission and new life.

It is perhaps best summed up in the words of the great mosaic, found in the Rosary Basilica, *'Through Mary to Jesus.'*

I hope you will join us.

Monsignor A Duffy

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Pilgrimage Director

All Welcome

Every year six million people visit Lourdes as part of their spiritual journey. Old age, disability, frailty and ill health should not prevent you joining us. Our willing team of doctors, nurses and helpers are there to provide assistance both on the journey and in the Accueil Saint Frai in Lourdes.

Pilgrims who require supported care should contact the Accueil Saint Frai Booking Secretary, 61 Hailes Gardens, Edinburgh, EH13 0JN, Tel 0131 441 1939.

Pilgrims who wish to stay in the Accueil Saint Frai should not complete this hotel booking form but should apply to the Saint Frai bookings secretary.

For Hotel Pilgrims, Lourdes can be tiring and if your health or mobility is impaired you may require assistance. The official helpers are fully committed to the care of the pilgrims in the Accueil Saint Frai. If you do need assistance you must bring your own able-bodied helper with you.

Volunteering

We need doctors, registered nurses, carers, and volunteers who are physically fit and willing to help with pilgrims requiring support. All helpers must satisfy the safeguarding requirements of the Church, which includes the completion of an application form and declaration, the provision of satisfactory references, a clear PVG check, and attendance at preparation seasons.

Flights

Both flights depart from and return to Edinburgh and are non-smoking. Exact times will be advised well in advance of departure. Seats on the first flight are mainly allocated to Saint Frai pilgrims and helpers.

Prices include return air fare and all taxes, coach transfer from Lourdes airport to your hotel, accommodation and meals as booked, and Courier services in Lourdes.

Travel insurance is not included but is required. It is available from Tangney Tours. Single rooms are available at an extra charge, please ensure you request them at the time of booking.

Tangney Tours Helpful Information

Passports and Visas

All pilgrims must possess a full ten year passport which is valid up to 3 months after the return date of their pilgrimage. Please apply for your passport well in advance. Children of all ages, including babies, must have their own passports. They cannot be included in their parents' passports. If you hold a non EU passport, please ensure that you apply for a Schengen VISA, if required. These can take up to 3 months or more to process. For further information please contact us.

Travel Insurance and the EHIC Card

Travel insurance is essential and is a requirement. It is not just to cover medical costs but it covers you for cancellation, loss of baggage, accidents, loss of passport, travel delays and other incidents that may arise abroad. The cover we provide is suited to the tours we offer and is highly recommended.

The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is for people resident within the UK. The EHIC can be used to offset part of the medical treatment that may be required due to either an accident or illness whilst you are in Lourdes. It is important to note that it is not a substitute for travel insurance.

The EHIC is free and can be obtained by calling: 0300 333 1350 or visiting www.ehic.org.uk

The pilgrimage programme includes:

- Mass at the Grotto
- Stations of the Cross
- International Mass
- Marian Torchlight Procession
- Service of Reconciliation
- Blessed Sacrament Procession

Pilgrims will also have the opportunity to participate in additional excursions to local tourist attractions and have plenty of time for personal devotion. All hotels have lifts, are accessible by wheelchair users and are within walking distance of the Domain along a flat route. All rooms have private facilities and the hotels provide you with three meals a day, included in the price. Meal requirements for Vegetarians etc., and special medical diets, must be advised in advance by completing the relevant section in the booking form.

Hotels

All the hotels listed are suitable for wheelchairs and most provide disabled rooms. All are good quality and have been used by us for many years. Some hotels are suitable for sick pilgrims, contact us to ensure that appropriate medical supervision can be provided during the pilgrimage.

St Georges: This hotel is a well maintained family run hotel. The hotel has a friendly atmosphere, a cosy bar area and a restaurant on the first floor.

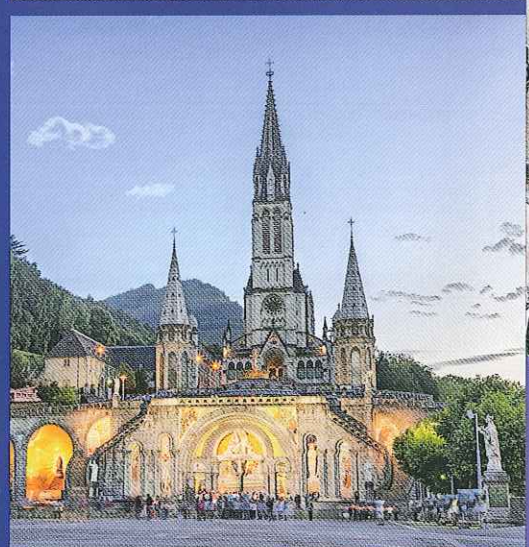
Irlande: Well established older hotel with modern amenities. Quite close to the Domain.

Stella: This spacious and modern hotel is very well situated within walking distance of St Josephs gate. It has a bar, lounge and an outside terrace and is well known for its friendly atmosphere.

Continental (Bed and breakfast only): Located at the entrance to the Domain of Lourdes opposite the Accueil Marie Saint-Frai. It has a friendly atmosphere, nice bar-lounge and comfortable rooms.

Saint Jean Apartments: Located close to the centre of Lourdes, the Saint Jean features fully furnished and well-equipped apartments which include a kitchenette, flat-screen TV, and ensuite rooms.

Beau Site: This 3 star hotel is only for the youth pilgrimage. Wifi throughout.



Discount / Supplement

Child discounts are available, please contact the office for full details.

Single rooms are available at an additional cost, please see booking form for details.

Other hotels may be available, please contact Tangney Tours