

GUIDANCE 18

FRANCISCAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

BACKGROUND

The Irish Franciscans have been organising an annual pilgrimage to Lourdes for many years. Each year pilgrims and assisted pilgrims from around the country travel to Lourdes in late September for five days. Whilst in Lourdes, pilgrims take part in the daily ceremonies of the sanctuary such as daily Mass, the Blessed Sacrament Procession and the torchlight procession each evening.

PILGRIMAGE OVERSIGHT

The pilgrimage is organised by a committee involving Franciscan friars and lay people. The Committee is supported by the pilgrimage team, comprised of doctors, nurses, brancardiers and handmaids who form part of a dedicated and multi-disciplinary team. The Team is committed to ensuring that sick and assisted pilgrims are provided with an opportunity to travel and experience the peace and tranquillity offered by the shrine at Lourdes.

SAFEGUARDING

The pilgrimage operates in accordance with the Irish Franciscan Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

All friars and volunteers participating on the Pilgrimage must complete the following:

- Volunteer application form
- Garda vetting application
- Safeguarding Training

Vetting and training will be updated and renewed in accordance with the Franciscan Safeguarding Policy guide-lines.

Anyone interested in taking part in the pilgrimage either as a volunteer can contact their local Franciscan Friary or the Franciscan Lourdes office by emailing lourdes@franciscans.ie

All queries and/or concerns relating to safeguarding issues can be directed to dlp@franciscans.ie

See Pilgrimage Safeguarding Policy, (2023) for further details.