

Dear Parishes,

We would be grateful if you would add a notice to the parish newsletter to let people know that the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Applications are open. *Posters and gift aid envelopes will be sent out to you before the 2<sup>nd</sup> collection date in February.*

**Short Text:**

Applications for this summer's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (25-31 July by air or own transport, 24 July-1 August by coach/jumbulance) are now open on the diocesan website: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes>

**Long Text:**

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Our pilgrimage to Lourdes is one of the most significant pastoral events in our annual Diocesan calendar. Pope Francis has declared 2025 is a Jubilee year, the Lourdes theme is 'With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope'. We are invited to set out on our pilgrimage journey with our Lady and St Bernadette, in the 'hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ.' (Pope Francis, *Spes non Confundit 2025*)

Lourdes is a place of renewal, unlike tourists, visiting a popular attraction, we are pilgrims, making the journey together, we laugh together, break bread together, and we enter a space in which we can be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in ways that, perhaps, we would never have thought possible before.

Thank you for your support,



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