



Diocese of Middlesbrough Lourdes Pilgrimage

Statement of Commitment

Everyone has their own reasons for going on Pilgrimage to Lourdes and individual wishes and preferences are respected. However, whilst no one should feel compelled to do more than they are capable of, the Pilgrimage does have a code with which pilgrims are expected to comply.

There are good reasons for this:

- We make our Pilgrimage to Lourdes in response to Our Lady's invitation. We are made aware there of her love and her wish that we should be drawn closer to her Son. No member of the Pilgrimage should prejudice the spiritual benefit that others are searching for.
- We enable the Supported Pilgrims to go to Lourdes and care for them there, both physically and by praying with them. There will be many other fellow pilgrims, not necessarily travelling with us, whom we can help in a variety of ways. For the week of Pilgrimage, we try to put the interests of others before our own.

Lourdes is administered by the Sanctuary authorities, as well as the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes, under the Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, and we go there at their invitation. Any behavior that falls short of the standard they expect is likely to lead to that invitation being withdrawn. It is the duty of those entrusted with the running of the Middlesbrough Pilgrimage to take whatever action they consider necessary to ensure that we all serve in an appropriate way.

The Pilgrimage welcomes some volunteers who are under the age of 18; this requires all adults to be sensitive to them and their needs. It is the responsibility of all to maintain appropriate boundaries and to be an example of good conduct to those younger than themselves.

The Pilgrimage is under an obligation to comply with certain policies, including Health and Safety and the Safeguarding Policy. The Policies and the Code of Conduct have been prepared by the Pilgrimage Organising Committee and will be enforced to protect the good name of the Diocese of Middlesbrough and to ensure the enjoyment of everyone on our Pilgrimage.

Code of Conduct

We therefore require you, as a Middlesbrough Pilgrim to Lourdes, to sign that you accept the Code of Conduct which confirms your understanding of the Statement of Commitment and your willingness to respect and comply with its intentions in spirit and in practice.

- I will accept the authority of those appointed to positions of responsibility by Bishop Marcus, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Middlesbrough; and will be honest and open in my dealings with them.
- I will attend all meetings at which my presence is required.
- I will put the interests of others and particularly the Supported Pilgrims, before my own and not, by act or omission,
- I will behave in such a way as to uphold the good name of the Middlesbrough Pilgrimage, setting a good example for others.
- I will accept and comply with the Policies and codes of practice laid down by the Pilgrimage, including disciplinary action should my actions fall below the requirements of this Code of Conduct. Breaches of our Code of Conduct Policy could result in the repatriation of the individual at their own expense.

A copy of the policies will be available in Hard Copy in the Accueil Notre Dame

In Summary

By joining the Middlesbrough Pilgrimage, we become part of the Lourdes Pilgrimage Family. We must strive to be worthy successors of the traditions set by our predecessors, and ensure that their example of "Love in Action" is continued and adhered to.