

HCPT Tatler : Sunday 23 March 2008



Opening Times

Hemicycle Office
(All pilgrimage administration)
09h00 - 12h30

Hemicycle Shop
09h00 - 12h30

Hosanna House Shop
09h30 - 18h00

Nursing Supplies
08h30 - 10h00
12h30 - 13h00
16h30 - 18h00

Telephone Numbers
HQ Hemicycle
(0)5 62 42 79 71

HQ Solitude
(Emergencies Only)
(0)5 62 42 71 71

Hosanna House
(0)5 62 94 05 34

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GROTTO JOTTINGS

On a cold wet February day One hundred and fifty years ago, three young girls went foraging for bones and firewood along the banks for the river Gave. They could not have begun to realise how their lives and that of their little town of Lourdes were about to change. The sickliest of the three, under strict instructions not to get her feet wet, was struggling to cross a little canal, which joined the river. Her companions would not help her and she sat down to take off her shoes and socks. She was stopped by a sudden gust of wind, which did not seem to have moved the trees. A second gust moved the branches of a little wild rose bush at the mouth of a small cave in the rock face above her. Looking at it she became aware of a young woman in white smiling down at her.

Bernadette reacted quickly, dug out her rosary beads and tried to pray. Her hand would not move to make the opening sign of the cross. The young lady then blessed herself and Bernadette was able to do the same. When Bernadette finished her Rosary the young woman just disappeared.

Joined by her companions Bernadette was quiet at first but then asked them had they seen anything? They hadn't. Eventually she told her sister what she had seen. As is always the case the news soon leaked out. A few days later with some of her companions Bernadette returned to the cave above the river. Again the lady appeared to her and only her. She smiled as Bernadette tried to sprinkle her with some holy water. Some days later and this time in the custody of one of the worthies of the parish Bernadette again saw her lady at the cave. As instructed Bernadette asked her to write her name. Smiling the lady said that would not be necessary. Then she gently asked Bernadette if she would be kind enough to come again for fifteen days. Bernadette, a poor simple little girl had never been treated with such respect by a stranger and she agreed to come for the fifteen days.

Thus began the journeys to the Grotto of Lourdes, the pilgrimage of which we are all a part. We come from all corners of Ireland, Britain, the West Indies, Eastern Europe, and the United States, and like Bernadette we come in answer to a personal invitation from the Immaculate Mother of God. Here we too can find peace, meaning, courage and hope for ourselves and others. Here too we learn how we are all loved infinitely by Jesus and his Blessed Mother.

A GREAT BIG HAPPY EASTER SUNDAY YOU HAVE BEEN 'CALLED BY NAME'

A great big welcome on this, HCPT's 52nd Pilgrimage to Lourdes and, of course, the 150th Anniversary of the Apparitions. All the worries over fundraising and getting the show on the road are over. It's time to have a great week, in spite of the snow, hail and rain! Your humble editor is compiling this edition of Tatler despite constant reminders from certain Cardiff parties of a spectacular Welsh 'Grand Slam' victory. Well done the Taffs!

We are delighted to confirm that our Founder, Brother Michael Strode, will be joining us this year. He is coming out as part of an Old and Bold Group. We wish him a very happy Pilgrimage.

WELCOME TO THE BISHOPS

We are so pleased to welcome our President, Bishop John Rawsthorne, together with Bishops Kieran Conry, Mark Jabale and Tom Burns. From Ireland we welcome the President of IHCPT Bishop Dermot O'Mahony and Bishop Christopher Jones. We thank them for their support.

Called By Name' is the theme for this year's Trust Mass. We are delighted that ASCPG are organising the Mass and therefore a VERY SPECIAL WELCOME to Bishop Thomas Daly of Brooklyn New York and Bishop Thomas Donato of Newark New Jersey. The Trust Mass is of course the great event of our week and we are all looking forward to the great day. It all involves an immense amount of preparation and hard work and for that we have to thank our American friends.

TATLER ENVELOPES

As you will see the distribution of Tatler for 2008 has changed. Your copy will be distributed in an envelope. Should you fail to collect your Tatler from the Hemicycle, this will be distributed to your hotel at the end of each day and the envelope will be left with the Hotel reception.

These envelopes have kindly been donated by Rod Black, Group 554 Leader. Should you require any ordering of envelopes, please email Rod who will be happy to help you. envelopebusiness@hotmail.co.uk

IHCPT CYCLE RIDE

This year saw the largest ever, with 120 cyclists arriving in Dinard on Saturday 15th March and all safely navigating the 850 kilometre journey to Lourdes, arriving safe and sound on Good Friday. Many of the cyclists will remain this week in their Groups, while the remainder fly back to Shannon this afternoon. Rumour has it that an excellent après-ride party was held last night and we are not sure how many participants are fit for cycling this morning!

HCPT WALKS

Over the past few days a great number of intrepid hikers have been carrying out sponsored walks in aid of HCPT. Braving snow, hail, rain and gales, they marched through to victory. Our grateful thanks to them all and to Sean O'Flaherty who has organised all the walks. A further walk is planned for December - ask Sean for details.

PILGRIMAGE NEWS

MONDAY'S CONCERT

A reminder that a special HCPT Concert is being held in Ste Bernadette's Basilica from 17.30 to about 19.00. Doors open at 16.30. This will be a great celebration of HCPT and its Mission, alongside people with disabilities. The following points need to be brought to your attention:

- Please remember to bring your tickets with you.
- Groups who have not booked will only be admitted if there is room after booked Groups have been seated.
- Group Leaders are asked to ensure that isles are left free and they have identified their nearest exit in case of emergency.
- There will be a managed area outside the Basilica where wheelchairs may be left.
- Be aware that the Blessed Sacrament Procession will be using the bridge at about 17.00 to 17.10. You will have to wait across the bridge until the procession has passed.

JOHN WHITE KSG RIP

The Midland Region will be celebrating the life of John White and his great contribution to the work of HCPT at the Midland Regional Mass on Tuesday 25th March, which will be held at St. Joseph's Chapel at 14.30. All are welcome to attend. John was a Vice President of the Trust and is sorely missed for his grace and charm.

There will also be a Regional picnic and Mass in memory of John at Grace Dieu Manor

School, Thringstone, Leicestershire on Sunday 29th June 2008. If you would like more information or would like to attend, please contact Madeleine Kenny at the Astoria Vatican or email:

madeleinekenny@yahoo.co.uk

SPONSORED WALKS

Look out on Wednesday for details on our Three Sponsored events, Walk 2008, Cycle 2009 and the John White Memorial Walk.

WHO'S WHO AT HQ

To help you enjoy the best possible Pilgrimage, Tony Mills and his team are based at the Hemicycle Office in the Domaine.

They are Phil Burns (Pilgrimage), Cath McGoohan, who is Tony's PA, Joan Prendergast (Finance Director), Sean O'Flaherty, Eileen McCarthy, Carol Peacock, Siobhan Coyle and Mary McDermott.

Fr Perry Gildea is our Trust Chaplain, with special responsibility for the spiritual development of the Trust. He is a Trustee and the author of the excellent Grotto Jottings, which appear in every Tatler.

Assisting HQ in the Hemicycle Office are Yvonne Pettingell, Alison O'Sullivan, Kate Kirkland and Pat Jordan, representing IHCPT, is also based there.

Helping Michael Orbell with Tatler is Enna Thorns and Fr Stephen Myers.

Veronique Rouihon is the Manager at Hosanna House and

Muriel Monmeja, Pascal Crassus, Muriel Nogues, Mary Joyce, Fred Ruiz, Jean-Bernard Larre, Evelyne Brua, Carmen Martin, Philippe Bassetti and Patrick Lagues form the Hosanna House team.

Muriel Monmeja, Shop Manager, is assisted by Bridget Hanlon.

David Hanlon, who operates from Hosanna House, provides a vital transport service for the Pilgrimage.

Mary Grisdale, Sue Kenny and Veronica Clow are again acting as guides to Groups visiting Hosanna House.

Richard King is the Pilgrimage Director. He is responsible for liaison with the Lourdes authorities and helps to orchestrate the Trust's liturgies.

Tony Grieco (Chief Brancardier), Peter Tetlow and Denis McCarthy form the Trust's Brancardier Team.

IHCPT - THE IRISH PILGRIMAGE TRUST

IHCPT have their own HQ Office based in the Hotel Ste Rose. Bernadette O'Connell, Maureen O'Loan and Bridgeen Regan provide invaluable support to the IHCPT Groups. There is also an excellent shop, based in the Ste Rose.

MEDICAL HQ

This is based as usual on the first floor of the Hotel Solitude (left at the top of the stairs). Our Chief Medical Officer, Dr Liz Foster, as well as Dr Patrick Bennett and Dr Sheila Clark will be available for advice, support and emergency

medical supplies.

Groups are asked to contact their allocated Doctor if they have problems. Most doctors will be carrying a mobile phone this year – ask your Doctor for details when they make contact.

NURSING SUPPLIES

Ray Lavin is in charge. Supplies are obtainable from the Medical Room at the Hotel Solitude. These may be obtained at any time, but Ray will be in attendance from 08.00 to 1000. 1200 to 1400 and 1630 to 1830.

MEDICAL SECONDARY ENQUIRY FORMS

Regional doctors, Nurses and Group Leaders are kindly requested to return all outstanding medical secondary forms to Medical HQ as soon as possible.

NO SMOKING

Please remember that the Trust operates a no smoking policy in front of the children in our care. They do not have the option of walking away from us, so please oblige! Please also be mindful of other Groups if you move away from your own Group to smoke.

50 YEARS - FIVE GENERATIONS

It is 50 years since I first came to Lourdes in Group 1 as a student nurse. That year, my father, Freddy Wolff and my brothers and sisters and grandparents were all in Lourdes together. Since then, our children and grandchildren have been coming to Lourdes with HCPT, so far five generations! This year, I will be joining Group 2 with my husband Francis, ex Group 2 leader - the group is now led by my son in-

law, John Neville. We will also have three grandchildren and a great nephew in Group 2 this year. My brother John Wolff and sister in-law, Anne, will be in Lourdes, as will our son Michael Holford and grandson William Holford, in the York Group 120; and a niece and great nieces will also be in Lourdes this year with Group 42. HCPT is very much a family affair. Jenny Holford

CHAPLAINS' MEETING

This will be held on Tuesday at 18.00 to 19.00 in the bar of Hotel Solitude. New Chaplains are especially welcome.

DOCTORS' MEETING

Will take place on Wednesday evening, from 21.00 to 22.30 in Hotel Continental.

PRAYER BOOKS ETC

The Trust prayer book is available from the Hemicycle. A free copy will be issued to every new helper and child in your group via your Group bag. Your bag also contains colouring books/diaries, a Lourdes Directory, Orange Form, special prayer cards from our founder, Dr Michael Strode, and your Form 99A. Would all Groups please return any spare prayer books to the Hemicycle.

SAFETY FIRST

We have to repeat our usual note of caution. Like any other town, Lourdes can be dangerous after dark. Please take care, especially when visiting the Grotto late at night... go with a friend – not on your own. Be aware of pickpockets, even in the Domaine.

GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo Durand is available to take these. Please contact Marcel at his shop, 6 Avenue Mgr Schopoeper, opposite the Little Flower Café. There is a special rate for HCPT Groups.

EUROS

A reminder that the best rate of exchange can be found at the Banque Populaire on Rue de la Halle (just past McDonalds). You will need to show your HCPT badge.

ORANGE FORMS

These are in your Group bag, awaiting collection from the Hemicycle. Would all Group Leaders please complete and return their Orange Forms by Tuesday morning to the Hemicycle. The information provided will help us settle correct hotel bills at the end of the week and to reconcile your group fares. Please note down anything that will affect the amount due (eg late arrivals or early departures) to save the Trust's precious funds.

VIDEO BOOKINGS

The Sanctuaries Video (30 minutes) is a popular introduction to a story of Lourdes, especially on wet days. If you want to book your Group in for one of the slots, or any other time, please apply at the Hemicycle. The cinema is just next door – and there is a lift.

DR PATRICK'S QUIZ

Dr Patrick Bennett has devised another of his quizzes, which will be distributed with Monday's Tatler. This year (owing to a computer failure!) there is no written examination. There are a series of images of Bernadette to be found in the Domaine and the town.

150th ANNIVERSARY CROSSWORDS

The concise and cryptic versions can be found in the Group Leaders' Handbook. Further copies can be obtained from Medical HQ!

THE RUGBY BALL

A date for your diaries! Following the success of the 50th Anniversary Ball another Ball is being held at the Dunchurch Park Hotel in Rugby on Saturday 5th July 2008. Further information and booking forms are available at the Hemicycle.

WHEELCHAIRS

If any Group has ordered more wheelchairs than they need, please could you leave any spare wheelchairs at the Hemicycle for other Groups to use. Thank you.

MASSES AND EXCURSIONS

On the pages in your Group bag you will see full planning sheets for the Chapels, Navette and all Excursions.

All documents were printed in Rugby the week before the Pilgrimage, for amendments etc please double check availability at the Hemicycle.

CHAPEL BOOKINGS

If you wish to book a chapel which appears vacant, please visit the Hemicycle and check that it is still available. Please DO NOT amend the planning sheets there without first speaking to the HQ staff.

Please be attentive to the times that you have been assigned. We ask that you are ready to begin on time and that you con-

clude your liturgy within the time slot allotted to you.

THE NAVETTE

The Navette programme has been designed to best manage the numbers of people at Hosanna House, and to control the flow of people arriving and departing. Amendments to the plan may be made via the Hemicycle no later than 5pm the preceding day. All requests for amendments are subject to availability. No on-the-day amendments (other than cancellations) will be permitted.

The area around the Navette bus both at the coach park outside Hotel Paradis, and at Hosanna House, will be supervised by volunteers who are there for your safety. Please ensure you and all your Group follow the instructions given.

EXCURSION COACHES

As stated last year we will not be making any additional excursion bookings this Easter. If you had not booked an excursion for your Group with HQ by 31st January you will need to make your own arrangements.

FOUND

One black collapsible umbrella - found in Ste Bernadette on Saturday evening. At Solitude Office.

WANTED

Does anyone have a Casio Exilim charger that I could borrow for an hour please ? Thanksd - from Mike in Group 134.

WEATHER FORECAST

Oh dear ! It's snow, sleet and rain for a few days. Keep those raincoats and umbrellas at the ready !!

BIRTHDAYS & MESSAGES

Happy Birthday yesterday to Summer Fitzsimmons! With Love and hugs from all your new friends in Group 153.

Clive (Group 59 Leader), very sorry you cannot be with us this week, you and your family are in our prayers.

Congratulations to Group 187 on your 20th Anniversary this year. Have a great week, with love from Group 44 & Manchester Region. xx

Our daughter Emma is celebrating her 21st Pilgrimage this year and is only 20, She went to Lourdes for the first time aged 10 weeks and we travelled overland!! Lots of Love, Jane and Ian, Group 180

Happy Easter to all the Manchester Region! Lots of Love Group 5. xxx

Central Service Group 716 is being weighed down by 700 badges! If any of the children in the Family groups would like a 716 badge, all you have to do is come and say Hello. We will be wearing black hoodies, with a yellow hand on the front. They really are going to be the "Must Have" item of 2008!

Caroline (Group 12 Leader), very sorry you cannot be with us this week, you and your family are in our prayers.

Happy Birthday John – Group 46 – 62 today! With love from everyone in Group 46.

To all my friends in the Manchester Region, Happy Easter and have a great week, sorry I can't be with you. You are all in

my prayers and thoughts. Love from Wx

For Jenny Holford (and also her brother John Wolff) travelling with Group 2: it will be their 50th trip with HCPT having first travelled in 1958. Jenny is very proud to be bringing 3 of her grand-children ensuring that there will be a 4th generation of the Wolff family to be involved with HCPT.

Happy 17th Birthday Thomas, thanks for bringing Group 111 back to Lourdes for your 4th Year. With lots of love. xx

Happy Birthday to retired helper Pat Purbrick – Group 45 – love from all your friends in Group 45.

Group 155 - based in Wrexham, North Wales is celebrating its 25th Anniversary at Lourdes this year. Many of the original helpers who started the Group way back in 1983 still come with us year in year out and some are here yet again with our Group for this year's Pilgrimage. Many changes have occurred from those early days. Not least that long, long journey overland which was extremely tiring but fun at the same time. In comparison, flying is a doddle nowadays!!

A very Happy Birthday to William Holford travelling with Group 122 from York who was 12 on 20 March. Having given up chocolate for Lent he can now indulge himself in Lourdes!

Good Friday - 21st March - is the Birthday of the twins who are the nurses of our Group 194 (Wigan). We all send them very

special belated birthday wishes and a good week in Lourdes, don't work too hard ! All our love and thanks from the Group.

Happy Birthday to Charlotte, Group 45 who is 10 years old today. Hope you have had a lovely day, love from your new friends in Group 45. xx

Happy Birthday to our lovely Fr. Richard Atherton - 80 years young. It doesn't matter what the Birth Certificate says, you are one of the youngest in the Group. Love from everyone in Group 194, especially your twin nieces Catherine and Angela.

Calm down Claire from Group 180, we know the excitement is building till you meet your idol and role model. We will be bagging front row seats for you so you can get up close and personal with Michelle McManus, it'll be worth the wait after " All this time!" Lots of love from your Godson x

Hi Bobby Devereux and all your friends from Wexford, Ireland. Have a Great day! Love Nanny and Grandad and all.

Group 140, would like to thank Group Leader Lorraine Glancy for all of her hard work in getting the group organised for this trip. Thank you! We hope that the weather is good this year so the helpers can get a bit of a sun tan!! Ha ha ha ha J .

All my love to my son David Livesey and Best Wishes to the HCPT Teams, especially the Wigan Team who are caring for David. Please pray for good test results at hospital and for job discernment for David's sister,

Maria Livesey. God Bless and thank you. Sheila Livesey - Wigan.

Congratulations to Adam Pearce travelling with Group 176 who is celebrating his Birthday today. Enjoy the chocolate and custard!

To all in Group 44, hope you have a fabulous week!! Lots of love Danny C x
Greetings to the South West Region and the "Golden Oldies". Hope you all have a fab week in celebrating the 150th year of the Apparitions. Wish I could be there to join in the fun!! Thinking and miss you all. Love Debbie - honorary member of GP 52

Well I hope that you all have a great time; Tarina I have every faith in you !! Just in case you need any advice I am not too far away !! Julie A

To group 46. Hope you are all having a great time. Wish I could be with you, I'm sending you some Aussie sunshine! Lots of love Jo x

To Bernard (Scholes), Susan, David, Mary, Alice, Sarah and Rebecca Palmer. Thinking of you all in a very special way and wishing we could be out there with you this week! Think of us when we go back to school on Tuesday AARGH!!!! Love from all the Harnetts xxxxx

Hi girls, I hope you are having a fabulous pilgrimage this Easter. Say a prayer for us at the grotto. Wish I was there...I'll wait for my trip in the summer. Love Victoria Culshaw (Miss to you...lot) PS: Hi to my Deputy Group Leader....Mark O'Brien...first time in Lourdes at Easter, have fun buddy!!

Group 134 would like to wish their NFH an amazing birthday and promise not to keep her too busy on her special day so she can sit and eat chocolate cake ALL day. XXX Kimberley Edwards in Group 134 makes her first Holy Communion today at the Merseyside Regional Mass and all her friends in Group 134 send her lots of love on her very special day.

Unfortunately we cannot print the photo of the presentation of a cheque to Group 134 from Steve a previous helper of the group for many years and his wife Fiona with Madge and Betty the longest standing members of the group. Steve and Fiona got married in February 2008 and asked for donations to Group 134 instead of wedding presents. All of Group 134 would like to wish them every happiness in their life together and hope to see them on the Easter 09 Pilgrimage.

To all of those with Group 74 - Have a great time on your pilgrimage everyone wishes you all a Happy Easter. Thank you for giving Robbie the chance of a lifetime. Love the Senior-Watson family x

To Tom Regan. Curry and rive very, very nice. Gleek Plick. Group 74.

Group 74. The two and a half McGoverins are glad to be here ! It's been too long ! Here's to a great week. Love you all lots. Antonia, Ian and Bump xx
It's March. It's snowing. We

are wearing shorts. Come on 74 - how very very French ! Nobby, Mike and Tom. Group 74.

A very Happy 17th Birthday to Thomas, from all Group 111. Thank you for bringing us back to Lourdes again this year. Lots of love Group 111.

Jonathan and Heather Couper (Old & Bold) and Group 7 have arrived in a motor caravan and are staying at Camping Le Foret with George and Anne Gelder.

Can you hear the Otley sing ? I can't hear an Otley thing. Love Group 74

Well done to JoJo and Mikey Bear - Group 185 on completing the 50K Walk. Happy Birthday JoJo from all in 185.

A very Happy Birthday to Pascal Crassus of Hosanna House, who is 39 today ! Love from us all.

Happy Birthday to BC ! 21 again, again ???!! Hope you have a fantastic day. Lots of love from LC.

To Dave, Clare, Mary-Lou, Amelia and Thomas Jessop and not forgetting Granny, Pam. Much love and many congratulations on the safe arrival of Alicia, a future Group Leader ?? From all in the Yorkshire Region.

To Group 101 - Doncaster. Congratulations on your 30th Birthday of Easter HCPT trips. From all in the Yorkshire Region.