

# DUBLIN DIOCESE PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES 2026



## ASSISTED PILGRIM INFORMATION

The Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is a particularly joyful occasion and a highlight of the Diocesan calendar. Pilgrimages have travelled from Dublin since 1948 and this year the pilgrimage, led by Archbishop Dermot Farrell, will take place from **September 3rd to 8th.**

LED BY  
ARCHBISHOP  
DERMOT  
FARRELL  
+



### OVER 1500 PILGRIMS WILL TRAVEL

and most will stay in local hotels. For some pilgrims, staying in a hotel is not an option due to certain medical conditions, or higher individual care needs, for example, nursing home residents. In this situation, it is still possible to travel and enjoy the pilgrimage as an Assisted Pilgrim.



### 1. WHO CAN BE CONSIDERED TO TRAVEL AS AN ASSISTED PILGRIM?

- Those who live independently at home alone but would benefit from the company and support of others in Lourdes.
- Those who need some assistance with their everyday activities, either at home or in nursing homes.
- Those with certain medical conditions who may require medical support (e.g. certain cancer treatments or patients on dialysis).
- Assisted Pilgrims need to be fit for the journey to and from Lourdes.
- In certain medical conditions, unfortunately it may not be safe or in the person's best interests to travel (e.g. confusion or severe cognitive impairment).



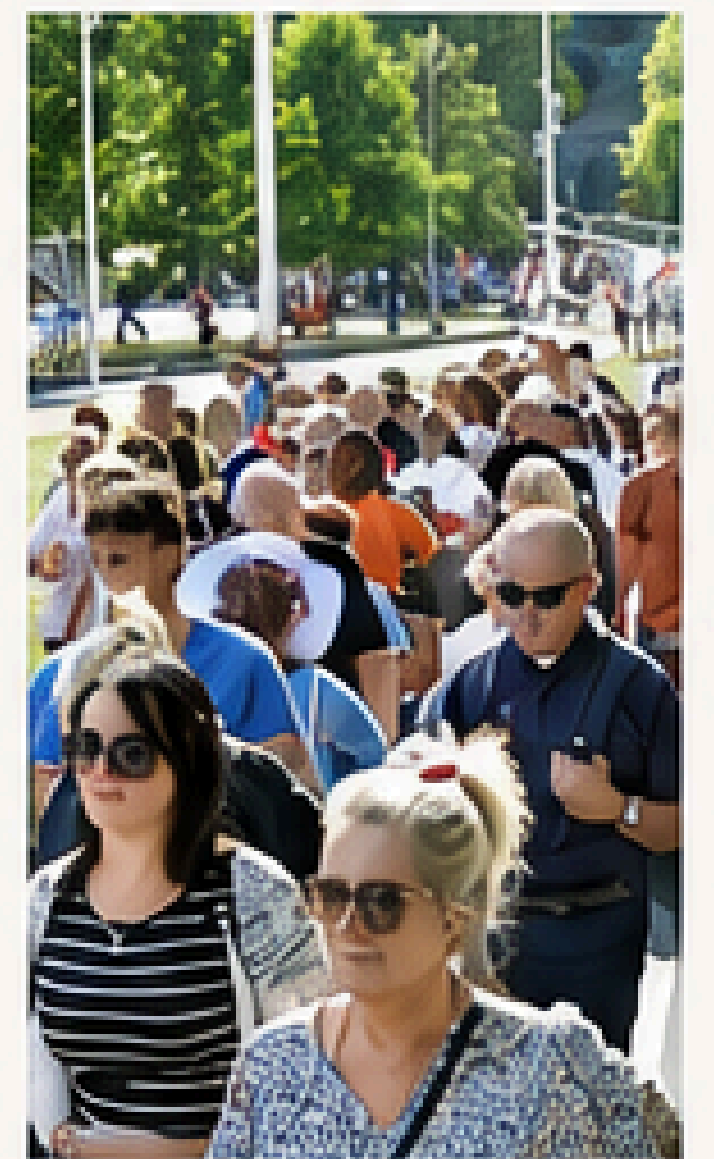
### 4. WHAT HAPPENS IN LOURDES?

Each day there is a programme of events which Assisted Pilgrims can attend. Volunteers accompany pilgrims providing wheelchair assistance as needed.

#### Highlights include:

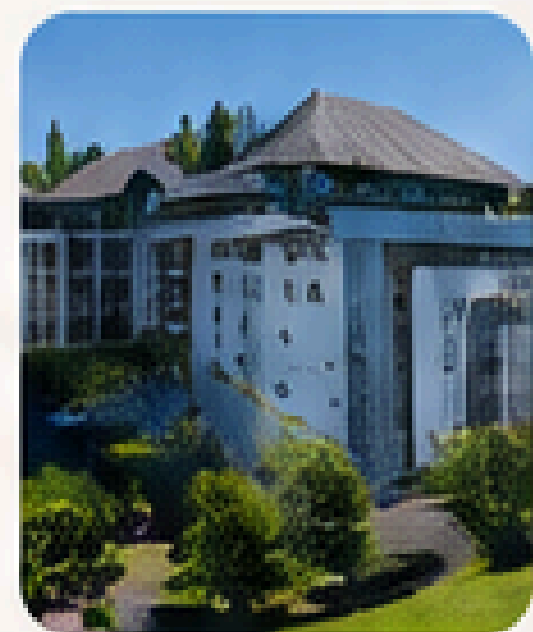
- ★ Mass at the Grotto
- ★ Torchlight Procession
- ★ Procession of the Blessed Sacrament
- ★ Sacrament of the Sick
- ★ Youth Mass

There is also plenty of time for relaxation with picnic, parties and entertainment!



### 2. WHERE DO ASSISTED PILGRIMS STAY?

All Assisted Pilgrims stay in the Accueil Notre Dame, which is "a place of welcome", close to the grotto, with many of the facilities of a modern hospital. Accommodation is either in single or shared rooms. All meals are provided.



### 3. WHO CARES FOR ASSISTED PILGRIMS?

Assisted Pilgrims are cared for by a large team of dedicated volunteers from across the Dublin diocese, most of whom have been helping on the pilgrimage for many years. Care is provided 24/7 by doctors, nurses and a large team of over 500 male and female helpers (called handmaids and brancardiers) from a variety of backgrounds.



An important part of the pilgrimage are the school groups. Almost 150 young people from schools across the diocese assist in the care of the Assisted Pilgrims and bring great energy and fun to the pilgrimage.



A dedicated team of chaplains is available also to support our Assisted Pilgrims spiritually.



### 5. HOW DO I APPLY?

Application forms are available from the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Office.

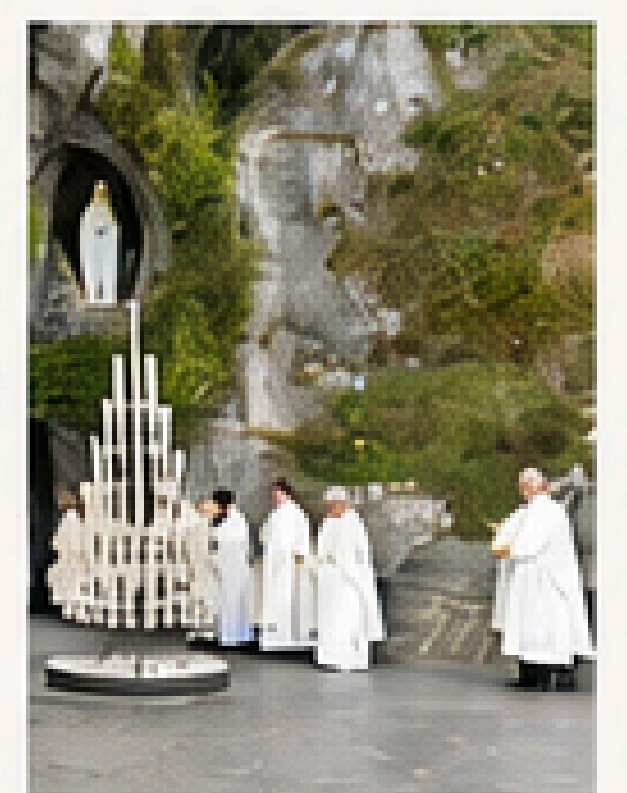
Tel: 01-8087555, Email: [info@lourdes.dublindiocese.ie](mailto:info@lourdes.dublindiocese.ie)

Website: <https://www.dublindiocese.ie/lourdes/>

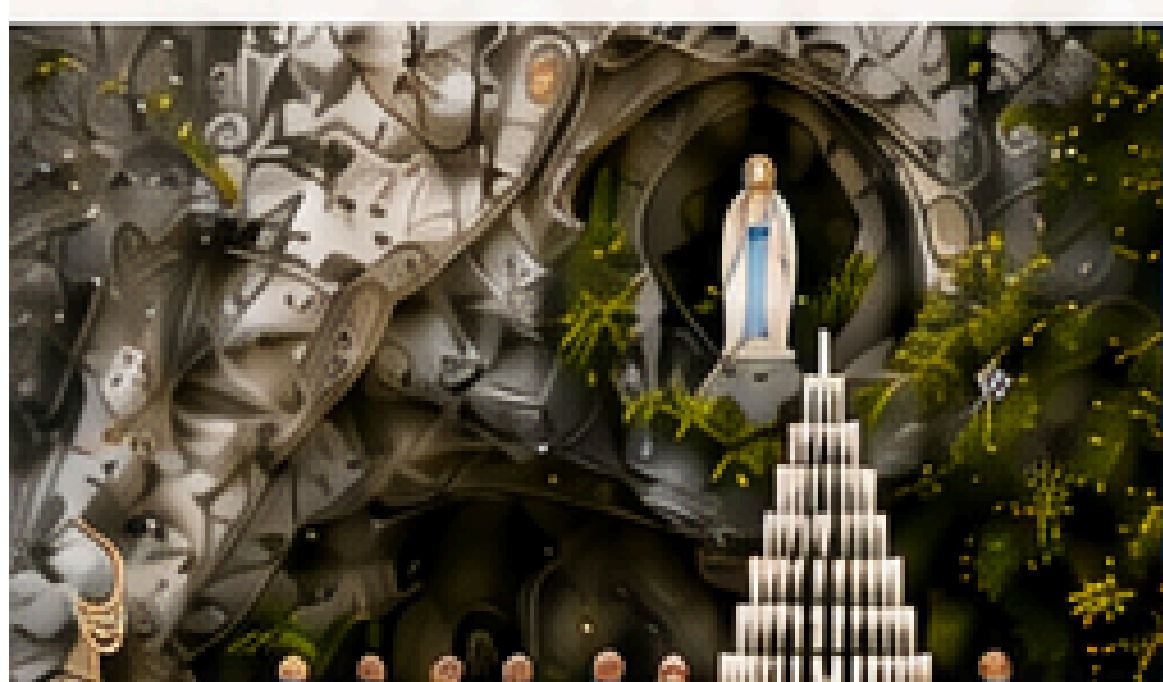
Part of this form is completed by the Assisted Pilgrim's GP, who provides the necessary medical background information.

Following receipt of the form, an assessment is carried out in the applicant's home or nursing home by one of the volunteer nurses. This allows us to gather further relevant information and answer any queries the applicant may have.

The application is then discussed with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), and a decision made on whether the person is fit to travel.



It is important to note that the team welcomes all applications and does everything possible to accommodate those who wish to travel. However, in the event that the CMO deems it unsafe to accept an application, that decision is final.



## TESTIMONIALS

“A truly life changing experience. The care, kindness and faith I witnessed in Lourdes was incredible.”  
– Assisted Pilgrim

“The volunteers are angels. I couldn't have asked for more.”  
– Assisted Pilgrim

“The youth bring so much joy and energy. It's a beautiful blending of generations.”  
– Volunteer Helper



THEME FOR 2026: 'HAIL, FULL OF GRACE, THE LORD IS WITH THEE'

