



# Diocese of Middlesbrough Lourdes Pilgrimage

## Lourdes Pilgrimage Risk Assessment

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The purpose of this risk assessment is to ensure that no-one suffers any harm as a result of a Pilgrimage activity.

## Key Definitions

- HAZARD - could be described as anything with the potential to cause harm
- RISK – the potential harm if the hazard was to happen
- HARM – physical injury, psychological injury or damage
- RISK ASSESSMENT – examination of what could cause harm in order to decide if steps need to be taken or the activity stopped

## Background

The Risk Assessments include measures to be taken to reduce any risk – so far as is reasonably practicable – balancing risk against cost (effort/resource/time), and ensuring that the cost is proportionate to the risk. These assessments are regularly reviewed and updated where necessary.

## Method

This risk assessment was created using the following rationale:

- Identifying the hazard.
- Identifying existing control measures
- Assessing the likelihood of the hazard occurring and the severity
- Make a decision and plan revision

Once the above factors have been considered, they are scored on a matrix based on Likelihood and Severity. The tables below give guidance on how a score is reached:

Likelihood	Rating
Unlikely (occurrence close to zero)	1
May Happen (capable of taking place)	2
Likely (inclined to occur)	3
Very Likely (high inclination of occurrence)	4
Certain (will happen, not IF but WHEN)	5

Severity Statement	Rating
Minor Injury (first aid immediately available)	1
Minor Injury (first aid to be found)	2
Significant Injury (A&E)	3
Major Injury (hospitalisation)	4
Fatal Injury	5

From these tables, we can calculate the risk rating by multiplying the two numbers:

$$\text{Risk Rating} = \text{Likelihood} \times \text{Severity}$$

The risk rating can be categorised as follows:

1-4: Low, 5-10: Medium, 11-25: High

**Low Risk** - Continue, but review periodically to ensure controls remain effective

**Medium Risk** - Continue, but implement additional reasonably practicable controls where possible and monitor regularly

**High Risk** - Activity must not proceed until risks are reduced to a low or medium level

## Glossary

### Term

- Accueil - Care Centre in Lourdes where registered sick pilgrims stay.
- Chief Doctor - Pilgrimage Doctor who is in overall charge of sick pilgrim care.
- Dedicated wheelchair lane - A red strip that is painted on the road in parts of the town of Lourdes to allow safe access to the shrine.
- Disclosure - Criminal Records/Protection of Vulnerable Groups (DBS) check.
- Domaine - The name of the area in Lourdes where the Grotto, Churches and Processional routes can be found.
- GHIC - Global Health Insurance Card.
- Fourgon - Special bus used to transport sick pilgrims from the Airport to the Accueil and vice versa.
- GMC GP - General Medical Council General Practitioner.
- Heads of Departments - People who lead the defined helper groups – doctors, nurses, men, women and clergy.
- HNDL - Hospitalité de Notre Dame de Lourdes. The organisation in Lourdes set up to assist the many pilgrims who visit each year.
- Mechanical aids NMC - Equipment used to assist the moving and handling of people Nursing and Midwifery Council.
- Pilgrimage Organising Committee - Team of people, including Heads of Department who organise and oversee the Pilgrimage.
- Day of Formation - Annual day where preparation on the work involved in Lourdes is delivered.
- Voitures - Carriage used for transporting sick pilgrims
- Safeguarding Policy - Policy that governs the protection of vulnerable adults, including sick pilgrims
- Youth Leaders - Youth for Lourdes (Pilgrimage Youth Group)

## Acknowledgements

In putting this set of documents together, we would like to thank HCPT – the Pilgrimage Trust, and the Catholic Association for sharing their processes and materials.

## Index of Risk Assessments

Activity	Activity being Assessed	Hazard
1.	Medical emergencies	Pilgrims becoming ill
2.	Distributing medication	Unqualified helpers administering medication
3.	Management of medication	Medication error
4.	Conduct of helpers and their ability to provide care	Medical emergency (e.g. illness, injury, alcohol poisoning, drug abuse, etc.)
5.	Supervision of helpers by doctors and registered nurses	Helpers providing inadequate care
6.	Moving and handling	Injury to Accueil Pilgrims or helpers
7.	Safety in the Accueil	Accidents to Accueil Pilgrims and helpers
8.	Protection of supported pilgrims on the Pilgrimage	Failure to protect Supported Pilgrims
9.	Identification of Accueil pilgrims	Accueil Pilgrims are not identified as such
10.	Accueil pilgrims becoming lost	Accueil Pilgrims becoming lost
11.	Travelling by coach	Moving traffic, moving and handling people and baggage, poor operating practice by the coach company
12.	Travelling by fourgon	Moving and handling people, poor operating practice by Hospitalité de Notre Dame de Lourdes Stagiers (HNDL)
13.	Travelling by aircraft	Airport hazards including lost people, escalators and lifts and other internal transportation methods, poor operating practice by airport and/or airline, moving and handling of both people and baggage
14.	Traffic in Lourdes	Moving vehicles, narrow roads, narrow or blocked pavements, parked vehicles, many pedestrians, change in direction of traffic flow, traffic on right in two-way systems, height of pavements.

Activity	Activity being Assessed	Hazard
15.	Intown excursions	Competency of premises to assess and control risks, flashing lights, subdued lighting
16.	Out of town excursions	Water, steep walks, weather, animals, moving traffic, leisure activities
17.	Taking part in Torchlight Procession	Setting fire to yourself or someone else
18.	High Stations of the Cross	Steep slopes, uneven pathways, slippery when wet
19.	Riverside activities in Lourdes	Cold, deep, fast flowing river (at Lourdes)
20.	Adequate protection for weather	Sunburn and exposure to the elements
21.	Use of wheelchairs and voitures	Incorrect use of rolling equipment causing injury to helper and/or sick pilgrim
22.	Building emergencies – Accueil	Smoke and fire, trapping in lifts
23.	Water ceremonies and visits to Baths	Person being affected by water temperature and moving and handling
24.	Use of electrical equipment by music group	Injury due to accidental contact with electrical equipment and tripping
25.	Personal safety of helpers	Personal physical or psychological harm to helpers
26.	Personal safety of helpers	Electrical Equipment in Kitchen

# 1 Medical Emergencies

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Pilgrims becoming ill			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	3	2	6	Medium
Who is at risk?	Middlesbrough Diocesan Pilgrims			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Doctors must have current GMC registration, license to practice and defence cover checked</li> <li>• All Nurses PIN numbers will be checked</li> <li>• All Supported Pilgrims will have completed a medical form which will be assessed by medical team.</li> <li>• All Supported Pilgrims receive medical assessment visit</li> <li>• Any pilgrims requiring assistance to be notified to Executive Director as soon as possible</li> <li>• Decision on fitness to travel taken by Chief Doctor</li> <li>• All helpers attend mandatory preparation day session and are made aware of their remits and recognise limitations and how to summon medical assistance</li> <li>• All pilgrims must disclose relevant medical information on booking form or, should that change prior to travel, Chief Doctor must be informed</li> <li>• All helpers must be aware of procedures in the event of any accident or emergency</li> <li>• Supported pilgrims and helpers must have a current personal European Health Insurance Card and bring adequate medication</li> <li>• Doctors have access to medical supplies from Pilgrimage stock and local pharmacies</li> <li>• In emergencies, Doctors and Nurses are informed of procedure to summon emergency services and arrange hospital admission with aid of travel agent</li> <li>• Wherever possible doctors and/or nurses will be present on designated Supported Pilgrim flight and at all ceremonies where significant numbers of assisted pilgrims are present</li> <li>• If a hotel pilgrim requires transfer to the Accueil due to unforeseen circumstances, Chief Doctor will assess situation, contact their own doctor and family</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Pilgrimage Doctors and Nurses throughout Pilgrimage.			
Review required	After the Pilgrimage.			

## 2 Distributing Medication

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazard	Unqualified helpers administering medication			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	1	4	4	Low
Who is at risk?	Anyone requiring medical care.			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All medical team to provide formal proof of qualifications</li> <li>• Chief Nurse to verify with Nursing &amp; Midwifery Council (NMC) that the applicants' PIN number is valid without restrictions</li> <li>• Chief Doctor and Chief Nurse to meet with their team before allowing them to perform duties</li> <li>• Only identified nurses distribute medication.</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Chief Doctor and Chief Nurse before Pilgrimage.			
Review required	After Pilgrimage.			

### 3 Management of Medication

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazard	Medication error			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	4	8	Medium
Who is at risk?	Anyone requiring medication			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise helpers of the medication policy.</li> <li>• Only doctors with current GMC licence or nurses with current NMC registration are permitted to dispense and supervise medication</li> <li>• All Accueil Pilgrims and registered hotel pilgrims to provide a medical form prior to Pilgrimage detailing their medication details and their general health</li> <li>• Prior to Pilgrimage all Accueil Pilgrims are assessed as to their ability to manage medication independently and are made aware of medication policy</li> <li>• Accueil Pilgrims to continue to be assessed informally by medical team throughout Pilgrimage week as to their ability to manage their own medication</li> <li>• All medication brought by Accueil Pilgrims must be clearly labelled by their pharmacist</li> <li>• Accueil Pilgrims who are self, medicating must store their medication in a responsible manner if it is not being stored by the medical team</li> <li>• Only key nominated nurses administer routine medication</li> <li>• Medication administered by Nurses must be from a secure trolley and kept in a locked room</li> <li>• Any medical errors will be recorded and investigated</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Doctor and Chief Nurse before and during Pilgrimage			
Review required	After Pilgrimage			

## 4 Conduct of Helpers and Ability to Provide Care

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Medical emergency (e.g. illness, injury, alcohol poisoning, drug abuse, etc.)			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	3	6	Medium
Who is at risk?	All helpers			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signature on Application form to accept responsibility for behaviour (Parent/Guardian if 16 or 17) together with under 18s agreement of responsibility</li> <li>• Helpers are asked to advise their head of department of any factors which may affect their ability to carry out tasks</li> <li>• Dissemination of All Policies to all helpers</li> <li>• Preparation day for all helpers to explain responsibilities for individuals and their behaviour, reinforced by helpers' booklet</li> <li>• Youth Group leaders monitor situation and ensure safety of Youth for Lourdes</li> <li>• Telephone number for hospital and emergency services and heads of department given to all helpers</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Executive Director receives copy of booking forms prior to Pilgrimage			
Review required	After Pilgrimage.			

## 5 Supervision of Helpers by Doctors and Registered Nurses

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazard	Helpers providing inadequate care			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	3	6	Medium
Who is at risk?	Accueil Pilgrims and registered supported pilgrims			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control Measures to reduce the above risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic moving and handling and methods required to provide adequate care are practiced at the annual practical preparation day</li> <li>Team leaders will have specific knowledge of care requirements and will advise other members of team as necessary</li> <li>Helpers are asked to advise their head of department of any factors which may affect their ability to carry out tasks</li> <li>Basic information available to all volunteers working with pilgrims in the Accueil</li> <li>Team Leaders to bring any concerns or issues to the notice of the nurse or doctor in charge</li> <li>Medical team to liaise with team leaders regarding any change in condition or care requirements</li> <li>Helpers advised to know limitations</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Chief Nurse before and during Pilgrimage.			
Review required	After Pilgrimage			

## 6 Moving and Handling

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Injury to Accueil Pilgrims or helpers (e.g. weight of person or equipment/baggage being moved, difficulty of grasping person, unpredictable movements of person being lifted, repetitive handling with insufficient rest or recovery time, long distance lifting, constraints on posture because of location, variation in levels during the movement, not having enough accurate information about sick pilgrim's mobility before Pilgrimage).			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	3	6	Medium
Who is at risk?	People being lifted and people doing the lifting			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish who or what needs to be moved, the weight, and how to best to move it considering the capabilities of team</li> <li>• Where possible use mechanical aids (if trained)</li> <li>• If there are no mechanical aids, use manual aids where possible</li> <li>• Basic manual handling instruction received by those performing moving and handling at practical preparation day and helpers advised to be aware of their limitations</li> <li>• Ensure there are enough physically able helpers capable of coping with moving and handling needs of whole Pilgrimage</li> <li>• When carrying out a manoeuvre ensure on the spot assessment of the task and surrounding environment is carried out and method of carrying out proposed manoeuvre is agreed by all parties concerned, bearing in mind factors such as posture, location, distance and lack of information</li> <li>• Prior to Pilgrimage, medical team carry out visits to Supported Pilgrims to establish mobility and moving and handling requirements</li> <li>• Heavy baggage to be marked or labelled</li> <li>• Ensure at least 2 people are involved in handling heavy baggage</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Heads of department prior to Pilgrimage and all helpers during Pilgrimage			
Review required	After the Pilgrimage			

## 7 Safety in the Accueil

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Accidents to Accueil Pilgrims and helpers.			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	1	2	Low
Who is at risk?	Accueil Pilgrims and helpers			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing and preparation of helpers at annual practical formation day</li> <li>• Limit number of helpers required at meal times to negate injury</li> <li>• Thermal flasks must be used to transport coffee and tea pots</li> <li>• Floors not to be washed while Accueil Pilgrims are in room</li> <li>• Signs used to indicate wet floor hazard</li> <li>• Dedicated team in kitchen – no congregating of helpers allowed around kitchen</li> <li>• Any obstructions such as chairs, wheelchairs must be removed to safe area in accordance with Accueil policy</li> <li>• Cot sides used where required</li> <li>• All helpers are aware of Accueil Pilgrims' needs and adequate supervision is in place</li> <li>• Accueil Pilgrims are informed of Accueil procedures</li> <li>• Helpers to be aware of appropriate behaviour</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Heads of department			
Review required	After the Pilgrimage			

## 8 Protection of Accueil Pilgrims on the Pilgrimage

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Failure to protect Accueil Pilgrims.			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	1	3	3	Low
Who is at risk?	Accueil Pilgrims.			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All helpers must be properly approved in line with Government and Church procedures</li> <li>• All helpers must undertake Pilgrimage training given on the day of Formation</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Executive Pilgrimage Director and Heads of Departments			
Review required	After Pilgrimage			

## 9 Identification of Supported Pilgrims

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Accueil Pilgrims are not identified as such			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	1	3	3	Low
Who is at risk?	Accueil Pilgrims and helpers			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilgrimage Executive Director and Heads of Department to be aware that some Accueil Pilgrims may not be registered as such on the Pilgrimage</li> <li>• Any such cases are brought to the attention of the Pilgrimage Director who will deal with it in line with Government and Church procedures</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Pilgrimage Director and Heads of Department			
Review required	After Pilgrimage			

## 10 Accueil Pilgrims Becoming Lost

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Accueil Pilgrims becoming lost.			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	1	3	3	Low
Who is at risk?	Accueil Pilgrims			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All helpers made aware of risk during briefings</li> <li>• All those 'at risk' to have a nominated helper at all times</li> <li>• All pilgrims to wear Pilgrimage photographic identification badge</li> <li>• Ensure that Accueil Pilgrims are 'signed out' when leave the Accueil and signed in on their return</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Pilgrimage Executive Directors and Heads of Department to brief their helpers at preparation day and start of Pilgrimage			
Review required	After Pilgrimage			

## 11 Travelling by Coach

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Moving traffic, moving and handling people and baggage, poor operating practice by the coach company.			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	1	3	3	Low
Who is at risk?	Pilgrims travelling on coaches			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure people are located in a safe place when the coach arrives for pick up and departure. Coaches not to reverse in pick-up and drop-off areas without external guidance. Assurance by coach operator/Driver required</li> <li>• Follow assessments in relation to moving and handling people and baggage.</li> <li>• Ensure Pilgrimage Director or travel agent contracts reputable coach company.</li> <li>• All pilgrims and helpers to use seat belts where available.</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilgrimage Executive Director and Pilgrimage Organising Committee</li> <li>• Pilgrimage Executive Director to confirm status of coach companies before Pilgrimage.</li> </ul>			
Review required	After each coach journey and after the Pilgrimage. Need to Review in Pilgrimage Log.			

## 12 Travelling by Fourgon

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Moving and handling people, poor operating practice by Hospitalité de Notre Dame de Lourdes Stagers (HNDL).			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	3	3	9	Medium
Who is at risk?	Pilgrims travelling on fourgons			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure people are located in a safe place when the fourgon arrives for pick up and seated safely for departure.</li> <li>• Fourgons not to reverse in pick-up and drop-off areas without external guidance</li> <li>• Follow assessments in relation to moving and handling people</li> <li>• Ensure adequate communication between Pilgrimage organisers and HNDL regarding the safe transfer of pilgrims</li> <li>• All pilgrims and helpers to use seat belts where available</li> <li>• Liaise with HNDL to ensure an adequate number of volunteers on the fourgon. However, this might be out of our control</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HNDL</li> <li>• Pilgrimage Executive Director/ Head Brancardier/Organising Committee</li> </ul>			
Review required	After each fourgon journey and after the Pilgrimage. Need to Review in Pilgrimage Log.			

## 13 Travelling by Aircraft

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Airport hazards including lost people, escalators and lifts and other internal transportation methods, poor operating practice by airport and/or airline, moving and handling of both people and baggage.			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	2	4	Low
Who is at risk?	Pilgrims travelling by air.			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everybody in Group to wear photographic identification badge and be easily identified as Middlesbrough Pilgrimage.</li> <li>• Ensure sufficient numbers of helpers available.</li> <li>• Supported Pilgrims should be accompanied by helpers if they leave the Group.</li> <li>• Follow assessments in relation to moving and handling people and baggage.</li> <li>• Follow Risk Assessment in relation to use of wheelchairs.</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilgrimage/Organising Committee</li> <li>• Travel agent to confirm status of airlines to Executive Director before Pilgrimage.</li> </ul>			
Review required	After each flight and after the Pilgrimage. Need to Review in Pilgrimage Log.			

## 14 Traffic in Lourdes

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Moving vehicles, narrow roads, narrow or blocked pavements, parked vehicles, many pedestrians, change in direction of traffic flow, traffic on right in two-way systems, height of pavements			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	4	8	Medium
Who is at risk?	All pilgrims, but particularly the partially-sighted and hearing impaired.			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helpers and Supported Pilgrims to be alerted to traffic hazards and to change of direction of traffic (where relevant).</li> <li>• Accueil Pilgrims to be accompanied by helpers when moving through built-up, busy areas. Particular attention to sight and hearing-impaired persons.</li> <li>• Helpers instructed to use the dedicated wheelchair lane when pushing wheelchairs or pulling voitures (where appropriate)</li> <li>• Helpers briefed at preparation day</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilgrimage Organising Committee</li> <li>• All helpers with specific responsibilities for Accueil Pilgrims when walking in towns.</li> </ul>			
Review required	After the Pilgrimage			

## 15. In-Town Excursions

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazard	Competency of premises to assess and control risks, flashing lights, subdued lighting.			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	1	2	2	Low
Who is at risk?	All helpers and Accueil Pilgrims.			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accueil Pilgrims to be accompanied at all times whilst on the premises.</li> <li>• Ensure walkways are clear and know emergency evacuation routes.</li> <li>• Do not take persons sensitive to flashing lights into an area where it is known that there will be flashing lights as part of the performance.</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Helpers			
Review required	After the Pilgrimage			

## 16 Out of Town Excursions

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazard	Water, steep walks, weather, animals, moving traffic, leisure activities			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	1	2	Low
Who is at risk?	All those travelling on excursion.			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only travel to previously recommended locations.</li> <li>• Ensure that the members of the group who are going on the excursion have been assessed as being medically suitable to travel.</li> <li>• Be prepared for climatic changes (e.g. wet weather gear, sun block).</li> <li>• Supported Pilgrims to be accompanied by helpers at the location.</li> <li>• Refer to traffic hazards assessment.</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Pilgrimage Organising Committee.			
Review required	After excursions and after Pilgrimage			

## 17 Taking Part in Torchlight Procession

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazard	Setting fire to yourself or someone else.			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	3	6	Medium
Who is at risk?	Anyone in the procession			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wherever practicable, try and stay together with the Middlesbrough Pilgrimage</li> <li>• Accueil Pilgrims to be accompanied at all times (including the end of the procession when people may get split up)</li> <li>• People pushing wheelchairs, Voitures or holding banners should take extra care and should not carry candles</li> <li>• Only Accueil Pilgrims who are capable of holding a candle steadily should be allowed to carry lit candles</li> <li>• Helpers to ensure candles are held away from face and hair and away from the clothes and hair of others in the procession</li> <li>• A designated person to remain behind at the end of the procession to ensure that all sick pilgrims have left the Domaine (Brancardier Team Leader)</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Review required	After torchlight procession and after Pilgrimage. (Brancardier Team Leader)			

## 18 High Stations of the Cross

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazard	Steep slopes, uneven pathways, slippery when wet.			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	1	2	2	Low
Who is at risk?	Anyone undertaking the activity.			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only able-bodied adults who can walk unaided to undertake the activity.</li> <li>• Supported Pilgrims from Hotels to be accompanied by their carer.</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Review required	After visit to High Stations and after Pilgrimage			

## 19 Riverside Activities in Lourdes

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazard	Cold, deep, fast flowing river (at Lourdes)			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	1	4	4	Low
Who is at risk?	Anyone falling into river.			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always ensure activities by riverside or on bridges are supervised so that Accueil Pilgrims do not wander off</li> <li>• No ball games in immediate vicinity of river</li> <li>• No one to enter river in Lourdes</li> <li>• Wherever practicable always choose locations for activities where the river is protected by embankments or other barriers</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Review required	After riverside activities and after the Pilgrimage			

## 20 Adequate Protection for Weather

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Sunburn and exposure to the elements			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	3	1	3	Low
Who is at risk?	Everyone, especially Supported Pilgrims.			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sun cream to be applied when necessary.</li> <li>• Sun cream to be available for Accueil residents</li> <li>• Rainwear is used when necessary</li> <li>• Parasols are used when necessary</li> <li>• Helpers are aware that voiture hoods can be used in adverse weather</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilgrimage Organising Committee</li> <li>• All helpers when outdoors.</li> </ul>			
Review required	After Pilgrimage			

## 21 Use of Wheelchairs and Voitures

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Incorrect use of wheeled equipment causing injury to helper and/or sick pilgrim			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	3	6	Medium
Who is at risk?	Pusher or person being pushed/pulled			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All helpers who will use equipment to push others to be briefed about the use of wheelchairs during formation day and youth preparation day</li> <li>• Equipment only to be used in locations that are appropriate, e.g. not to be taken on steep ramps</li> <li>• Safety belts to be used when fitted</li> <li>• All helpers to ensure they wear appropriate footwear</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Review required	After Pilgrimage			

## 22 Building Emergencies – Accueil

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Smoke and fire, entrapment in lifts			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	1	5	5	Medium
Who is at risk?	All pilgrims, but particularly Accueil Pilgrims			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the emergency plan for escape in the case of fire and ensure all know where they can find the escape routes, fire extinguishers and fire alarm call points.</li> <li>• Accueil Pilgrims encouraged not to use the lifts by themselves</li> <li>• The method of summoning outside assistance needs to be understood by all helpers in the Accueil</li> <li>• Ensure that Accueil Pilgrims are signed out when leaving the Accueil and signed back in on return and helpers report to team leaders.</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Review required	After the Pilgrimage			

## 23 Water Ceremonies and Visits to Bath

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage/Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazard	Person being affected by water temperature and moving and handling			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	3	6	Medium
Who is at risk?	Anyone taking part			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable people to be accompanied by suitable helper when going to the baths</li> <li>• Medical team to be consulted about suitability of participants (including helpers) to go into cold water</li> <li>• Where the Supported Pilgrims can understand, the procedure as to what happens in the baths should be described</li> <li>• Appropriate liturgy (either outside or in the Accueil) to be offered as an alternative to immersion in the baths</li> <li>• Medical team should be present at baths</li> <li>• All helpers must conform to moving and handling Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Helpers are allocated to supported according to their needs.</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Medical team before and during visit to baths			
Review required	After visits to the baths and after Pilgrimage			

## 24 Use of Electrical Equipment by Music Group

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Injury due to accidental contact with electrical equipment and tripping			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	4	8	Medium
Who is at risk?	People setting up microphones, speakers, mixers etc.			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure electrical equipment is checked before each Pilgrimage by competent and qualified person</li> <li>• Ensure cables do not constitute a trip hazard</li> <li>• Make members of Music Group aware of possible risks</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Co-Ordinator of Music – before and after each setting up			
Review required	After Pilgrimage			

## 25 Personal Safety of Helpers

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2026			
Hazards	Personal physical or psychological harm to helpers			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	2	4	Low
Who is at risk?	All helpers			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefings at day of Formation accompanied by handout</li> <li>• All helpers advised not to go out at night unaccompanied</li> <li>• Contact number available to all</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Pilgrimage Organising Committee of Pilgrimage and Youth Leaders			
Review required	After Pilgrimage			

## 26 Electrical Equipment in Kitchen

Name of Assessor(s)	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Date of Assessment	Reviewed 2025			
Hazards	Injury due to accidental contact with electrical equipment and tripping			
Risk Rating	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Risk (H/M/L)
	2	2	4	Low
Who is at risk?	All helpers			
Control Measures to reduce the above risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure electrical equipment is checked on the Pilgrimage by a competent and qualified person</li> <li>• Ensure cables do not constitute a trip hazard</li> <li>• Ensure members of Hospitalité are aware of possible risks</li> <li>• Contact number is made available to all</li> </ul>			
Who implements control measures and when?	Pilgrimage Organising Committee			
Review required	After Pilgrimage			