

Service St Jean Baptiste

May I extend a warm welcome to everyone attending our reunion in Falkirk and may I also express sincere thanks to everyone who completed their stages this year and also to those who made their engagement in the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes.

The celebration of engagement now takes place on a Tuesday evening in the Cosmas and Damian Chapel when those who wish to make their engagement are welcomed into the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes (an association of Christ's faithful) after a period of formation and during the celebration, making their commitment as a hospitalier in the presence of the Chaplain and all the hospitaliers present. On the Wednesday evening they join all the hospitaliers in their first participation in the Hospitalité Mass.

This year there was a change to our weekend timetable. Now our Saturday service follows the pattern as our Sunday service (morning and afternoon service with no teams). This is a result of the number of hospitalières being fewer on a Saturday; most finish their stage on a Friday.

This year the main area of interest was the work due in October on the plateau and the exterior of the piscines. More information will be available which I can share with you at the reunion.

Numbers remained steady this year with large numbers in July especially of families with both young and older children. Statistics for the year will be available at the council meeting in February. For 2015 the number of British hospitalières and stagiaires for the Service St Jean Baptiste were 45 and 33 respectively.

Thanks also to all pilgrimage helpers who provide a regular and much appreciated service, also the animation teams whose service is warmly welcomed by the waiting pilgrims and the piscinières, and also to the pilgrimages who donate many essential items for use in the piscine, your generosity is very much appreciated and welcomed.

On a practical note, please consider paying your cotisation through the British Hospitalité Trust, subscriptions are deducted annually and the tax benefits are significant. Many thanks to the team who administer the system.

I trust that through this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are thankful for the many blessings and graces we have received and that we will continue to share them in our service of one another and I am very happy to assist and support you in every way I can.

Anne Marie Mitchell