



Edinburgh Lourdes News



APRIL 2026

Dear friends

A very Happy Easter to you all! As we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection, may we all experience the blessings of Eastertide.

We hope that this Newsletter finds you all well! There are a number of events coming up and we are gearing up to begin our preparation events with our growing helper team. We look forward to working with our helper team so that we can provide the best possible care for our assisted pilgrims whilst in Lourdes this coming July.

Bookings are still open for our Pilgrimage and you may have seen a recent advert in your parish bulletin. We really need to increase the number of nurses travelling with us this year and there are still places available for Assisted Pilgrims. **If you, or anyone you know falls into any of these two categories, please do get in touch with us!**

For all other pilgrims, bookings are still open. There is more information within our Newsletter on how to book.

If you would like more information about signing up as a helper, as a member of the medical team, as an assisted pilgrim or as one of our hotel pilgrims, please contact us at the following email address:

edinburgh-lourdes@gmail.com

www.edinburgh-lourdes.com

This year's pilgrimage:
Friday 10th - Friday 17th July 2026

Combined news from the St Andrews & Edinburgh Lourdes Pilgrimage & Hospitality Committees

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of those who have gone to their eternal rest in the last year...

Elizabeth McFarlane, Josie Shaw, Haydn Carr, Moira McCann, Sadie Rodgers, Sir Tom Farmer, Glen MacDonald, Doris Tonner, Monsignor Charlie Cavanagh, Jennifer Williams, Josephine Jackson, Gerry Daly, Agnes Hunter, Ann Mackenzie, Eileen Lyall and Mary Anderson. ***May they rest in peace and rise in glory.***

Annual General Meeting



The Hospitaillité holds an Annual General Meeting each year. During this meeting, a report is shared with attendees on the work of the Hospitaillité in the past year. Committee members are also elected and plans are put in place for the year ahead. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting and you do not need to be a member of the Committee to come along and share your ideas!

This year's meeting will take place on **Monday 11th May 2026 at 7:30pm**. This will be an online meeting, held on **ZOOM**. Email edinburgh-lourdes@gmail.com if you would like the link sent.

Quiz & Social

friday 22nd May at 7pm

St. Margaret's Church Hall, Davidsons
Mains

BYOB | No Ticket Required

Come along and join us! All welcome!

ORDERS FOR UNIFORMS (Hoodies, Polo Shirts, etc)

Last year, we offered all helpers the opportunity to purchase branded polo shirts and hoodies, which the majority of helpers bought. We are currently working with a supplier to make the necessary arrangements to do this again. We will be in touch as soon as possible to let you know the arrangements.

LOURDES 2026 Friday 10th - Friday 17th July 2026

Bookings are still open, although you do now need to contact the Tour Operator, Tangney Tours. You may be placed on a waiting list, but we are also working with Tangney Tours on alternatives to the main Pilgrimage flight. Click [HERE](#) to access the Tangney Tours booking page with will direct you to contact them. Their number is **01732 886666**.

HELPER INFORMATION

Our website has all of the information you require to get you registered as a helper! You can access this information by clicking [HERE](#). In summary, we need to ensure that ALL helpers have:

1. Complete a helper declaration
2. Tell us what group(s) you want to be in
3. Complete a set of Lourdes-related online 'BLMA' modules
4. Attend a Practical Preparation session

In addition to the requirements detailed above for all helpers, new helpers are also required to undertake Safeguarding checks:

Being a helper in Lourdes is considered to be 'regulated' work. This means that volunteer helpers are required to gain clearances from the Catholic Church. This consists of:

1. Completion of an **Archdiocesan Application Form** (and provision of 2 references)
2. Completion of a **PVG Application Form** and a PVG Check
3. **Undertake Safeguarding Training** - this can be done online or face-to-face

The Safeguarding Office from the Archdiocese will contact new helpers and arrange for these checks to be completed.

New helpers should also read the [Risk Assessments](#) and [Code of Conduct](#).

To access any of the above links, click the [HERE](#) link at the top of this section.

APPEAL FOR NURSES

As we previously mentioned, we are keen to recruit more nurses to be part of the Medical Team. We have circulated this appeal throughout the Archdiocese and we have also tried to encourage new Nurses through the various NHS areas.

If you are a Nurse or you know of someone who this appeal might be relevant to, please either get in touch yourself, or pass our details onto others. The more we have on our Medical team, the more Assisted Pilgrims we can take with us on Pilgrimage.

APPEAL FOR ASSISTED PILGRIMS

As with the Medical Team appeal, we are also appealing for more Assisted Pilgrims to get in touch. As an Assisted Pilgrim, you will:

- Receive full time care from a team of medical professionals and trained helpers 24/7.
- Be assisted to participate in a full pilgrimage programme which includes liturgical and social events.
- Participate in a trip to the Lake of Lourdes.
- Experience a week never to be forgotten!

Please contact us you if you, or someone you know would like to join us as an Assisted Pilgrim!



Lourdes Pastoral Theme

2026-2028

LOURDES
SANCTUAIRE

Each year, the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes presents a theme which is a basic pastoral and planning framework for pilgrimage organisers and leaders, providing ideas for the organisation of pilgrimages and events in the Sanctuary during the year.

Over the next three years, the Sanctuary of Lourdes is inviting us on a spiritual pilgrimage, a journey to the heart of the Virgin Mary's story :

2026 : the Annunciation

2027 : the Visitation

2028 : the Magnificat and 170 years of apparitions

This year, we'll let ourselves be guided by the story of the Annunciation. Our purpose is to follow Mary on the threshold of her incredible adventure of faith, at the very beginning of her absolute trust in God's will.

This is the year of the welcome, of listening and of the 'yes' that changed everything.

This year's Pastoral Theme is outlined in the logo you see below. During our pilgrimage, we will explore the significance of this theme to us pilgrims.



Led by His Grace, the Archbishop, our clergy will lead us in reflections through their homilies as they help us to unpack this first part of the three-year focus for all who make the pilgrimage to Lourdes.

We very much look forward to doing this together. The homilies and reflections from the clergy who join us as pilgrims themselves, are always a highlight!

FUNDRAISING

200 Club

Congratulations to our latest winners!

DECEMBER: Clare McGillivray (1st), Geraldine Donoghue (2nd) and Catherine Whitten (3rd).

FEBRUARY: Raymond McMahon (1st), Teresa Gallagher (2nd) and Tricia McCauley (3rd).

This year, the 200 Club has donated around £1500 to the Hospitalité funds. This is an amazing amount and contributes to much needed funds. Our thanks go to Paul Barry for co-ordinating the membership, draws and accounts for the 200 Club and sincere thanks to all of those who are members of the 200 Club.

WE STILL HAVE NUMBERS AVAILABLE!

The more members we have... the higher the prize stakes!

Are you a member of the 200 Club but do not pay by 'Standing Order'? Then it is time to renew your subscription. Please see the attached form to do this. If you would like to join the 200 Club, then please complete a form (attached with this Newsletter or go to www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/fundraising/) and start a STANDING ORDER beginning on 1st June 2026. You can do this online. This only costs £12 per year for each number you purchase.

SUBSCRIPTIONS & DONATIONS

We rely upon members subscriptions each year to assist with administration costs, etc. Our 'Subs' are minimum donation of £5 per year. You can either pay this directly to Paul Barry at any event, or by Standing Order. Information regarding payment of 200 Club and 'Subs' by Standing Order is outlined below.

SUBSCRIPTIONS	200 CLUB
Account Number: 00409700 Sort Code: 80-02-85	Account Number: 06003435 Sort Code: 80-02-83
Remember it is a minimum of £5 per year. You are welcome to offer more of a donation if you wish. You can also set up a regular donation to funds, if you wish. Ensure you put your name as a reference.	The 200 club comes off annually. The amount per number is £12, therefore, if you have additional numbers, an additional cost is applied. Ensure you put your name as a reference.

Make your shopping easy by visiting www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/edinburglourdes. You shop with over 2,000 well-known retailers such as Amazon, John Lewis, Boots, Tesco, Argos, M&S and many more. When you make a purchase online, the retailer makes a donation to Edinburgh Lourdes Hospitalité Committee. To remind you to use easyfundraising please follow the link <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/extra-ways-to-raise/> which will remind you to use easyfundraising for all of your purchases. Easy Fundraising also has an App which can be downloaded to iPhone or Android phones. It is an easy and way to support us and it doesn't cost you any more than your normal shopping would!

LEGACY GIVING

Leaving a gift to charity in your will keeps your money working toward the causes that are important to you. Would you consider leaving a legacy to the Edinburgh Lourdes Hospitalité?

No matter how small, leaving something to us in your Will really makes a difference and will ensure that the Pilgrimage continues to serve the needs of those in need throughout our Archdiocese for many years to come.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date:	Event:	Details:
Monday 11 th May	Annual General Meeting	On Zoom at 7:30pm
Friday 22 nd May	Quiz and Social	7pm in St. Margaret's Church Hall, Davidson's Mains. BYOB.
Thursday 11 th June	Practical Preparation (Helpers Only) <i>You only need to attend ONE preparation session.</i>	5:30pm in St. Augustine's High School, Edinburgh
Saturday 20 th June	Practical Preparation (Helpers Only) <i>You only need to attend ONE preparation session.</i>	10am in St. Augustine's High School, Edinburgh
Sunday 5 th July	Mass of Welcome	3:30pm in St. Cuthbert's Church, Slateford Road, Edinburgh
Friday 10 th - Friday 17 th July	Pilgrimage Week	
Sunday 23 rd August	Mass of Thanksgiving	3pm in St. Cuthbert's Church, Slateford Road, Edinburgh
Sunday 15 th November	November Mass for Deceased Pilgrims and Benefactors and all loved ones	3pm in St. Cuthbert's Church
Sunday 13 th December	Annual Carol Service	3pm in St. Margaret's Church, Davidson's Mains

