

SACRED HEART CHURCH, FLITWICK PARISH PILGRIMAGE Lourdes – May 2005

We started the day with 07.00 am Mass in the Hotel Chapel celebrated with Fr. Bernard Hughes and then made our way to the Domain for The Way of the Cross.



They were very moving, each one beautifully depicting the 14 Station's.

After lunch, we returned to the domain to have our ceremony of the blessing of the Parish Candle. We sang hymns as we all went in procession from over the river opposite the grotto to where the candles are placed.



In the afternoon there was the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament and the blessing of the Sick. Martin Stynes proudly carried our banner in the procession.

The next morning after breakfast we attended an English Mass in front of the Grotto, Fr Hughes concelebrated with the diocese of Wrexham. Don Perrett was invited to hold the umbrella for the distribution of Communion.



Roger Eddleman going forward for communion and Fr Hughes concelebrating Mass.



In the afternoon we had an optional tour 'In the footsteps of St. Bernadette'. The guide was excellent, the museum chronologically showing the apparitions of Our Lady in stained glass effect.

In the evening, we attended the Marian Torchlight Procession. This is a wonderful sight seeing the many thousands of lighted candles being raised as we sang 'Ave Maria' and recited the rosary in different languages.

The following day we had a day trip to Gavarnie, stopping at St.Savin on the way and at Luz-St-Sauveur on return. Our guide was Cecille, she was excellent and explained the history of the churches visited and the stories of the area.



Our last stop was Luz-St-Sauveur. Here they had recently discovered paintings from the fourteenth century, what a find! Also here is a painting of the Holy Trinity, the face looks like one, but if you look closely you can see three.

On our last day, we had Mass at 07.00 am in the Hotel Chapel with anointing of the Sick. We then had our closing prayers for our pilgrimage; this was again on the opposite side of the Grotto. Some went to confession, some went to the baths, but I think all agreed that this was a marvellous experience, not just spiritually, but in fellowship with all the pilgrims. Old friendships were strengthened and new ones made that will last forever in our memories.

Ros Penn
Pilgrimage Co-Ordinator