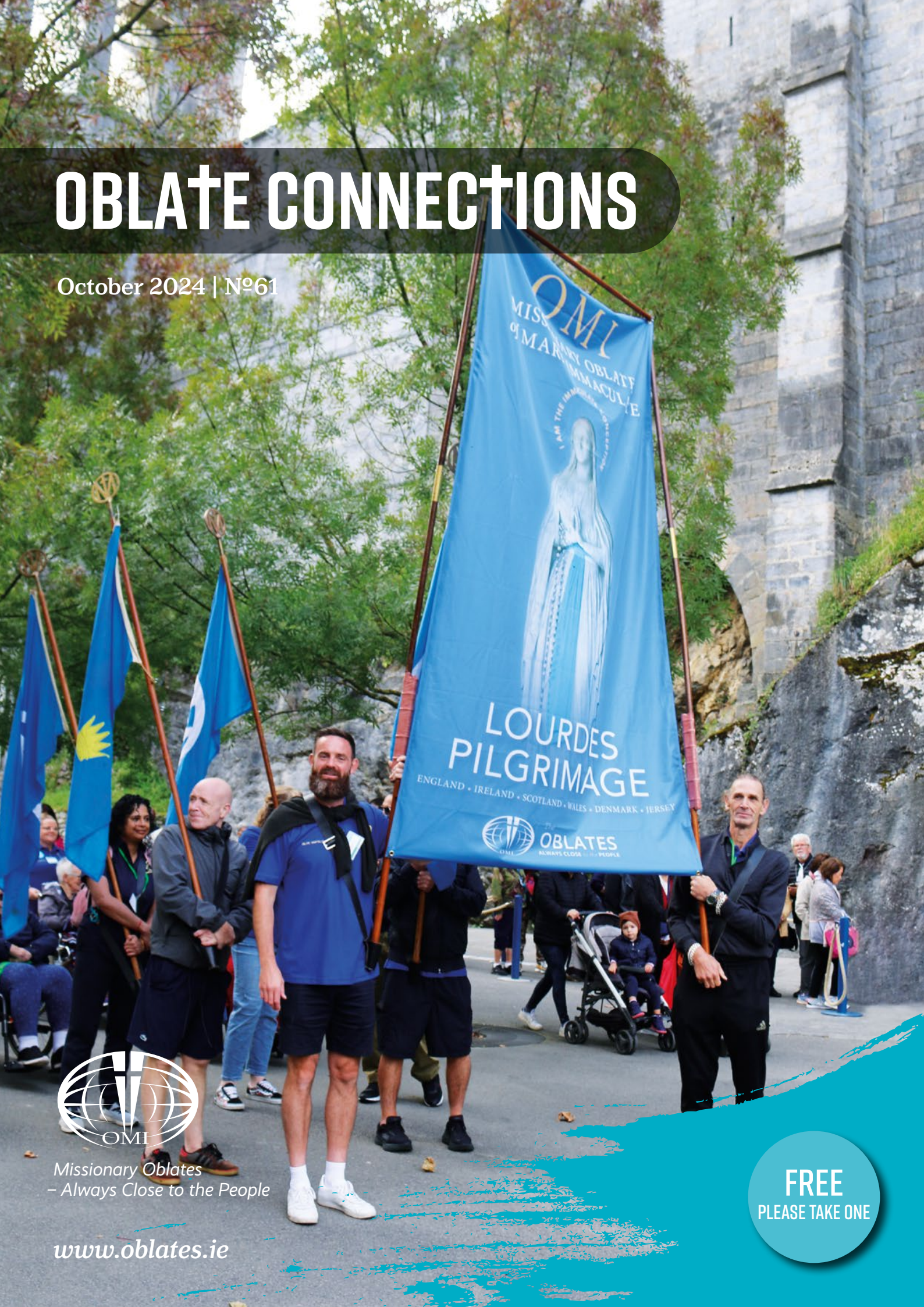


OBLATE CONNECTIONS

October 2024 | N°61



Missionary Oblates
– Always Close to the People

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FREE
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CONNECTIONS

The summer light and heat are fading. Trees are shedding their leaves. Those that aren't are changing from verdant green to glowing reds, yellows and oranges as we face into and embrace autumn. The Book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a season for everything under heaven (3.1).

The gift and call of autumn are thankfulness, gratitude, and gathering in the fruits of the harvest. As a Province and wider Oblate Family, we have much for which to be grateful this time of the year.

In late August, a large group of Oblates celebrated the Jubilees of their Oblate Profession and Ordination in Inchicore, Dublin. This is an opportunity for the men, their families and the whole Province to stand with them, to pray with and for them, and to thank them for their years of dedicated service and ministry as Missionary Oblates Mary Immaculate. To borrow from the message of Lourdes this, these men are witnesses to the gospel values of light and hope and continue to be to this day.

The Lourdes Pilgrimage this year, as always, brought many from across the United Kingdom and Ireland together for a week of prayer, liturgy, service and community. It is living example of the vibrancy and importance of the Oblate Family. We thank all those who worked so hard for months to make this such a memorable, prayerful and graced-filled experience.

When we look at news on television or in the newspaper, we are aware of the injustices,

war and violence that are taking place around and across the world every day. As always, it is the poor and innocent who suffer the most as they are caught up in the constant bombing and shelling. We might feel helpless and powerless to help or doing anything for them.

We are never powerless; we can remind ourselves that they are in truth our brothers and sisters. Again to borrow the message of Lourdes, we are each called to be people of Light and Hope in and for our world today. We are called to bring the light of our faith to those parts of the world that are often in darkness. We are called to be pilgrims of hope, always believing that peace, goodness and justice will in the end prevail. May Mary, our example of light and hope guide and lead us during these early autumn days.

- Br. Michael Moore, OMI



A word from Fr. Lorcan O'Reilly, OMI

In the last days we have returned from our annual Oblate Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Over 500 people made the physical journey and many more shared the experience online. The theme of this year's pilgrimage was "Lourdes: a light of hope" and it was inspired by Pope Francis' proclamation of the Jubilee Year which will begin on Christmas Eve. Lourdes offers us a profound testimony to the dignity and sacredness of all God's people. Through the presence of so many of the sick and those who minister to them, through the diversity of languages and peoples Lourdes stands as a witness to hope.



The need for such hope is greater than ever as we look at the many divisions and conflicts that are happening in so many parts of our broken world. I think of the conflicts in Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine to mention just three of many. Brokenness is also experienced much closer to home, within ourselves, our families and communities. In Lourdes we discover a place where God touched the life a poor, uneducated girl and through her brought a message of healing to the world. The profound contribution of Bernadette continues to be felt by so many today and reminds us that we all can make a difference. The healing message she shared calls us to reach beyond ourselves and to work for the salvation of all. That is the mission of the Church and it is a mission that each one of us share in.

Let us pray that Mary, the model of every missionary-disciple, will accompany us on our life journey and help us draw closer to her Son who in these broken times is the true Hope for the world.

- Fr. Lorcan O'Reilly, OMI
Province Leader



BEING RICH, BUT IN A

– Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Several years ago, I went with another priest to visit a mutual friend. Our friend, a successful businessman, was living on the top floor of a very expensive apartment overlooking the river valley in the city of Edmonton. At one point during our visit, he took us out on his balcony to show us the view. It was spectacular. You could see for miles, the entire river valley and much of the city.

We were in awe and told him so. Thanking us for the compliments, he shared that, sadly, he seldom came out on the balcony to drink in the view. Here are some of his words: “You know, I should give this place to some poor family who could enjoy it. I could live in a basement apartment since I never have time to enjoy this. I can’t remember when I last came out here to watch a sunset or a sunrise. I’m always too busy, too pressured, too preoccupied. This place is wasted on me. About the only time I come out here is when I have visitors and want to show them the view.”

Jesus once said something that might be paraphrased this way: What does it profit you if you gain the whole world and are forever too much in a hurry and too pressured to enjoy it.

When Jesus talks about gaining the whole world and suffering the loss of your own soul, he isn’t first of all referring to having a bad moral life, dying in sin, and going to hell. That’s the more radical warning in his message. We can lose our soul in other ways, even while we are good, dedicated, moral people. The man whose story I just shared is indeed a very good, dedicated, moral, and kind man. But he is, by his own humble admission, struggling to be a soulful person, to be more inside the richness of his own life because when you live under constant pressure and are perennially forced to hurry, it isn’t easy to get up in the morning and say: “This is the day that the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it.” We are more likely to say: “Lord, just get me through this day!”

As well, when Jesus tells us that it’s difficult for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, he isn’t just referring to material riches, money, and affluence, though these are contained in the warning. The problem can also be a rich agenda, a job or a passion

that so consumes us that we rarely take the time (or even think of taking the time) to enjoy the beauty of a sunset or the fact that we are healthy and have the privilege of having a rich agenda.

Full disclosure, this is one of my struggles. During all my years in ministry, I have always been blessed with a rich agenda, important work, work that I love. But, when I’m honest, I need to admit that during these years I have been too hurried and over pressured to watch many sunsets (unless, like my friend, I was pointing out their beauty to a visitor).

I have tried to break out of this by conscripting myself to regular times of quiet prayer, regular walks, retreats, and several weeks of vacation each year. That has helped, no doubt, but I’m still too much of an addict, pressured and hurried almost all the time, longing for space for quiet, for prayer, for sunsets, for a hike in a park, for a glass of wine or scotch, for a contemplative cigar. And I recognize an irony here: I’m hurrying and tiring myself out in order to carve out some time to relax!

I’m no Thomas Merton, but I take consolation in the fact that he, a monk in a monastery, was often too busy and pressured to find solitude. In search of that, he spent the last few years of his life in hermitage, away from the main monastery except for Eucharist and the Office of the Church each day. Then, when he found solitude, he was surprised at how different it was from the way he had imagined it. Here’s how he describes it in his diary:

Today I am in solitude because at this moment “it is enough to be, in an ordinary human mode, with one’s hunger and sleep, one’s cold and warmth, rising and going to bed. Putting on blankets and taking them off, making coffee and then drinking it. Defrosting the refrigerator, reading, meditating, working, praying. I live as my ancestors lived on this earth, until eventually I die. Amen. There is no need to make an assertion about my life, especially so about it as mine... I must learn to live so as to forget program and artifice.”

And to check out the sunset from my balcony!

When we are rich, busy, pressured, and preoccupied, it’s hard to taste one’s own coffee.

HURRY

KNOCK PILGRIMAGE

On Saturday 13th July 2024 our annual Knock Pilgrimage took place. Two coaches full of people journeyed from our Dublin Oblate Parishes ready for a day of prayer, reflection and community in honour of Our Lady of Knock.

During their day at the Shrine, the pilgrims had the opportunity to pray the Rosary, join The Way of the Cross and of course, the Pilgrimage Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of Knock, as well as time to explore the beautiful Shrine grounds, museum and gardens, and to visit the various chapels and bookshops.

The Oblate pilgrims joined the pilgrimage from the Diocese of Limerick and Bishop Brendan Leahy was the main celebrant of the Pilgrims Mass. In his homily He said this to the pilgrims about Our Lady:

“She was there at the foot of the cross when the church was born. She represents the church. And when John took her into his home we can only imagine that Mary wanted nothing more than to continue Jesus’s mission, to be the church’s mission. To help, inspire and guide the church in our daily desire to see and love Jesus, now present in the cries of humanity and in the hearts of each neighbour.”





St John Ogilvie's Parish

Wester Hailes, Edinburgh, Scotland

Sunday, 9 June, 2024 was a landmark day for St John Ogilvie's Parish, situated on the outskirts of Edinburgh. On this day, the Parish came together in a service of thanksgiving in appreciation of the 44 years of service, provided by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Mass was celebrated by the OMI Provincial, Fr Oliver Barry with Fr Boguslaw Loska, who had just arrived a few months previously to take over as Parish Priest from Fr Tony Quinlan, OMI.

St John Ogilvie's had been established in 1970 by Cardinal Gray. He asked the Society of Jesus to run the Parish. Fr John McQuade, SJ, made his way to the new housing estate of Wester Hailes to set up it as its first Parish Priest. In 1980, Fr McQuade was assigned by his Order to another Parish. The Cardinal then approached the OMI Provincial, the only recently deceased, Fr Paschal Dillon, for help.

His response was to appoint Fr Tony Clancy as Parish Priest, with Fr Peter Clucas, who was newly ordained.

Wester Hailes is a community made up of people from many countries; its inhabitants come from a diversity of backgrounds. With the Oblates' vocation to care for the poor and those marginalised in society, it might be regarded as a match made in heaven.

The Oblates encouraged its parishioners to recognise their own gifts and use them to minister the parish in its spiritual well-being, in maintenance of its building, its financial management, in its social activities, and to extend a welcoming hand to the local community. Thus St John Ogilvie's has become a beacon of light of the Christian faith to the entire Wester Hailes community.



So Fr Barry reminded us on 9 June in his address to the congregation. He spoke of how the future of the parish depends on the quality of the local leadership, it has to be rooted in the Gospel, it has to maintain a strong emphasis on justice and peace, for the benefit of the local community and the wider society.

As OMI Provincial Fr Barry had also come to the parish in March 2023, for a triple celebration: 10 March 2023 was the Feast Day of St John Ogilvie; it marked then 42 years of the ministry of the Oblates; it was a delayed ceremony (due to Covid-19) to recognise the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the parish.



Archbishop Leo Cushley led a thanksgiving Mass, with Fr Barry and the Parish Priest, Fr Tony Quinlan, OMI. They were joined by Fr Peter Clucas, OMI, Fr Joe Daly, OMI, Fr Peter Moran, OMI, Fr Dennis Connor, OMI, Fr Joel Liwanag, SJ, Fr John Lee, and Fr Francis Ututo, SMMM. Other OMI priests who had served in the parish but who could not be present conveyed their best wishes. From the Congregation of the Ursulines of Jesus, who had given 27 years of service to St John Ogilvie's, came Sister Kathleen Curran and Sister Assumpta. The local Church of Scotland Minister Dr Tom Kisitu, and Member of Parliament, Joanna Cherry KC, attended, with around 160 parishioners, and well-wishers from neighbouring parishes.

In his homily, Archbishop Cushley reflected on the history of the parish, also looked forward giving hope and reassurance for its future. Fr Liwanag SJ delivered greetings on behalf of the Society of Jesus.

The Parish Priest Fr Tony Quinlan also spoke of the start in 1970 through the Oblate years. He had come in 2004 as Parish Priest. He was to stay for three years. At the Oblates Congress in 2006, the Parish appealed for extra time. It was decided he would stay until he retired. That time finally ran out in 2024 on his retirement.

The Parish of St John Ogilvie's wish to record our everlasting thanks to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

God bless you.

God bless the Parish of St John Ogilvie's.

– Joe McGeough





Oblate Vocations Mission in London

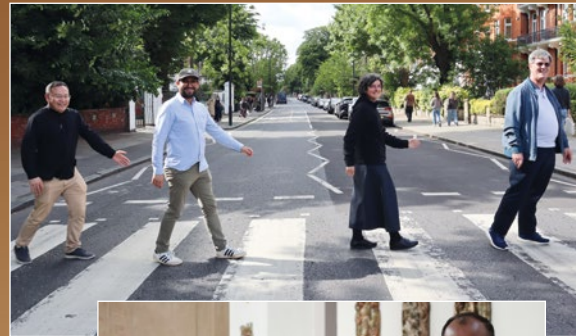
During the Novena for Oblate Vocations in May, the Oblate Vocations Mission team visited several London parishes, including Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Kilburn, as well as English Martyrs in Tower Hill.

Fr. Irvin Morastil, the Vocations Director, and Fr. Eduardo Nunez Yopez, the Parish Priest of Darndale, joined the local parish teams to share their personal journeys to the Oblate way of life. They spoke of their calling to serve the most abandoned in society, to spread the gospel, and to live out the charism of Saint Eugene de Mazenod. Sr. Immaculada from Spain, representing the Missioneras Oblatas, also shared her experience as a Missionary Oblate Sister (www.en.oblatas.org).

With a presence in 68 countries worldwide, the Oblates dedicated this week to praying for and promoting vocations to the Oblates within families and communities. Fr. Eduardo emphasised that God calls each of us from our unique circumstances, inviting us to find happiness in our vocation, whatever form it may take. Fr. Irvin extended a special invitation to everyone present, asking them to reach out to any young person they know who may be exploring or considering a religious life or a vocation to the priesthood. He encouraged them to recommend speaking with a member of the Oblate community to help discern and investigate that calling.

If you would like to know more about vocations to the Oblate life please contact:

Fr. Irvin Morastil, OMI - Vocations Director
email: i.morastil@oblatas.co.uk





ADVENTURE CAMP 2024

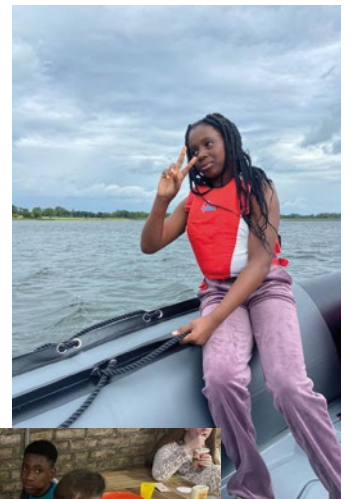
Our Adventure camp returned this year in July. Our group of young people were hosted for a week in Lilliput Adventure Centre, Westmeath, Ireland.

We stayed in Lilliput for five days. It was a big change for most of the young people who were much more used to an urban setting.

It was a week full of games and activities. The activities included rock climbing, laser tag, orienteering, bog-hopping, swimming and many others. We had prizes on offer for the winners of our table quiz and soccer tournament. The midnight walk in the woods was a highlight for many but a lowlight for others. We ensured there was a few frights along the way.

It was a week full of fun for the leaders involved and the young people. Big thanks to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate for making this all possible. Many thanks to the staff in Lilliput for making sure the whole group had a great experience.

Here's to more slushies in 2025.



For information about our 2025 camp please contact: Padraig Corcoran

St Michael's Inchicore, 52A Bulfin Rd, Inchicore, Dublin 8

Mobile: +353 (0)877723255

Email: padraig.oblate.partners@gmail.com



Lourdes 2024

The 2024 Oblate Pilgrimage to Lourdes was an unforgettable journey for the hundreds of pilgrims who travelled to the Marian shrine in France. Led by Bishop Emeritus Eamon Walsh of the Archdiocese of Dublin, Fr. Lorcán O'Reilly OMI, Oblate Provincial, and ten members of the Oblate Community, this year's pilgrimage gathered people from all over Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland, and the Island of Jersey. This year, the Jersey group celebrated its 50th year of pilgrimage with the Oblates. Some pilgrims travelled from even further afield, one from as far away as Trinidad and Tobago, as well as others from Canada, and the United States. Our theme for this year's pilgrimage was: "Lourdes: A Light of Hope" and during our time in Lourdes, the power of faith, healing, and the sense of hope that has been a hallmark of Lourdes for over a century, was present in all the beautiful liturgies and services, and in the forging and renewal of friendships.

For those unable to attend in person, every service and homily was made available on the Oblate YouTube channel, facilitating a broader community to experience the pilgrimage's blessings and spiritual depth.

Assisting the Most Vulnerable

This year's pilgrimage was particularly special due to the extraordinary care and dedication shown to the assisted pilgrims. Some 40 pilgrims needing extra care or assistance were accompanied each day by 46 members of the Oblate Youth Service (OYS), a vibrant group of young volunteers who provided care and companionship throughout the journey. In total, 178 members of the Oblate Lourdes Hospitalité team provided their support, ensuring that all pilgrims, especially the sick and elderly, were able to participate fully in all events.

In his homily during the Mass at the Grotto of Massabielle, Fr Lorcán spoke of the profound connection between Lourdes and the healing ministry of Christ, and how our faith must be more about gestures than about words:

"Many times in the Gospel we see how Jesus treats those who suffer – deaf people, paralysed people, and people with many different needs – he speaks little and promptly follows up his words with actions. He bends down, he takes hands, he heals. Jesus does not waste time interrogating people. Instead he shows the gentleness of one who listens intently... Day after day in Lourdes we witness this; the quiet word, the gentle chat."

During the Mass in the Basilica of St Pius X on the third day, pilgrims preparing to make the Water Gesture – a blessing with the water from the Spring of Lourdes – were asked to recall their baptism and renew their commitment to be followers of Christ.

Bishop Eamon Walsh offered these words to ponder: "At that very moment of our baptism the love of God; the spirit of God's love is actually poured into our heart. Now we have a choice - do we keep it in, or do we let it out?"

"During the baptismal ceremony that we don't remember as we are too young – our mouth and ears are touched, and the words are said: 'The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May He soon touch your ears to receive his Word and your mouth to proclaim it' – that's our baptismal call. We ask our Lady to assist us, who answered her baptismal call – and Bernadette – to assist us in answering our own baptismal call as we journey together as fellow pilgrims and its maybe in the quiet moments, or the laughter or the jokes that God speaks to our heart."





A Pilgrimage of Hope

The theme of this year's pilgrimage, "Lourdes: A Light of Hope," resonated deeply with the pilgrims. For so many people, Lourdes is not just a place of physical healing but a sanctuary where they can find comfort and strength in their faith, most especially during times of difficulty or suffering.

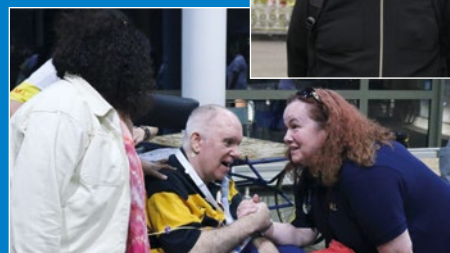
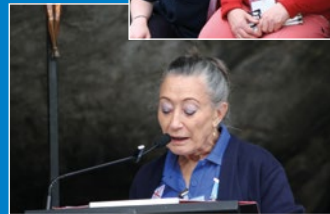
In his homily during the Mass of Anointing, Fr John McFadden OMI shared: "Here in Lourdes our assisted pilgrims are afforded 'priority boarding' - invited to come forward and to take the place of honour. Like Bartimaeus standing before Jesus in that same place of honour we are asked by Him: 'What do you want me to do for you?' I realised then what I really wanted from Jesus - I really wanted not to be alone. The sacraments of the Eucharist and the Anointing of the Sick reassure us that on our pilgrimage of life and faith we are not alone."

Sarah Braid from Colwyn Bay in North Wales said: "The theme of the pilgrimage is 'A Light of Hope' which was inspired by Pope Francis and my experience has been one very full of hope now on our last day. It was an amazing experience."

Willie McEwan from Leith said: "Lourdes is a very happy, special place and it is the highlight of my year. It's a great feeling that this place gives you - a holy place."

Maurice and Mary Eviston, originally from Tipperary, now living in Canada, were married in 1960 in Sacred Heart, Quex Road and are celebrating 64 years of marriage this year. They shared, "It has been a wonderful, uplifting experience. I don't think I'd be able to explain to anybody how you feel, you have to witness it yourself! It has been an extraordinary experience for us both and we are so happy we came."

Sinthu from Dublin, a nursing staff volunteer reflected: "We feel really peaceful and calm and blessed here." Her colleague, Mary, a first timer in Lourdes, said she felt so thankful and blessed to be in Lourdes.



United in Faith and Service

A true highlight of this year's pilgrimage was the sense of unity and service that permeated every aspect of the journey. The Oblate Hospitalité members, and the Oblate Youth Service (OYS) worked tirelessly to ensure that all pilgrims, especially the assisted pilgrims, felt cared for and supported.

Cian, a member of the OYS, reflected on his first time in Lourdes: "The first thing I noticed when I got here was the tranquillity, the scenery and the landscape is just beautiful. The whole experience of helping these people you can see that it means so much and it's so magical to benefit their lives and to work together as a team, that's what I like most about here."

Danny from Kairos said, "My first time here; it's been a very eye-opening experience – I've never seen anything quite like it. The experience in the hospital has been humbling and I look forward to coming again – a great experience helping others and getting out of myself for a bit and taking a break out of life, and I recommend it to anyone who hasn't tried it!"

Fr Dominik Domagala OMI, who was also on his first pilgrimage to Lourdes, shared: "What I discover and see in Lourdes is humility - the virtue which is present all of the time here - whether one is a volunteer, sick, a priest, or whoever else - everyone here tries their best to help each other and to treat others as more important than oneself. That's something that is very much speaking to me in Lourdes."

The pilgrimage also provided an opportunity for different communities to come together as a wider Oblate family. The pilgrimage group from the Island of Jersey, celebrating their 50th year of pilgrimage with the Oblates, is an important part of the Oblate Pilgrimage. Their enduring commitment to the pilgrimage was recognised during our Closing Service of Missioning, with Bishop Eamon Walsh offering prayers of gratitude for their faithful presence over the years.



A Message of Hope

As the pilgrimage came to a close, the Closing Ceremony and Missioning Service delivered a message of resilience and hope that pilgrims carried with them as they returned home. Mossie Lyons, director of Kairos Community Trust, a charity started by a Catholic priest member of the Spiritan congregation in the 1970's which supports homeless people with addictions, delivered a powerful reflection on the theme of hope.

Dominic, Rob, and Martina, all part of the Kairos Group, shared profound and inspiring testimonies as to how coming to Lourdes as volunteers has helped shaped their faith and affected the trajectory of their lives.

Mossie, as he reflected on the theme "A light of Hope", shared this with the pilgrims present: "Take tenderness with you and let it permeate all your relationships, especially those closest to you. That's real presence.

Young people: in a secular world we need your hope. Be counter cultural, be different, be courageous and be a light of hope in terms of your faith and your commitment to Christ and his church."

For many, the 2024 Oblate Pilgrimage to Lourdes was a profound encounter of faith, healing, and hope, and with one another. As pilgrims go back to their daily lives, they do so with a renewed sense of purpose and a strengthened connection to Our Lady and her son Jesus, bringing that the light of hope with them and sharing it with those they meet back home.

For those unable to attend, every service, homily, and event can still be accessed through the Oblate YouTube channel (@theoblates), ensuring that the light of hope from Lourdes can reach homes and hearts across the world. You may also visit www.oblates.ie to watch back.

Save the dates for next year's pilgrimage, 14-19 September 2025.

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In a recent reference to the 2022 Chapter, entitled “Pilgrims of Hope in Communion”, Fr. Chico OMI Superior General mentioned that “Laity who wish to fully live the charism of St. Eugene are not second class citizens or even a third order! With the establishment of the Friends of St. Eugene (FoSE) in 2010, little did I realise that the Spirit would enable our little seeds to take deep roots as our Friends would joyfully share: ‘I am a Friend of St. Eugene’. Each person and group are distinctive in nature as they seek to live out their Oblate Lay identity and mission. Currently, we have Friends (FoSE) in Kilburn, Birmingham, Peckham and Crewe who gather monthly. Here are some of their sacred stories...

– Peckham Friends of St. Eugene

It is easy to identify the vital connections in the journey of life, to trace them back to childhood. Every day is filled with connections; some arranged with routine ones others by chance. Providential, timely, opportune connections have helped and continue to help shape me. My values and beliefs have been informed and nurtured by such connections, for which I am grateful.

The fifteen year organic, evolving connection between the OMI and Kairos Community Trust stands out as being a most providential and truly enriching relationship. For me, it is a gift and a blessing. The Holy guides (leads) us into an engagement, friendship, reflection, prayer and a trusting collaboration.

Many in Kairos have found an open, welcoming, homing heart in the Oblate family which has enabled connections that are empowering and enriching. Recovering addicts feel anchored, valued and belonging, to the point where through their recovery process, they have become a wonderful resource. What would a psychologist make of that investment in such a workforce?

In 2010, the connection began with nine from Kairos joining the Oblate Lourdes pilgrimage and this year, a group of 52 Oblate Hospitality team will be servicing all

sections of the pilgrimage; from Deputy Manager in the Hospital (Dom’s 12th year with his Hospitality team) to night duty, security, choir, helping in the dining room, cleaning wards, leading processions as banner bearers etc.

For me, above anything else, Lourdes is a place where all are equalised. In our Oblate togetherness, we encounter degrees of fragility which hold faith in hope, love and prayer. Through Our Lourdes service, the Oblate heart opened and Kairos walked in with open minds and willing hands. Over the years, we grasped and celebrated moments and events in an ever growing relationship through the residential Retreat days and weekends, online Lenten/ Easter reflections. A point of growth has been in preparing Oblate morning prayers and Easter/ Christmas paraliturgies and signs of this growth is no more exemplified than in the monthly FoSE group in Peckham for the past few years. This group has grown in its Oblate awareness and it embodies a distinctive sense of being Oblate. This has exciting prospects for the future – and I believe may present opportunities for further Oblate formation and ministry. Currently, each group member commits its service within Oblate Lourdes pilgrimage. I feel there is more to be explored, in prayer and reflection which find another expression and unfold over time. A bit cryptic I know, but if you had told me 15 years ago that I would be writing this in 2024, I would have laughed!

Overall, I have come to see how the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) spirituality meets, sits alongside and even compliments Oblate spirituality: Bob, Bill and Eugene! The ‘Madeleine sermon’ of Fr. Eugene still lifts the spirits of any alienated homeless addiction group today. Conversely, the AA’s 12 steps would be a worthwhile resource for an Oblate retreat.

I am most grateful for an inclusion that helps us in Kairos towards self-awareness, acceptance and a striving for congruence. Also, I hope Kairos will continue to grow into the Oblate family especially in and through service.

– Mossie Lyons

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– Birmingham Friends of St. Eugene

In 1976 at Birmingham, Fr. Pascal Dillon OMI founded a local Hostel called St Anne's which was established for Homeless men. Fr. Paschal established this men's hostel in St. Chad's Cathedral's crypt and it was relocated to 112 Moseley Street which was originally the Police Barracks for Birmingham. This hostel is one of only two in Birmingham adapted for men who have pet dogs.

The hostel provides a safe and secure haven for approximately thirty five homeless men. By offering a meal, somewhere to sleep, help with their recovery; it gives them opportunities to rebuild and change their lifestyle as they gain dignity and self-confidence.



Mossie with Fr Johnson



Mary & Marilyn

The ever growing demand poses many challenges amidst reduced resources. Amanda Trappett (Director of Services) personally remembers Fr. Pascal as a young volunteer and she still works with this project. Our FoSE continue to support this hostel through regular prayer for the staff and service throughout the year.

The Friends of St. Eugene (FoSE) continue to support the legacy left by the late Fr. Paschal through St. Anne's Hostel. Working alongside our Parish Priest, Fr. Robert Murphy, we as Friends of St. Eugene (FoSE), are committed to helping the marginalised in life through our practical support and more importantly through prayer.

During Harvest and Advent 2023, we decided as a Parish activity to put our efforts in supporting this Hostel collecting many items of food, toiletries, Christmas items and dog food for their pets. We offer practical support and we encourage friends and families to support our mission. We thank all our parishioners, Fr Robert and FoSE for all their continued support to this project.

– Mary Leonard and Marilyn Bissondial

Oblate Jubilee Celebrations Mary Immaculate Church, Inchicore



The Oblate community gathered to celebrate the Oblate Jubilarians for 2024, together with many of their friends and family. The Jubilarians honoured included: Br James Beggan OMI, celebrating 70 years of profession, and several Oblates marking their 60th anniversary of ordination: Fr Brian de Búrca OMI, Fr Ignatius Fidgeon OMI, Fr Lewy Keely OMI, Fr Michael Phelan OMI (Kilburn), Fr Patrick Moroney OMI (Australia), Fr Vincent Mulligan OMI, and Fr Joe Daly OMI. Also celebrated were Fr Patrick McGrath OMI and Fr William Fitzpatrick OMI, each marking 50 years of ordination, as well as Fr John McFadden OMI (Glasgow) and Fr Andrew Small OMI (US Province), who both marked 25 years of Oblate priesthood.



WISTASTON HALL OBLATE RETREAT AND SPIRITUALITY CENTRE

Pilgrims of Hope

– Led by David Wells

15th – 17th November suggested donation - £175.00

Finding our way through life's challenges and difficulties can, at times, feel overwhelming. Surrounded by so many distractions, we can easily find ourselves heading in the wrong direction. At times, we don't even know we are lost. Pope Francis calls us to be Pilgrims of Hope, moving forward confidently without fear. We will use our time to think about the role hope plays in our lives and why it is an antidote to cynicism and pessimism.

As we move forward through hope we entrust our destiny to Jesus, the Hope of the world. We need not be afraid. Let us meet to consider our lives as pilgrims, motivated by hope towards a future we can not see.

www.orc-crewe.org Download a booking form or book online.

David Wells is a religious education consultant whose career began as a teacher before becoming a research assistant for the Bishops' Conference in England and Wales. Since then, his work has taken him all over the world, speaking at more than 500 conferences worldwide and guest lectures in three English universities and two seminaries. Wells has published two books: "The Reluctant Disciple" and "The Grateful Disciple," and recently produced a DVD series titled, "Beloved Disciples."

For Information or Booking

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Saint Bernadette Relic Pilgrimage

Be part of the St Bernadette Relic Pilgrimage in Inchicore this Autumn.

In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette of Lourdes will journey on pilgrimage to Ireland for the very first time, visiting every diocese in the country.

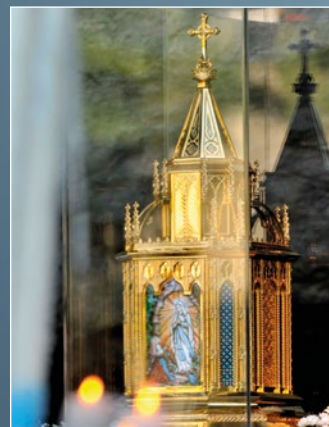
This very special, once-in-lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes in their diocese.

The Oblate parish of Mary Immaculate and the Oblate Lourdes Pilgrimage are honoured to welcome the Relics of Saint Bernadette to Inchicore from the 23rd of October -25th of October. All events will take place at the Oblate Parish of Mary Immaculate and adjacent Grotto in Inchicore, Tyrconnell Road, Dublin 8.

For the full schedule please visit <http://oblates.ie/relics2024/>



Saint
Bernadette
Relic Pilgrimage Ireland 2024



If you would like to share your thoughts or ideas with us please contact: Oblate Communications, 11E Emmet Court, St Vincent St West, Dublin 8, D08 KHY7 or email: communications@oblates.ie

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