**Liverpool Archdiocese Youth Pilgrimage**

**Commitment**

**This commitment is in place to ensure a positive environment to support and promote acceptable conduct at all times.**

**The expectation is that all youth pilgrims take responsibility for their own behaviour and promote and maintain a supportive, safe and respectful culture.**

**Please note, we have tried to offer as much guidance here as possible; but this commitment cannot be exhaustive of all events, situations and behaviours on the pilgrimage.**

**General**

All pilgrims should uphold the Christian ethos of the pilgrimage.

Pilgrims should not bring the pilgrimage into disrepute: either through their actions or language. Care should be taken about Social Media and other forms of media/communication.

All pilgrims should participate fully in the activities of the Youth Pilgrimage, both before and during the time of the pilgrimage.

**Pre-pilgrimage**

Pilgrims must attend preparation meetings for your coach. If you cannot attend a meeting you should inform the coach leader in advance. Please be aware that missing preparation meetings may result in you not being able to travel to Lourdes.

Pilgrims should make every effort to attend the two Youth Alive celebrations (Advent and Lent) and the Lourdes Departure and Reunion Masses.

Pilgrims should abide by the agreed payment schedule (if under 18, parent/guardians are responsible for ensuring that the payment deadlines are met). Please be aware that significantly delayed payments may result in a pilgrim being unable to travel to Lourdes.

**Journey to and from Lourdes**

Pilgrimage ID to be worn at all times

Pilgrimage t-shirts (and hoodies and coats) can be worn

No alcohol to be drunk at any time

No non/low alcohol to be drunk at any time

No alcohol to be bought at shops or duty free (without prior permission of the coach leader)

Smoking / vaping allowed in designated non-restricted areas only. Please be respectful of other members of the pilgrimage and the wider public.

**In Lourdes**

Pilgrimage ID to be worn at all times (on duty, off duty, day off, free time, evenings)

Attire should be suitable for a pilgrimage even in free time/nights/day off

Appearance of the pilgrimage uniform (yellow t-shirts, hoodies, coats, poncho) should not be altered / defaced.

Pilgrims must stay in their own rooms at night.

No alcohol (or non/low alcohol) to be bought at shops (unless permission has been granted by the coach leader in advance).

Alcohol that has been bought with permission for gifts or use at home should not be kept in pilgrim rooms.

**On Duty**

Pilgrimage ID to be worn at all times

Pilgrimage uniform to be worn at all times: Yellow t-shirt or hoody or coat

Pilgrimage uniform should be outer garment (poncho, hoody, coat or t-shirt)

Sensible shoes / trainers (not flip-flops)

Shorts/Skirts should be (approaching) knee length or below.

Leggings can be worn if appropriate

Staff reserve the right to decide on what is appropriate clothing and footwear and can ask a pilgrim to change.

Do not accept money from any assisted pilgrim

Do not take assisted pilgrims to the toilet. Approach a member of staff or member of hospitality.

No alcohol (or non/low alcohol) drinks

Smoking / vaping permitted but away from any assisted pilgrims and being aware of other members of the pilgrimage and wider public. Do not leave assisted pilgrims to go for a cigarette / vape.

**Off Duty**

Pilgrimage ID to be worn at all times

No alcohol (or non/low alcohol) drinks

Smoking / vaping permitted but away from any assisted pilgrims and being aware of other members of the pilgrimage and wider public.

**Nights in Lourdes**

At night coaches can go to a bar or café. Pilgrims must stay with their coach at night and not leave the bar or café unless permission has been granted by the coach leader.

Alcohol is only to be bought / drunk by those over 18.

If friends / parishioners / assisted pilgrims etc buy a youth pilgrim an alcoholic drink as a thank you / gift please inform staff members.

On normal nights:

Limit of 2 Demis (half pints)

Wine can be drunk in place of a Demi. One small glass = one Demi.

Drinks should be bought one at a time.

Over 18’s nights:

Any drink other than shots.

Spirits should be drunk with mixers.

Drinks should be bought one at a time.

Staff to offer policing in cases where it seems too much may be being drunk.

Last orders and leaving the bar time should be respected. On leaving the bar all pilgrims should be quiet and respectful.

**Disciplinary Process**

Will be used if a pilgrim is seen to be in significant or continual breach of the pilgrimage commitment:

**Step 1**

Continual minor lapses from acceptable standards of behaviour.

Informal conversation with young person and staff member with reason for conversation noted, dated and timed. Staff may feel it appropriate to take small scale actions such as more regular monitoring on nights off or in free time. Warning given of next steps.

**Step 2**

Further lapses of acceptable standards of behaviour.

Verbal warning issued to pilgrim and parents informed that this has happened. Reasons for warning will be noted, along with date and time of warning. Warning given of next steps.

**Step 3**

Serious misconduct, or a significant escalation from Step 1 and Step 2.

Final written warning issued to pilgrim and parents informed that this has happened. Reasons for warning will be noted, along with date and time of warning. Warning given of next and final step.

**Step 4**

Further escalation from Step 2; or serious misconduct/gross misconduct.

For example (but not restricted to), behaviour that, intentionally or not, causes or could have caused significant harm to others, significant damage to property, or significant harm to the reputation of the Pilgrimage, or for the possession of drugs, illegal substances or alcohol when not permitted in the rules.

Discussion to take place with pilgrim and parents about the next step that will have to be taken. This discussion will include various options, such as: moving coach, asking parents to travel to Lourdes, a member of staff escorting the pilgrim home. This would be a discussion about what is best for the young person, the wider coach and the whole pilgrimage.

This full process may be suspended in cases of breaches of safeguarding policy or gross misconduct.