



# Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2014

*Lourdes, the joy of conversion*

## 82nd Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Dear fellow pilgrims,

It gives me great pleasure, with this brochure, to launch our preparations for the 82nd Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, which will take place from the 1st—7th August, 2014.

If you have travelled with the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes over the past three years, you will recall how the pilgrimage committee organised the content of the pilgrimage while in Lourdes and also the travel and accommodation arrangements for pilgrims. During that time we have helped to bring down the increasing costs of a pilgrimage to Lourdes so that more people from around the diocese could afford to travel with the diocesan family, under the leadership of our Bishop.

As the pilgrimage director, I have the continuing responsibility to ensure the best costs possible for pilgrims. However, the additional administration required by our many willing volunteers who help organise the pilgrimage does present some challenges. Therefore, for 2014 we have adopted a new model for organising the transport and accommodation for our pilgrimage. Firstly, we have appointed Joe Walsh Tours (JWT) to manage the air section of the pilgrimage and Pilgrimage Options to oversee the overland section. Further details of both options can be found in this brochure.

This year, the Bishop of Lourdes, Mgr Brouwet, invites us to celebrate Joy; the joy which arises in our hearts when we turn from sin to life in Christ. Therefore, I warmly invite you to join the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in August, so that together as fellow pilgrims, we may celebrate that joy, which only comes from the journey of conversion that the Lord invites us all to make.

Fr Michael Jones  
Pilgrimage Director

### **BY AIR**— provided by *Joe Walsh Tours Limited*



**6 nights full-board in Lourdes**  
**Departing Friday, 1st August**  
**Returning Thursday 7th August**

Joe Walsh Tours Limited, have organised two chartered flights for us this year, one from Manchester and one from Liverpool Airports, direct to Lourdes for 6 nights full-board accommodation. (Transfers to Liverpool will be organised on your behalf). Both return flights will be from Lourdes direct to Manchester. For booking forms, please contact 0161-820 8790.

### **BY COACH**— provided by *Pilgrimage Options*



**7 nights full-board in Lourdes**  
**Departing Thursday, 31st July**  
**Returning Friday 8th August**

Options Tours, in collaboration with the Pilgrimage Committee, have organised two options for this year:

**1) Overland with overnight stop on route** — Departing from the diocese on the morning of Thursday, 31st July for travel by coach to Dover, with afternoon crossing by ferry to Calais and onward journey for overnight stay in a hotel south of Paris. Leaving the hotel in the early morning of Friday, 1st August for the onward journey to your hotel in Lourdes arriving in the late afternoon/early evening. 7 nights accommodation, full board in Lourdes. Departing Lourdes on Thursday, 7th August for return by express coach, arriving at your original departure point in the early hours of Friday 8th August.

**2) Overland with stopover on route and on return.** Departing on the morning of Thursday, 31st July for travel by coach to Dover, with afternoon crossing by ferry to Calais and onward journey for overnight stay in a hotel south of Paris. Leaving the hotel in the early morning of Friday, 1st August for the onward journey to your hotel in Lourdes arriving in the late afternoon/early evening. 7 nights accommodation, full board in Lourdes. Departing Lourdes on Thursday, 7th August travelling through France stopping north of Paris for one night accommodation, leaving the hotel on Friday, 8th August for onward journey to your original departure point in the late evening of the 8th August.

### **The Diocese of Salford—Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

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*Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered 250037*

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## TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

As I mentioned earlier in my introduction, this year the Pilgrimage Committee have appointed agents to handle our pilgrimage travel and accommodation requirements. Joe Walsh Tours Limited will be organising bookings, flights and accommodation for those wishing to travel by air. Pilgrimage Options, working in partnership with the pilgrimage office, will receive and organise the booking arrangements for all those pilgrims wishing to travel overland.

For sick pilgrims, if you intend to travel to Lourdes to stay in the **Accueil Marie St Frai**, then we ask you to please contact the pilgrimage office directly, for information on travel, accommodation and the appropriate booking form.

## OUR HOTELS

The Grotto where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette, the Sanctuaries and the Basilicas are all in the Domain. The hotels we use are all within walking distance to the Domain and offer good value for money, the more expensive ones generally being closer.



All rooms have private facilities and all hotels serve three meals a day. (Some hotels provide a buffet service for lunch and dinner). Special menus and vegetarian meals are not as well thought-out as in the UK and will often disappoint; do take a suggested menu with you. If you have special dietary requirements, you should indicate this on your booking form. On arrival the first meal will be the evening dinner.

## SICK PILGRIMS IN LOURDES

Old age, disability, frailty or ill-health should not prevent you from joining the pilgrimage. Every year a team of doctors, nurses, adult helpers and young people go to Lourdes to assist those pilgrims who suffer from poor health or mobility problems. Although these people may not feel "sick", this is the long-accepted term for these pilgrims. There are two options for sick pilgrims: staying in a hotel or staying in the Accueil Marie St Frai.



### Staying in a Hotel:

Sick pilgrims who choose to stay in a hotel, must ensure that they have an able-bodied carer—who must be over 18 years of age - with them at all times. This carer will be responsible for them during the pilgrimage. Pilgrimage volunteers may be able to offer some additional support and assistance to sick pilgrims at times during the pilgrimage. Should you require assistance from pilgrimage volunteers or the use of a wheelchair at the airport or in Lourdes, it is essential you indicate this on your booking form. Please be aware that any assistance provided, is done so by a team of volunteers and is dependent on the number of volunteers available. Should you require any advice about which hotel to stay in, please contact the Pilgrimage Office.

We have identified four hotels on the list to encourage those who require wheelchair assistance in Lourdes to stay in these hotels. This will allow us the opportunity to provide a volunteer to help you get around Lourdes by pushing your wheelchair. These are marked with a +. Please note, this does not guarantee that the facilities in these hotels are adapted for disabled users or have special features internally.

### Staying in the Accueil Marie St Frai:

Pilgrims who require a greater degree of assistance, including medical and nursing assistance, or who do not have a carer to come with them, are invited to stay at the Accueil Marie St Frai, which is situated in the middle of all the hotels in Lourdes. The number of places in the Accueil is limited and allocation is made according to need. As requested earlier, **anyone wishing to apply to stay in the Accueil Marie St Frai, should contact the Pilgrimage Office directly, as soon as possible, for a different booking form.**



### New regulations on Electric Wheelchairs

Please note that the carriage of electric wheelchairs is restricted onboard the aircraft. If you are considering bringing a motorised wheelchair/scooter, details must be submitted to Joe Walsh Tours in advance for clearance. Acceptance is subject to any restrictions by the airline. If you are considering a motorised wheelchair, please contact Joe Walsh Tours or the pilgrimage office well in advance of travel.

## VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to help care for sick pilgrims during the pilgrimage, whether as a member of the medical and nursing team, a volunteer helper, as part of a Youth Group, or with the Salford Lourdes Hospitalité and you will be over 16 on the 30 July 2014, please contact the Pilgrimage Office directly. Please note that all volunteers will be required to complete a Volunteer Application Form and may be required to complete an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service. Volunteer application forms are available from the pilgrimage office or can be downloaded from [www.salfordlourdes.co.uk](http://www.salfordlourdes.co.uk).

## SICK PILGRIMS FUND

This fund assists financially in the care of the sick pilgrims who travel to Lourdes with us. It continues only through the generosity of donors. You are invited to contribute by sending a donation to 'THE SALFORD LOURDES SICK PILGRIMS FUND', c/o The Diocesan Pilgrimage Office. Thank -you for your generosity.

## Data Protection Act 1998

Information provided to agents will be used solely for the purpose for which it was given. It will be held confidentially, updated when appropriate, and destroyed when no longer required. Information will be shared with the pilgrimage office.

# Lourdes, the joy of conversation

## PRICES PER PERSON

Hotel	Coach 8 nights (1 stop)	Coach 9 nights (2 stops)	AIR 6 nights
Hotel Astoria	£470	£520	£625
Hotel National	£470	£520	£625
Hotel Irelande +	£510	£560	£645
Hotel Christina	£510	£560	£645
Hotel Jeanne D'Arc +	£570	£620	£659
Hotel Chapelle et Parc +	£560	£610	£685
Hotel Ste Rose B	£560	£610	£685
Hotel Mercure Imperial +	£570	£620	£695
Hotel Astrid	£595	£645	£699
Hotel Padoue	£595	£645	£699
Accueil Marie St Frai	N/A	N/A	£600

*(please note, bookings for the Accueil Marie St Frai are made directly to the pilgrimage office.)*

The hotels marked with + are most suitable for those with limited mobility. They are the closest to the Domain and the shops and cafes are easily accessible as well. Staying in these hotels is particularly important, if you will be requiring wheelchair assistance from our young volunteers. Hotels marked B have buffet provision at mealtimes.

The availability of single rooms is limited and the prices for the single rooms are on the booking form. The earlier you book, the more likely it is that you will secure the hotel of your choice. The organisers will make every effort to meet your hotel requirements but cannot guarantee to do so. They reserve the right to allocate a similar class hotel if the volume of bookings in your chosen hotel deems it necessary.

## OVERLAND TRAVEL prices include:

- Option 1 (8 nights)—includes 1 night accommodation on route in 3-star hotel, south of Paris, with bed and breakfast.
- Option 2 (9 nights) —includes 1 night accommodation on route and on return.
- Both options include—return coach, ferry and 7 nights full-board accommodation in Lourdes.

## AIR TRAVEL prices include:

- Outbound flights from either Manchester or Liverpool to Lourdes.
- Those flying from Liverpool will be transported by organised coach to the airport from the diocese. The cost of this transfer is included.
- All flights return Manchester Airport. Please note, return transfer from Manchester is not included.
- 6 nights full-board accommodation in Lourdes.
- transfers from/to Lourdes Airport.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

If you do not have existing travel cover, travel insurance is available through the respective travel operators. Further details can be found on the individual booking forms. You must bring with you a European Health Insurance Card which has replaced the Form E111. You should apply at any Post Office for this card and allow 6 weeks for delivery.

## PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Passports are required. Should you need to obtain or renew one, apply early to avoid delay. Non-EU Citizens may require a visa and should check with the French Embassy at least three months before departure. Passports should be valid for at least 3 months (6 months for non-EU residents) after your return.

## Important

Pilgrims who have medical conditions or disabilities MUST disclose this information on your booking form. At the discretion of the Pilgrimage Doctor a further form may be sent to you requesting more information from you and your doctor. Failure to disclose a medical condition or travelling against your Doctor's advice may invalidate your insurance.

## How to Book

Please complete *all* sections of the relevant Booking Form in **clear, block letters** and send with a cheque (minimum £150 deposit, plus insurance where taken) to:

For Air travel, cheques should be made payable to:

**'Joe Walsh Tours'**

And send to:

**Joe Walsh Tours, 143 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2,  
Ireland.**

**BALANCE TO BE PAID BY FRIDAY, 9TH MAY 2014**

For overland travel, cheques should be made payable to:

**'SALFORD DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE A/C'**

And send to:

**Pilgrimage Options Ltd, 768 Manchester Road,  
Rochdale, OLL 3AW**

**BALANCE TO BE PAID BY FRIDAY, 20th JUNE 2014**

One cheque may cover several bookings, provided all names are written on the reverse. We regret that we are unable to accept cash payments. Early booking and payment, in full or by instalments, will be welcome.

