

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Hospitalite Of Our Lady of Lourdes - Diocese of Dromore**

#### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023**

##### **Objectives and Activities**

The charitable purpose of the Hospitalite of Our Lady of Lourdes - Diocese of Dromore is to promote devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes and facilitate the sick of the Diocese of Dromore to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

The principal function of the Hospitalite of Our Lady of Lourdes - Diocese of Dromore is to support the advancement of the Catholic religion by promoting devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes and the wider mission of the church at parish level and at the shrine in Lourdes. This is pursued through pastoral, evangelistic, social or ecumenical means, being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those wishing to travel to the shrine at Lourdes.

##### **Achievements, Performance and Public Benefit**

Hospitalite of Our Lady of Lourdes - Diocese of Dromore is an association of volunteers who work under the auspices of the Catholic Church and meet across the Diocese of Dromore at Parish level. We spend time together and go out in the community to promote the faith, particularly devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, and to organise various fund raising activities in order to facilitate our Assisted Pilgrims and Workers to travel to the international shrine at Lourdes, France. The Hospitalite has also considered the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered during the year have helped to achieve the Hospitalite's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

##### **Worship and Prayer**

The Executive Committee led by our Spiritual Director Fr. Brian Fitzpatrick organise participation in Masses, processions and liturgies throughout our time at the shrine in Lourdes that are beneficial and spiritually fulfilling for all pilgrims and for those who follow from home via the shrine webcam. Our community meets in the month of April for volunteer preparation before travel, we make the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in May and we invite all who made the pilgrimage together again in the month of October for our annual reunion Mass. Some parish committees also organise events at a local level for the wider parish community in February, making the anniversary of the first apparitions in Lourdes.

##### **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral care is central to the life and witness of the Hospitalite of Our Lady of Lourdes - Diocese of Dromore. We engage with aspiring pilgrims early in the new year in preparation for the journey to Lourdes in May. We carry out medical and nursing assessment of those who wish to travel as assisted (sick) pilgrims, including sick children and their parents, and put arrangements in place for those with life-limiting conditions and those who require assistance with mobility. In Lourdes we arrange accommodation for sick pilgrims in a dedicated care facility and take care of all their needs as pilgrims

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until they return home. We are available at parish level throughout the year to offer practical assistance when possible.

#### **Parish Groups and Facilities**

Hospitalite of Our Lady of Lourdes - Diocese of Dromore is made up of an Executive Committee and 19 Parish Committees who operate across the diocese. All committees operate under the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy. The various parishes plan events throughout the year to raise funds to help send their sick parishioners and workers on the annual pilgrimage during the month of May. Such events include raffles, fashion shows, sponsored walks, dances, concerts and many more. Friendship outings are organised regularly between the various committees to promote well-being and a sense of community.

#### **Mission and Evangelism**

Hospitalite of Our Lady of Lourdes - Diocese of Dromore strives to put Our Lady and the message of Lourdes at the centre of everything we do. We have recently introduced our Financial Policies and Procedures document to help strengthen our position in Parish life. We are updating our constitution to ensure clear guidance and we adhere to the Diocesan Child and Adult Safeguarding policies.

#### **Reserve Policy**

The reserves policy of the charity is dictated by its two-year operational cycle. The opening reserves for the year dictate the capacity of the charity to organise the pilgrimages during the year which take place the following year. For this reason, the parishes are expected to hold reserves of approximately two years pilgrimage programme funding and the executive to have sufficient funds to cover the advanced booking deposits.

#### **Financial Review**

The 2023 year was the first pilgrimage to run since the Covid-19 pandemic. For this reason and continued associated risks there were no assisted pilgrims on the 2023 pilgrimage to Lourdes. There was a significant increase in income and expenditure from 2022 which reflects the pilgrimage in the year. Total income is £136,797.09 and expenditure in the year of £137,332.18, which resulted in an overall deficit of £535.09.

The 2023 accounts include three adjustments which have been carrying forward numerous years to include un-presented cheques and double counted donations which had net effect of (£4,069.28).

The charity has total reserves of £664,409.63. The restricted amount is £536,477.07 and the unrestricted amount is £127,932.56 which are adequate.

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#### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023**

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

Hospitalite of Our Lady of Lourdes - Diocese of Dromore are governed by a Governing Document and Constitution which outlines the structure and management of the charity.

#### **Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees**

As well as constitutional requirements, the Executive and parishes committees are obliged to implement regulations of the Diocese of Dromore. The diocesan regulations require adherence to the Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy, to file and pilgrimage report with the diocesan office within a reasonable period of time on our return from Lourdes, to remain registered with the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland, and to submit a copy of our accounts on an annual basis to the diocesan office.

#### **Pay and Remuneration**

All members are volunteers. There are no paid employees.

#### **Organisational Structure**

Hospitalite of Our Lady of Lourdes - Diocese of Dromore - Executive is made up of 15 parish representatives who organise the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. There are 19 Parish Committees who fund raise to send their Parishioners/Workers to Lourdes

#### **Compliance with the sector-wide Legislation and Standards**

The charity engages pro-actively with the legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Hospitalite of Our Lady of Lourdes - Diocese of Dromore subscribes to and is compliant with the following : The Charities SORP (FRS 102).

#### **Public Benefit**

The Hospitalite of Our Lady of Lourdes - Diocese of Dromore has given consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Hospitalite's objectives and activities, thus providing public benefit.

## Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

### Hospitalite Of Our Lady of Lourdes - Diocese of Dromore

#### Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

##### Going Concern

The trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Hospitalite can continue its activities. The trustees are also satisfied the financial statements for the year end 31st December 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

##### Future Developments

The Trustees aim to maintain the charities current stable financial structure.

##### Statements of the Trustees responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations:

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practise (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the financial activities of the charity for that period.


In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to follow best practise and:

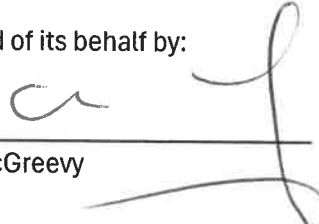
- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- State whether the Charities SORP (effective January 2015) in accordance with FRS 102 has been followed;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 14th October 2024 and signed of its behalf by:

  
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Leo McGreevy

  
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Sean McGreevy