



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST ANDREWS & EDINBURGH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2024

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dear Volunteer Helper,

Thank you so much for volunteering to be a helper on the 2024 Pilgrimage. We are delighted that you are joining the Pilgrimage team. We would not be able to run a Pilgrimage without people like yourself giving up your time to work with our supported pilgrims – it is very much appreciated.

This letter is really just to say hello and let you know about some of the helper requirements and forthcoming events.

Catholic Church Safeguarding Requirements

Some helpers (most new helpers and some existing) will have safeguarding checks to complete. This is because work in Lourdes is regarded as 'regulated'. Helpers must have completed a safeguarding application form, have satisfactory references, attended safeguarding training, have a clear 'PVG' check, and received their approval letter from the Archdiocese. If you have any outstanding checks then we will have been in touch with you, so please do engage with us and complete all required forms/paperwork so you are able to volunteer when in Lourdes.

Pilgrimage Requirements

In addition to Safeguarding provisions detailed above, there are some specific Pilgrimage requirements to be undertaken prior to the Pilgrimage. These include:

- **ONLINE TRAINING ON SAFETY AND GOOD PRACTICE.** We have purchased an online course for volunteers to work through. Once we receive this year's licences, we will send you an email with course login details. You can then make a start on this online training. It would be great if this training could be completed as soon as possible. Please keep an eye on junk/spam folders in case the email ends up in there! New helpers will be sent a link to the full course. Existing helpers will be sent a link for a shorter refresher course.
- **PRACTICAL PREPARATION DAY.** This will take place on Sunday 9th June 2024 at St Augustine's RC High School, Edinburgh. You can see full information on our website at: <https://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/prep24>. Please have a look at this as it details all of the arrangements including start times, programme, and Mass arrangements.

If you have any questions about the helper requirements, then please get in touch with us (contact email below).

Diary & Information

Please keep an eye on our website and especially the following pages:

Calendar: <https://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/calendar>
Lourdes 2024: <https://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/lourdes24>
New Helpers: <https://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/helpers>
Practical Preparation Day: <https://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/prep24>

New Helpers

Whilst most existing helpers will be aware of the layout of the Sanctuary and the Town, new helpers will need more guidance. We therefore plan to hold an orientation session on Friday 5th July (arrival day). We will confirm the exact time and meeting point to new helpers later.

Finally

We know that there can be quite a lot of requirements to fulfil in order to be a helper – especially in your first year, but we are used to dealing with these checks and we can help you to get them completed as quickly as possible, so please bear with us.

If you have any questions, please get in touch by emailing us at enquiries@edinburgh-lourdes.com

Thank you again for volunteering on the 2024 Pilgrimage.

Yours sincerely

Scott Mackenzie

**On behalf of the Pilgrimage Committee
Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh
Lourdes Pilgrimage**



Pastoral Theme 2024 – “Come here in Procession”

Web: www.edinburgh-lourdes.com

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