



Levy Policy

Steve Gill

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BACKGROUND

The Catholic Association (CA) charges a Levy of £30 on most pilgrims, comprising an administration charge of £20 and a diocesan/group charge of £10. The administration charge is used to provide pilgrimage badges and handbooks, to pay the 'charge per pilgrim' imposed since 2013 by the Lourdes Authorities, and to support the charitable activities of the Catholic Association. The diocesan/group charge is passed to the respective Directors to allow them to promote the Catholic Association Pilgrimage within their particular diocese or group.

COLLECTION

The Levy is paid to the CA primarily through Tangney Tours, who collect it as an addition to the travel and hotel charges. This ensures that all those who book either (or both) their travel OR their accommodation through Tangney Tours have paid their Levy. All those who pay their Levy in this way should receive their pilgrimage booklet and badge from Tangney Tours prior to the start of the pilgrimage.

For those pilgrims who make independent arrangements for BOTH their travel AND their accommodation, it is the responsibility of the respective Head of Service and/or Diocesan/Group Director to collect the Levy and pass it on to the Treasurer of the Catholic Association. Details of those who have paid independently, including names of all family members, should be passed to the Trustee who has responsibility for collecting such levies. This Trustee will make arrangements for the distribution of badges and booklets to these individuals in Lourdes. Independent travellers may also register directly with the Secretary of the PMC.

Only those pilgrims who book their own travel AND accommodation, and therefore have no dealings with Tangney Tours in that year, should be considered as 'independent travellers'.

If a pilgrim has booked accommodation only through Tangney Tours, it is possible that they may have left their home address before their pilgrimage booklet and badge are sent. If this is a possibility, they should inform both Tangney Tours and the Secretary of the PMC. If they do this, a booklet and badge should be available for them to collect in Lourdes.

ELIGIBILITY

The CA Levy is payable in full at £30 per person by the majority of pilgrims on the CA Pilgrimage to Lourdes, with exceptions detailed below.



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The following groups will be charged only a £5 Levy, which will be used to cover the 'charge per pilgrim' paid directly to the Lourdes Authorities:

- Pilgrims staying in the Accueil;
- Those who are part of the Young Helpers' Group, including adult organisers and helpers staying in the same hotel;
- All members of The Glanfield Group.

To encourage the participation of families in the CA Pilgrimage, children aged 16 and younger are eligible to pay the £5 Levy only.

- If such families are considered as 'independent travellers', a Levy of £5 is payable for those aged 16 and under, while all those aged 17 and older should pay the full Levy of £30.

- If families pay their Levy through Tangney Tours, the full £30 Levy will usually be collected. If such a family wishes to reclaim £25 of the Levy paid for those aged 16 and under, they should contact the Secretary of the PMC or the CA Treasurer, detailing the number and names of the children involved.

Any eligible pilgrim who fails to pay the Levy will not be covered by the CA insurance, and is not entitled to a Pilgrimage badge and booklet. (NB This statement does not refer to travel insurance.)

Those pilgrims who have not paid the Levy will not be included in the estimates of pilgrim numbers used to calculate the payment to dioceses and groups.

DIOCESAN CHARGE

A pilgrim's diocesan/group charge is given to the pilgrim's diocese or group to support the promotion of the Pilgrimage. Directors are required to provide the CA Treasurer with information detailing how the previous year's Levy payment has been spent.

The Trustees have previously stated that they would like to reduce the Levy over time and to encourage individual dioceses to raise funds internally. Unfortunately this has not proved possible. It is likely that local fund raising would itself lead to promotion of the Pilgrimage and should therefore be encouraged.

If a pilgrim does not specify a diocese or group affiliation, their diocesan/group charge will stay with the Catholic Association. At their discretion, and in consultation with members of the PMC, Tangney Tours may



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assign such a pilgrim to a particular diocese/group, based on their address, or on prior knowledge of their usual affiliation