



# Ampleforth Hospitalité Our Lady of Lourdes

June 2013 Newsletter



## LOURDES, A DOOR OF FAITH PASTORAL THEME FOR 2013

Throughout this year the whole Church is celebrating a Year of Faith – an opportunity for us to give thanks to God for the gift of faith which we have been given and to pray for the strengthening of our faith and the grace to inspire others to accept God's offer of faith by our example of response.

In Lourdes this year we reflect on the way in which Lourdes has been a doorway of faith for us, and think about how it can help us and others to grow in faith. The Sanctuary suggests that we think about a number of different aspects of our Pilgrimage to open ourselves to this gift of faith.

**The Sign of the Cross:** we call on the Father who created us, the Son who gives us his life, and the Holy Spirit who draws us into a relationship of love with the Father and of the Son – in making the sign of the cross we remember our baptism, thank God for the cross through which Jesus gave us faith and let ourselves be immersed by Jesus into the mystery of faith.

**The Rock of the Grotto:** so often when we walk through the Grotto, we stretch out our hands to touch the Rock. Doing so can be a sign for us, when we reach out in prayer; that we lean on God, who is our Rock in whom we trust. Our confidence in God is both revealed and shown to others.

**The Water from the Spring:** the invitation to Bernadette to wash in the spring immediately followed the words of Our Lady about Penance. Bernadette was ridiculed for washing in the muddy dribble that became the spring. But soon the water would flow clear and strong, a sign of the cleansing that conversion brings, and a reminder to us that faith calls us to be converted to God anew.

**The Light of pilgrims:** conversion allows us to identify the light which leads us back to the doorway of faith. Bernadette carried a candle to the Grotto, and the light shining from it was a sign of the light shining from her life. We can see in the candles of the Torchlight Procession a light that points each one of us, individually and as a group,

to that doorway in our own life.

**New Life:** in Lourdes the relationships that we have, especially with the Hospital Pilgrims, open us to a new way of living, rooted in prayer, witness and charity, following the example of St Bernadette, which enables us to live in relationships with others in such a way as to see Christ in them. The doorway of faith becomes a way to deeper relationships with others as well as with God.

We can sum all this up by praying the **Apostles' Creed**, in which we respond to God's gift of faith by affirming our acceptance of it:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into Hell; the third day he rose again from the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

*Luke Beckett OSB*

*Spiritual Adviser - Ampleforth Lourdes Hospitalité*



## A 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As I write, plans are well-advanced for the 2013 Pilgrimage, which starts on 12 July. The following evening we will all meet up to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the first Ampleforth Pilgrimage to Lourdes, following the resumption of Pilgrimages after the Second World War.

Recently I found a report in the Ampleforth Journal of 1995 of a Pilgrimage to Lourdes by three Ampleforth monks, which took place a century earlier in 1895. It was amazing to discover quite how much has changed since then, yet how much remains the same.

The monks travelled from Ampleforth initially to one of the Liverpool parishes and then by boat to La Rochelle, which involved crossing the Bay of Biscay. Having reached Bordeaux station, they discovered there were many trains to Lourdes that day, as their trip happened to coincide with the start of the French National Pilgrimage on the Feast of the Assumption. Some 70 years before the Second Vatican Council, all priests celebrated individual masses each day and the 3 monks found themselves in lengthy queues outside chapels waiting to celebrate their Masses. For the period of the French National Pilgrimage, the Bishop had granted an extension to the normal Mass times, so they could continue by day and night!

Thereafter small groups from Ampleforth – including Boys from the School – came on Pilgrimage from time to time. However the need to suspend Pilgrimages at the outbreak of WW 2 coincided with a change in the monk at Ampleforth responsible for their organisation. As a result, after the War ended, nobody took up the reins again.

However two boys in the School, who had planned to join the 1939 Pilgrimage, which was cancelled at the outbreak of hostilities, later joined the Monastery. So it was some 13 years later, that Fr Martin Haigh and Fr Basil Hume went on Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1952.

Despite various trials and tribulations, which are all recorded by the late Fr Bernard Green in his published History of the first 50 years of the Pilgrimage, these two monks returned to Ampleforth fired up and determined to lead a Pilgrimage of Monks, Members of the School, Old Amplefordians and their friends and families. And so it has continued to the present day. The History does not fully explain how it happened that Fr Martin became first Director of the Pilgrimage in 1953, until he stood down in 1988, thus freeing Fr Basil to be elected Abbot of Ampleforth in 1963 and to be appointed Archbishop of Westminster in 1976 and Cardinal.

Since the beginning of this year, a number of the Ampleforth monks, who came on the early Pilgrimages have died. These include Fr Alberic Stacpoole, Fr Geoffrey Lynch and Fr Justin Caldwell and also, at the early age of only 60, Fr Bernard Green, who took on the enormous task of succeeding Fr Martin as Director of the Pilgrimage in 1988 and continued in this role until 1995, when he moved to Oxford. We will pray for them all - and for all who have died - at our Mass for the Deceased Members of our Hospitalité whilst we are in Lourdes.

After Fr Bernard's Funeral at Ampleforth in March, it was very good to see that Fr Martin was still well-able to use his elbows, as required, to get to the table for the Buffet Lunch. He rejoined the Pilgrimage in 2005 for the 50th Anniversary. However his health will not allow him to be with us on the 60th Anniversary. Nonetheless, I am sure the Hospitalité members will want Abbot Timothy and me to send their prayers and good wishes to him from Lourdes.

Out in Lourdes, Bertrand Clerq-Renaud has succeeded Antoine Tierny after two 4-year terms as President of the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes. Thus, God willing, it is likely that Bertrand will be in charge in 2019, when the Ampleforth Lourdes Hospitalité will celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

I take this opportunity to thank all those who give so generously of their time to our Hospitalité both on Pilgrimage in Lourdes and between Pilgrimages back home. If you could only see the email Inbox of our Director, Mike Thoms, you would wonder how Fr Martin organised the earlier Pilgrimages, using only the Royal Mail and Telephone; it is a complete mystery to me.

I would also like to thank Peter Harris, who has been leading the Committee on Safeguarding for several years. Obtaining CRB forms for all our Hotel Pilgrims last year was a major undertaking, which brought us into line with best practice of the Diocesan Pilgrimages of England and Wales. Our Safeguarding policies have now been harmonised with Ampleforth's, whose HR Department is assisting us to obtain the new forms. Meanwhile, changes both at Ampleforth and by Government should make this an easier task for us in future. Thus, our policies are in place and the heavy lifting has all been done thanks to Peter. For the future, Philip Westmacott will add Safeguarding to his responsibilities for Health and Safety, which are also closely co-ordinated with Ampleforth

Our Newsletter – now twice yearly – has undergone an amazing transformation and for this all thanks must go the Editor. I have not mentioned many topics, though I am sure Lucy will have encouraged others more qualified than me to write about them, such as the Bishop's Theme for the 2013 Season – “Lourdes – the Doorway to Faith”.

Before I close, it occurs to me to say that if anyone reading this has not been on Pilgrimage with Ampleforth for several years, don't be afraid to come back. Much has changed, but much would still be recognisable even to those 3 monks who first travelled from Ampleforth to Lourdes in 1885, only 27 years after young Bernadette Soubirous went down to the river to collect firewood.

For those of you, who will be joining us in July, I look forward to seeing you then. For those, who can't be with us - for whatever reason - you will be remembered in the prayers of the Ampleforth Pilgrims in Lourdes 2013.

*Paul Williams*  
*Chairman - The Ampleforth Lourdes Hospitalité*

## NEARLY THERE!

I write to you, on this gorgeous bright sunny day in June, the fourth in a row, a record in recent times, surrounded by 80 pillows that have just been acquired for the comfort of our Hospital Pilgrims in Lourdes, and already reflecting on what will come up at our pilgrimage debrief in September.

One topic that will definitely be raised is technology! We have had a technology-fest this year, with the help of our new Treasurer – Jane Stein – we now use the Ampleforth IT system for recording our financial transactions. We have had a new application system, which was very kindly produced free of charge by one of our many “behind the scenes” helpers, and we have had the preparation and training videos, which have been in production and discussion for 18 months or so.

Some would say too much! I totally understand this sentiment, and whilst many of you have dealt easily with the two “new” software products that we have asked you to use, I also know that some of you have had difficulties, and it has created stress in your lives, for which I can only apologise.

Well done to those who persevered and would not be beaten. Hopefully those of you who lost the will to live and gave up, felt supported by one of the committee to deal with the issues you faced. I am truly grateful to you all, and thank you all for your comments. Some of which have been very encouraging, and some of which have been less so!

Anyway, we are nearly in Lourdes. The time has flown past again since last year when we were all together. I hope and pray that you can each take some time over the next few weeks to prepare yourselves for our week of prayer. To unpack the baggage of life, and resolve to leave some, if not all of life's burdens in Lourdes when you leave at the end of your week. It is important to prepare, if we are to be truly enriched by the love of Our Lady.

With every blessing and love to you all.

*Mike Thoms*  
*Pilgrimage Director*

## HOSPITALITÉ NEWS

At last the sun is shining and summer seems to have come. My beans are growing and the rhubarb has been delicious!

There have been several gatherings this year as you can see from this newsletter:

Firstly, a really well attended Reunion in London. We tried a new venue and this was voted a success; we have to thank Jane Roberts for this as we all gathered at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in December for a celebratory Mass and tea to acknowledge 10 years of ARMF. We also owe thanks to Father Hugh and Father Anthony for joining us and celebrating Mass, and to everyone for bringing so much amazing food to share - we had a real feast!

The retreat weekend at Ampleforth at the beginning of May was another special occasion. There were over twenty of us gathered at the Grange and if you read Fiona Collins' account of the weekend, maybe you will be persuaded to come next year!

In June, Cath Gaynor kindly hosted a 'Quiet Day' led by Father Edward. This has become an annual event for those of us lucky enough to live in East Anglia and more and more people seem to attend each year! Do read Cath's thoughts on the day and see the photos too.

And as for the newsletter itself, it really is a 'bumper' addition! Suddenly articles were flooding in and I think we have put together a good mix of memories and reflections, lots of information and future dates and all this interspersed with jolly photos - what more could you want! Don't forget to read the Measles update and the Philip Westmacott's excellent article on the Moodles. Looking forward to seeing many of you in July, and let's hope we have some sun!

*Lucy Rowan-Robinson*



## AMPLEFORTH RETREAT

After many pilgrimages with Ampleforth and stages to Lourdes, it was starting to feel a bit odd that I had never actually visited Ampleforth. I had no images to recall as conversations mentioned the Abbey and the Valley. This year, a free weekend coincided with the Ampleforth Pilgrimage Retreat and I thought it was time I paid a visit.

So with directions from Lucy and my sat nav, I travelled from Gloucestershire. A Friday drive across the joys of the M5, M1 passed happily without incident. On arriving at the Grange, I was let in by some of the hospitality staff. I took a few hours to remember the code on the door; turn the lock the correct way and settle in to my room. I soon heard voices and followed the sounds to meet up with familiar faces. As soon as they heard it was my first visit, I was given a guided tour round the Grange!

Over the weekend stories were shared and walking in to the Abbey I was surprised by such a large modern church, contrasting with the intimacy of the choir. This view was enhanced by the small but perfectly sung Schola Mass we had on Friday night.

The theme of this year's retreat was to reflect on the Year of Faith. I was wondering why one would think of going away on a retreat. For me, like many, life is very busy, work with deadlines, family life, enjoying our social lives and going to Lourdes; not much opportunity for contemplation and reflection. This was time away to stop and think.

The programme pointed out how special it was to the share the monks' daily prayers in the Abbey. I was all set to do this when I noticed the first item for Saturday morning was Matins 6am; looking a bit too like an early Lourdes

start! However, the next morning, waking up, I noticed it was 5.30am so surprising myself, I did get up for Matins and in fact I joined the monks for all their prayers during the day. The difference from our daily rhythm to the monastic really helped me focus on the retreat.

Over the weekend we heard talks from Fr Luke, Fr Hugh and Fr Matthew. The talks making us think and challenging any preconceived ideas. We were also very grateful to some of the students who will be joining us on the pilgrimage in July, as they came and led us in Lectio Divina; a new experience for some. Sharing the Confirmation weekend was special; the Sunday liturgy was everything one imagined; a full Abbey and choir sounding magnificent. What a contrast to the experiences many of us have each Sunday in our local parishes.

Being taken to the Visitors' Centre, I saw how the Benedictine Community had been established. All very simply explained and the video of what the monks do in the community also very informative. We were able to enjoy the views across the valley as we walked around the grounds outside the Abbey and school.

My first visit to Ampleforth reminded me, as a member of the Ampleforth Hospitalité, that I am also member of this community and I was received with a great hospitality. So, if like me, you have never visited Ampleforth before, remember that the retreat is a great opportunity to make your first visit, or perhaps if you have been before, but could do with some time for reflection this could be a date to put in your diary for next year? Give it a go, I did!

*Fiona Collins*



## QUIET DAY IN EAST ANGLIA

On Wednesday 12th June about 18 people gathered for an East Anglian 'Quiet Day' given by Father Edward Corbould. His wonderful talk at the start of the day gave us all much to think about. He urged us to recognise that God loves us as we are not, as Cardinal Newman said, "as we 'should' be"!

Fr Edward stressed how important it is to have an awareness of this. Prayer and the Sacraments are food for our journey with acceptance of our need for God's Providence as Our Lady showed.

Jesus shares our humanity, now, not in the past; be present with Christ as a "teacher of Dailyness" (Ronald Blythe).

After such emphasis on Prayer, all were given a Meditation, based on the Spiritual Teachings of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. We sat and walked in the garden, praying in silence for 45 minutes, before sharing a delicious lunch, provided by all who attended.

Thank you Father Edward !

*Cath Gaynor*



## THE BIRTH OF THE AMPLEFORTH PILGRIMAGE

Before the Second World War, a small group of Ampleforth monks, boys, 'old boys' and parents, about twenty in number, joined a very large pilgrimage drawn from five dioceses.

Basil, then George Hume and later to be Cardinal, and I joined that group in 1939. Hearing this, Hitler decided to invade Poland; as a result, Great Britain declared war on Germany. The 1939 pilgrimage was cancelled and we received our tickets back – minus £5. We made a decision then that we would go to Lourdes at the first suitable opportunity.

That opportunity came in 1952. So we set off to Lourdes by boat and train via Paris. After having dinner there with one of his many relatives, Basil and I went by taxi to the Gare Austerlitz to catch the night train. I had all the tickets and Basil had all the money.

The Gare Austerlitz was for me, a new and extraordinary experience. It was pitch dark; the station forecourt was filled with vehicles of every kind; it was pouring with rain and trains were leaving, so it seemed, for every city in Europe.

As the train left for Lourdes I turned to Basil and said, 'Off at last.' 'Yes', said Basil, 'and we're broke'. He had paid the taxi driver, put his wallet through his Macintosh and into his coat pocket – but missed the pocket – and it fell into the gutter unnoticed.

Happily, one of the first people we met in Lourdes was a friend who told us he could easily lend us whatever money we needed. We agreed to meet him at midday in our hotel. He arrived before us and the young lady behind the bar came over to him and asked him whether he wanted anything. In his best French he replied, 'J'attends deux Benedictines.' She duly brought him two glasses of Benedictine. When we arrived, she was still looking in amazement at this Englishman who liked to have, not just one, but two liqueurs before lunch.



On the night before we left we went to the Grotto. We discussed whether we would stay there for half an hour or for an hour, and felt somewhat pleased with ourselves when we decided to stay for an hour. However, we were soon put in our place when an old lady asked us whether she was allowed to spend the whole night there.

We were overwhelmed by Lourdes. Our Lady bowled us out, even more effectively than the Australians, and we decided the next morning that we couldn't possibly leave. We therefore sent a telegram to Basil's relatives near Perpignan, saying 'Unavoidably detained – coming in three days.'

After three more days we were confronted with the same problem –should we go to Perpignan or should we send them another telegram saying, 'Coming next year.' We decided that we must, with great regret, leave Lourdes. We made a promise to bring back an Ampleforth pilgrimage next year.

*Father Martin Haigh OSB - Pilgrimage Director (1953-1988)*



### MEMORIES OF THOSE EARLY DAYS!

My Grandmother, parents, aunts, uncles and cousins had all offered their services at Lourdes so it was inevitable that I would go there at some time. You could say it was in my genes. I first went, aged 14, with my Parents on the Catholic Association Pilgrimage in 1958. In those days we travelled by train from Victoria to Dover where the sick as they were known then, were transferred to the ferry. There was a shortage of helpers so I was asked to help give out tea and sandwiches to the sick on the crossing; a bad idea as many of them were ill on the way. When I saw false teeth dropping into the bowl I thought I would lose my own supper! When I went to dispose of the bowl there was another handmaid doing the same thing. On returning the teeth to their owner to my horror they wouldn't fit. We must have got them muddled up in the sink!

The ambulance train was waiting to load the sick on their arrival in Calais. Actually in '58 there had been a dreadful storm and the trains and ferry were badly delayed so having left Victoria at about 7pm we finally arrived in Lourdes at about 11pm the following day. Making and delivering tea on a rocking train is no joke but we all buckled too and just got on with it. I seem to remember I spent the week in Lourdes making and giving out tea. After this pilgrimage I went many times with the CA only joining the Ampleforth Pilgrimage in 1962 at the invitation of a school friend who had a brother in the school.

My friend had told me that the Ampleforth pilgrimage was good fun and a great place to meet boys. No mention of any prayer

or anything spiritual! We set off with Fr Martin from Victoria by train, much as I had done previously, but we had no sick with us as, for the first time they flew. I think there were only about 15 sick that year. When I saw them in Lourdes they looked really ill and at that time it was not uncommon to see suppurating wounds. Not being medically trained I did find caring for the sick rather daunting at times.

Instead of getting a train direct from Calais we went into Paris and had to change stations to get the train south for Lourdes. I remember the station was very near the Seine and in later years I used to say that if I had met a boy by the time we got to Paris it was going to be a good pilgrimage. It was a very pleasant walk along the Seine in the cool of an evening! The journey was long so to pass the time we slept, devised games, sang, or stood for hours in the corridor putting the world to rights. I remember one year Fr Martin sketched each of us in turn and I still have that sketch. It was a very good likeness! The carriage was divided into compartments of six seats so in order to get some sleep we took the cases off the luggage racks and put them between the seats and then two people, one on each side, could sleep in the luggage racks while the other four could stretch out across the luggage. We brought our own wine and a picnic and had a great journey arriving in Lourdes about 7pm. About half an hour outside Lourdes Fr Martin would start to say the rosary and we all joined in. Those were very happy train journeys.

Our sick were accommodated in the Sept Douleurs (St Frai) where only the girls looked after them. Other years we used both the Sept Douleurs and the Asile. (Before the 2nd World War my Mother served in the Asile and she told me that all the used dressings were thrown straight into the river). The boys served with the Hospitalité or with other pilgrimages but they did take our sick to the processions and ceremonies as girls were not encouraged to pull voitures. The boys used straps called bretelles which in the very early days had been used to carry stretchers and were now a sign that they were serving the sick. There were no groups and we all went to the hospital at six o'clock every morning and were given jobs by the Matron, Nurse Black, who had worked at Ampleforth. We did everything for the sick and were available all day and every day. No time off, or half days although these were introduced later. However, once the sick were in bed we went out to the cafes and got to bed in the early hours only to be back again at 6am. No one was ever late and everyone was cheerful and the work seemed easy and rewarding. I remember one day my friend was asked to wash the floor of the ward which she did. About half an hour later Matron sent me to wash the same floor and I was just about to say, "but its just been done" when I realized that I just had to offer it up. There was a great deal of "offering it up" in those days.

We followed the same pattern each day - Holy Mass in the morning, followed by the Blessed Sacrament Procession (BSP) followed by the Torchlight, saying the rosary on our way with whoever we were taking. The BSP was held outside in the Domain. The sick were lined up under the trees and the helpers stood with them only kneeling as the Blessed Sacrament went by. Remember in those days the Mass was celebrated in Latin and girls were not allowed to serve on the altar. I remember we had quite a lot of monks with us and one year about seventeen came. In later years when groups were arranged, they acted as chaplains much as they do today.

When not needed to look after our own sick we were given all kinds of jobs in the hospital from serving in the kitchens, as the community of nuns did all the cooking in a ground floor kitchen, to cleaning the wards of other pilgrimages. I remember once I spent three days topping and tailing French beans listening to the locals gabble away in French. The tea making was quite a performance as the water was boiled in huge pans in the kitchen and we then used a small saucepan to ladle out the water into our urn which was then carried up to the ward! As the pilgrimage got bigger we were able to take over the larger wards. These were pretty dreadful as the Jeanne d'Arc ward held sixty beds, used by the women, and a much smaller ward for the men. There was no privacy and the washing facilities were very primitive. We didn't use lifts as we entered the hospital from the top of the hill and could get directly to our wards.

We all knew everyone on the pilgrimage by name and there were many entire families who came year after year. Firm friendships were made

and in fact I was introduced to my future husband there. I was not the only member of my family to meet their future spouses there, as three of my cousins did, my son did and numerous friends did. We stayed in the Estival hotel. None of the rooms had en suite facilities and the loo was down the passage and the bathroom doors firmly locked. They were only opened by Madame on payment of two francs and what bliss to have a soak in a hot bath. Disciplinary issues were dealt with very promptly and publicly. I had had a party in my room one evening and the next morning at breakfast, where the whole pilgrimage was present, the Chief Handmaid asked whose room the party was in. Standing up in front of everyone I was then told exactly how to behave, and how selfish I had been. I then had to apologize to the whole pilgrimage. I deserved it but it was pretty humiliating. I wonder how the young would take to being treated like that today.

They were very happy, rewarding pilgrimages, as are the modern ones, but in a more mature way. Lourdes is a unique and special place and quite extraordinary things do happen there. The miracles of Lourdes are not only the earth shattering type where a sick person suddenly walks because they are cured, but small, sometimes insignificant personal miracles. Spiritual or emotional healing can take place or we might make a decision to change the direction of our lives, or we might care for someone so much worse off than ourselves. People speak of getting the Lourdes Bug, but what is it? I have come to realise that the week in Lourdes is a time when I can actually live my Christian faith in a practical way, and I see that faith lived by those thousands of others who make a pilgrimage. You only have to spend time at the Grotto to see how deep peoples' faith is. This has always been a revelation to me and as I have got older, a huge comfort. I have come to realise how important prayer is and the need for it in my life, so Lourdes is a very good anchor and help in this respect. By some strange way Our Lady invites me back year after year and this is probably what the Lourdes Bug is. Although I still dread filling in the application form I would feel very odd if I didn't make the pilgrimage to pray and to offer my services to Our Lady, to our hospital pilgrims and to the many wonderful friends I have made there.

*An Old Hand*

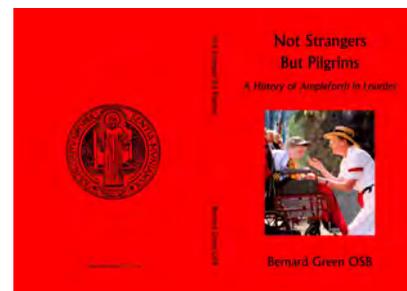
**Not Strangers but Pilgrims – A History of Ampleforth in Lourdes  
by Bernard Green OSB**

Fr Bernard has written a brilliant lively book tracing the early beginnings of the Pilgrimage to the present day. He tells the story with candour and a delightful light touch weaving into his writing perceptive vignettes of some of those who have helped the Pilgrimage grow into what it is today.

Price £14.00 To include postage and packing

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## WHY MUST I MOODLE?

Many of you may have been a bit surprised by the request you have received to complete some online refresher training in good time before the start of this year's pilgrimage. As you know we strive to maintain and improve the way we care for our Hospital Pilgrims from year to year. When the Committee was offered the "Help in Lourdes" concept, we decided to work with the originator and the Westminster diocesan Pilgrimage to develop these online modules. We judged the result to be good enough to roll out this year. Many diocese, whose pilgrims by definition are almost all based within the diocese, are able to provide training for all their helpers ahead of the Pilgrimage's departure. They typically require all to attend preparation days at a central location on one or two specific weekends in the weeks prior to departure. With pilgrims from around the world this is not an option for Ampleforth.

The benefits we are hoping for from Help in Lourdes are

1. Everyone gets the same basic training/refreshers in the weeks leading up to the Pilgrimage
2. The training is complete before we arrive in Lourdes
3. We can cover all the key elements in a clear and consistent manner
4. The system automatically generates a list of all the training completed so we can be confident that all our helpers have had suitable refresher training
5. Even those who, for whatever reason, can't make it to the Friday evening group meeting can be trained in exactly the same way as everyone else
6. Pilgrims can choose when to do the modules and whether to do them at a single sitting or in two or three chunks
7. We do not need to give a large part of the first group meeting on Friday evening over to refreshers – leaving more time free that evening for helping our Hospital Pilgrims, visiting the Grotto and, importantly, catching up with friends over a drink.

We know that the system is not perfect, but hope its deficiencies are outweighed by these benefits. And we are already receiving, and will continue to welcome, feedback so that we can further improve our training for next year.

The modules can't cover every detail of every procedure but you should always ask if you encounter any problem once you are helping. They do provide a reminder on all key issues. It takes about an hour to do all the modules (a bit less for those returning for a second or subsequent pilgrimage, maybe a bit longer for the Nurses who have a couple of extra modules). This is no more time than we devoted to refreshers at the first meeting last year.

Many people have found that doing them at a time when they are feeling fresh and positive works well. If you do encounter problems please contact Mike Thoms - [mthoms@btinternet.com](mailto:mthoms@btinternet.com)

Finally you'll see that one topic Help in Lourdes doesn't yet cover is FIRE. Group leaders will remind you about this on the first evening.

Key messages include

A Do read the fire notice in your room at the hotel as soon as you arrive so you know how to get out of the hotel in case of fire and where to go, and

B Remember that in the St Frai if there is a fire the doors and window shutters will all automatically close (so it's really important we never leave anything in a position which could impede that). The Lourdes Fire Brigade will then evacuate the hospital in a controlled manner from behind these fire resistant barriers.

I hope you find the modules helpful and even a bit fun (anyone who has been before is likely to recognise at least one of the actors - maybe the ward party should feature an Oscars award ceremony, complete with tearful speeches by the lucky winners).

And please do everything you can to make time to complete the modules by Thursday 4th July. It would be immensely helpful to know by then that everyone will be ready and properly prepared to start helping our Hospital Pilgrims the moment they arrive in Lourdes.

*Philip Westmacott*



*'Peppa Pig needs to read the dress code more carefully, it is red accessories, not red dress Peppa, and look at the unsuitable footwear! I am told this is a member of the pilgrimage! Really?!'*

## MEASLES – IMPORTANT UPDATE – PLEASE READ

Dear fellow Pilgrims,

As you I am sure are all well aware there has been an outbreak of measles in England and Wales and a few sporadic cases in Scotland.

Measles is a highly infectious serious disease that can cause complications especially in people who are already ill. It is also preventable using an effective vaccine, the MMR. Active Measures have been taken by the department of health regarding children aged 10-16 to ensure that if they are unimmunised or only partially immunised (ie have not received the two doses of vaccine) that they attend their own GPs to have vaccination carried out as soon as possible. Letters have been sent to the parents of these children and the GPs and many will have had their immunisation done at school. However with the end of term coming up and children sitting exams who did not want the risk of feeling unwell after the vaccine there will be some who will leave school without receiving the vaccine from the local surgery.

As these helpers to Lourdes will be in contact with vulnerable sick people it is of the utmost importance that they are fully immunised to reduce the risk of measles. This will include all those students who are over 16 but who are not incorporated in the Dept Of Health's present drive.

This advice extends also to adults, especially those born after 1970 who have no definite record either of full (two doses) immunisation, or of the illness itself, they should also have the vaccine. There is no harm in receiving an extra dose if you are not sure.

I would like to emphasise the importance of ensuring that all helpers are protected and that they protect all our sick pilgrims in their care. It is in your best interest and our duty and responsibility to all on the pilgrimage especially the sick that you are fully immunised. Anyone who is not fully immunised and then comes into contact with a case will be immediately isolated. The vaccination is available free at their NHS clinic.

Please do let me know if you have any queries regarding this by emailing [ritarigg@aol.com](mailto:ritarigg@aol.com)

*Doctor Rita Rigg - Chief Doctor Ampleforth Lourdes Pilgrimage*

## BIRDS SEEN IN LOURDES BETWEEN 6 AND 13TH JULY 2013

On arrival at the St Rose the first birds I saw were the smart house sparrows; birds rarely seen today in many parts of England! I also saw the blackbird which ran under the Oleanders and **swifts** were constantly visible throughout the Pilgrimage, even during the memorable Torchlight Procession.

I witnessed two **kites** harassing a **buzzard** above the hotel. I spotted a **chaffinch** beside the river as we said the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary on the Prairie. These birds have local dialects, so they no doubt sang in Bernadette's Lourdes' Patois!

**Mallards** swam on, and flew over, the glittering, swiftly flowing river Gave. **Magpies** seemed to be everywhere, noisily proclaiming their presence and contrasting with the quiet, prayerful demeanour of the many pilgrims.

Escaping the noise and tension of the 'Andy Murray Final' I found myself on the decking near the Old Bridge and I watched a **grey wagtail**. He perched on some dead branches and, swooping out to catch a fly, fanned his tail like a shuttle-cock to break his flight before returning to his perch above the water. After the chill of the Baths, seeing this beautiful bird by the river was my first consolation. Later, a **wagtail** with beak full of flies fed its young in a nest in the river wall just beside the Grotto.

The wonderful Grotto Mass at 8.30 on Wednesday morning was especially blessed by a **white collared dove** which flew past the statue of Our Lady during the consecration.

The very moving Mass of the Anointing was celebrated at Cité St. Pierre. **Martins** flew around, despite the rain which cancelled our picnic. A **swan** swam in the nearby lake and pink footed geese grazed on the grass. **Swallows** flew around Bartres on a beautiful sunny afternoon. The soft notes of **woodpigeon**, **tits** and **finches** (unidentifiable) brought to mind the lovely music on our Ampleforth Pilgrimage – we are so blessed. Contemplating in this unforgettable town of Bartres brought into my heart the message of the Creator of the wonderful universe

*"I love you" "Je t'aime"*

*Anna Blundell*

Thank you Anna, for writing this wonderful article. I will certainly be taking more time to look and listen whilst in Lourdes this summer!

## FR GEOFFREY LYNCH

Fr Geoffrey Lynch was on the Ampleforth Pilgrimage to Lourdes about eleven times – in 1964, 1969, 1972, 1981, and after losing a leg in a car crash, from 2007 to 2012.

Christopher Lynch was in was born in Wallasey in 1926. He was in St Dunstan's House, leaving in 1944. From 1944 to 1948, he was in the RAF Voluntary Reserve and Royal Air Force.

In July 1948, he took part the Pilgrimage of Prayer and Penance for Peace, being in one of 14 groups walking on pilgrimage to Walsingham – each carrying a solid-oak crosses (for each of the 14 Stations of the Cross): his group walked 230 miles from Wrexham to Walsingham.

He was a monk of Ampleforth from September 1948 onwards. He was ordained priest in July 1957. He taught geography. For a time in the 1960s he worked in Junior House with Fr Peter Utley.

From 1968 to 1987, Fr Geoffrey was secretary to Abbot Basil Hume [Abbot 1963-76], Abbot Ambrose Griffiths [Abbot 1976-1984] and Abbot Patrick Barry [Abbot 1986-1997]. Later, from 1999 to 2002, he was secretary to Abbot Timothy Wright [Abbot 1997-2005].

He was Novice Master from 1976 to 1983. In York, he was Prior of St Bede's Monastery and Pastoral Centre in York from 1987 to 1994 – this was a new venture to support the Diocese of Middlesbrough. From 1994 to 1999, Fr Geoffrey was parish priest of the Lancashire parish of St Joseph's, Brindle, and returning to residence in the monastery in 1999; he was parish priest of Our Lady and the Holy Angels in Gilling East from 1999 to 2006.

In February 2006, Fr Geoffrey was involved in a serious car accident near Ampleforth – he seven months in hospitals and had one leg amputated above the knee. Returning to the Abbey on his 80th birthday in October 2006, he took an active role in many activities – he was assistant monastery librarian, chair of the staff association, part-time receptionist, often giving talks to visitors and student, and as noted earlier, a regular pilgrim to Lourdes.

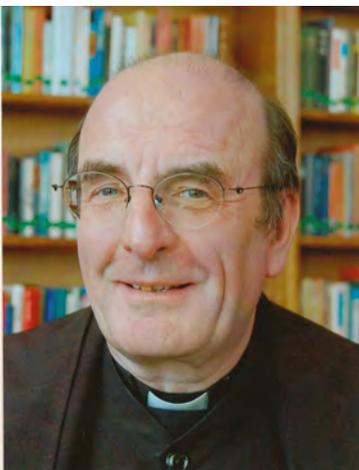
He was editor of the Benedictine Yearbook from 2001 to 2006.

He died on 9 February 2013



## FR BERNARD GREEN OSB

Fr Bernard Green was the Director of the Ampleforth Pilgrimage to Lourdes for ten years. He was a Titular [Consecrated] Member of the Hospitalité de Notre-Dame de Lourdes. He was the writer of the history of Ampleforth in Lourdes.



Fr Bernard was Pilgrimage Director from 1988 to 1995. He succeeded Fr Martin Haigh, who had been Pilgrimage Director for 35 years, from the first pilgrimage in 1953 to 1987. [Subsequent Directors were Fr Richard ffield, John Morton, Anna Mayer and since 2012, Rev Mike Thoms]. Wanting to preserve and develop all that Fr Martin had achieved, Bernard made changes gently and slowly: he made the pilgrimage more liturgical and Benedictine, introducing the singing of some of the office, Lauds, Vespers and Compline; he followed Martin's aim of putting the message of Lourdes at the centre of the pilgrimage; he brought first-timers to Lourdes early; he introduced the Red Book as a practical guide for the pilgrimage. In 1988-89 Jack Berner was administrative director, helping with Bernard in the organisation of the pilgrimage. According to an appreciation from Maire Channer [published on the Ampleforth Lourdes website], Bernard first visited Lourdes when aged 11. She writes of "his devotion and caring for the sick" and of him being "enormously encouraging to everyone".

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Ampleforth Lourdes Pilgrimage in 2003, the then Director of the Pilgrimage Anna Mayer, invited Fr Bernard to write a history of Ampleforth in Lourdes. His 191-page book Not Strangers

But Pilgrims [a reference to the First Letter of Peter] was published in 2009. It covered the 48 pilgrimages between 1953 and 2003 – but also pilgrimages onwards to 2006. Bernard also wrote of earlier pre-1953 contacts with Lourdes: the Ampleforth visit in August 1895, the visits of the 1920s and 1930s. In Chapter I Beginnings, Bernard tells the story of the early years of the shrine between 1858 and the Jack Traynor cure of 1923 – he describes in much detail the early pilgrimages, such as the La Sarthe Pilgrimage of September 1872 and the pilgrimage of the Banners in October 1872 – both following shortly after the Franco-Prussian War. At the heart of Not Strangers But Pilgrims is the story of Fr Martin Haigh and his creation of the pilgrimage. In 2009, Fr Nicholas King SJ reviewed Not Strangers But Pilgrims in The Tablet, and wrote: "...this is a gem of a book, written by a monk-historian, who because of his background is able to bring together these two Catholic stories, of Benedictine spirituality as it has operated in England, and of Lourdes...with the sure touch of a professional historian, he sets the Lourdes story against the background of contemporary national and international politics...One thread that surfaces repeatedly in this beautifully-written work is the profoundly Catholic ability that Lourdes has shown of adapting to changes in the outside world...This book raises the important question: how do you convey the riches of the Catholic tradition, and its unflurried flexibility? Somehow there must always be an encounter with the God who comes to us in the poor and the marginalised. And that is very much the story of Lourdes, and of the Order of Saint Benedict, which come together so deftly together in this splendid book." Fr Richard wrote that it was "effective in capturing the personalities of so many of the people who had been involved in the Pilgrimage over the years, while being very self-effacing about his own contributions"

In 1991 Fr Bernard became a Titular [Consecrated] Member of the Hospitalité de Notre-Dame de Lourdes – he had started doing stages in 1986, and was a generous helper at the station, the baths and in the ceremonies of Lourdes. He came many times with the Ampleforth Stage Group to Lourdes.

Before he was a monk, he was at Oriel College in Oxford, studying Modern History. He was a monk of Ampleforth from 1975 until 2013. He was ordained as a priest in 1981. He taught history at Ampleforth and was Housemaster of St Aidan's House. From the late 1990s to 2013 he was at St Benet's Hall, Oxford, being Fellow, Director of Studies, and Tutor in Theology at Research Fellow and Senior Member of Campion Hall, Oxford, and Tutor at the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

Fr Bernard wrote several books on early Church history and theology – such as "The Truth about the Gospel of Judas", explaining the errors of ancient heresy known as Gnosticism; "The Soteriology of Leo the Great", described in The Tablet in 2008 as "very considerable achievement...the first account to present Leo's theology as a constantly developing whole". He appeared in a television series on English Catholic history. He was a regular book reviewer in The Tablet. In the 1980s and 1990s, he had been on pilgrimages to Medjugorje and to Garanbandal in northern Spain.

He had been in ill health over recent years, and he died of a heart attack on 22 March 2013.

Lastly, pilgrims from about 1900s will remember Bernard standing in a dustbin with Fr Richard ffield in another dustbin, doing a sketch at the ward party as 'Bill and Ben the Flower Pot Men' - Fr Edward was the Gardener.

## FR JUSTIN CALDWELL

Fr Justin Caldwell was a member of the Ampleforth Pilgrimage about seven or eight times between 1961 and 1968.

After been at school at Gilling Castle, Junior House and St Bede's House, leaving in 1947, Fr Justin was a monk from September 1947 onwards. In the early 1950s, he was at St Benet's Hall in Oxford, reading Modern Languages.

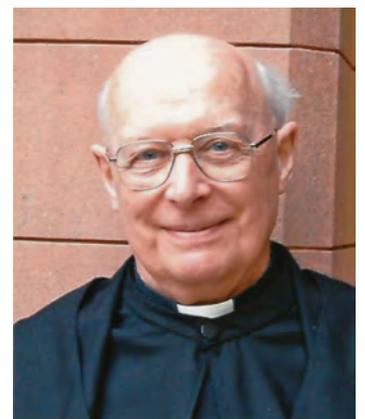
For 26 years, from 1955 to 1981, he was at Gilling Castle, being Headmaster of the Prep School from 1971 to 1981.

For 18 years, from 1981 to 1999, he was on Ampleforth parishes in Lancashire and Cumbria – at Lostock Hall, at Leyland, at Bamber Bridge and at Wokingham. He was a part-time chaplain in HMP Wymott Prison, St Catherine's Hospice in Lostock Hall and at St Joseph's School in Workingham.

He was resident in the Abbey from 1999 to 2013 – and from 2006-2012, he was chaplain of St Bede's House, a new girls house at Ampleforth. In 2012-2013, he worked in the Chaplaincy at Ampleforth, helping with the morning break recreation for the junior years.

He was a notable chess player, teaching chess, playing postal chess - between 1991 and 2011 he was 13 times champion of the Clergy Correspondence Chess Club.

After concelebrating at the evening Mass on Holy Thursday, Fr Justin died early on Good Friday 30 March 2013.



## FUTURE DATES

**EASTER REUNION** will be held on Saturday 5th April 2014 at Christ the King Church, South Chingford, London E4 8SP.

**RETREAT** in 2014 will be held from 24th to 27th April at the Grange, Ampleforth. Details will be published in the Newsletter.

**FUTURE PILGRIMAGE:** 11th – 18th July 2014.

**THE FIFTH BIENNIAL LOURDES CAROL SERVICE** will take place Thursday 5th December 2013 at the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More, Cheyne Row, Chelsea London SW3 5HS at 7.30pm followed by a drinks party at The Chelsea Gardener, Sidney St, Chelsea. Tickets are £55 and £25 for under 25s. Invitations will be posted early September. The organising committee are delighted to bring new musical talent this year in the form of Jessica Costelloe, a rising star in the opera world with strong Ampleforth connections. The proceeds from this very popular evening are used directly for the funding of the Hospital Pilgrims and The Nursing team. Supporters can help in a number of ways. We are looking for companies to advertise in the programme. A full page costs £1000, £500 for half. Sponsors are also sought for the printing (£2000), postage (£1400) and harpist (£600). Please contact Gaynor Townley [gaynor.townley@thorpehall.com](mailto:gaynor.townley@thorpehall.com) or Joe MacHale [joe@machaleuk.com](mailto:joe@machaleuk.com).

**HOSPITAL PILGRIMS FOR 2014.** If anyone knows someone who would like to come with us to Lourdes in 2014 and be resident in the Hospital, would they please contact: Annie Bowen-Wright, Corner Farm House, Stowupland, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4AN. Tel: 01449 676967. Email: [bowenwright@talktalk.net](mailto:bowenwright@talktalk.net).

**DATABASE AMENDMENTS** Please send any changes to your personal details to: Jenny Clayton by emailing [jennyeverett215j@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyeverett215j@hotmail.com).

**NEWS** Please send notification of deaths, serious illness or any other news to: Lucy Rowan Robinson, Grey Walls, Park Lane, Aldeburgh, Suffolk IP15 5HP Tel: 07976228554. E-mail: [lucy.rowanrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:lucy.rowanrobinson@gmail.com).

**FACEBOOK** Join the Facebook group Ampleforth Lourdes to keep in touch with fellow pilgrims, share photos and hear about social events.

**WEBSITE** containing News, Events and Photographs ([www.lourdesampleforth.org.uk](http://www.lourdesampleforth.org.uk)). Any ideas, articles and contributions can be sent to [matthew.plummer@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.plummer@gmail.com).

**PHOTOGRAPHS** If you would like your pilgrimage photos from the to be included on the website please can you email a selection of up to 30 (with the longest side of the image no greater than 1000 pixels) to [matthew.plummer@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.plummer@gmail.com) as soon as possible after the Pilgrimage finishes.

**AMPLEFORTH 2000 CLUB** - For those not familiar with this club, it is rather like the lottery, with a third of all funds collected each month being allocated as prize money, divided into 5 prizes of descending value, the remainder of the funds are given to the pilgrimage to help with the costs. Anyone wishing to join can get an application form from Michael Doherty and he will have forms for you in Lourdes. **PLEASE JOIN, WE NEED YOU ALL!**

### STOP PRESS - EDITOR'S NOTE

As many of you will know there has been a repeat of the October floods in the Pyrenees. The floods have caused significant damage, far worse than last year, with both the St Pie X and St Joseph flooded, and all hotels in the Avenue du Paradis closed for the rest of the season. The Lourdes Authorities have been working round the clock to get things up and running as quickly as possible. Please could we all pray for the two people who lost their lives, all those injured in the flooding and for the many whose property was damaged in Lourdes, especially the Sanctuaries. As a result of the floods we will be re-opening the Appeal for funds for the Sanctuary etc. and you will hear about this in due course.

*Lucy Rowan-Robinson*