



Alan McGuckian SJ  
Bishop of Down & Connor

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Dear Father,

I am writing to give my support and permission for a member of *The Rise and Shine Trust* to hold a collection within the parishes of our diocese.

The Rise and Shine Trust carries out truly remarkable work. The Trust is an all-Ireland charity that provides a fully supported pilgrimage to Lourdes for young people up to the age of 30, ensuring that every pilgrim receives the care, dignity, and spiritual nourishment they deserve.

Each year, approximately 400 young people travel with the Trust, accompanied and supported by nearly 1,000 volunteers from communities across the country. These volunteers generously pay their own way and dedicate their time and energy to raising the necessary funds so that young people with additional needs—and families with seriously ill or terminally ill children—can travel at no cost.

The generosity, compassion, and commitment shown by the volunteers and supporters of the Rise and Shine Trust are deeply inspiring.

For these reasons, I encourage you to welcome their presence in your parish and to support their collection in whatever way is most appropriate in your Parish.

With every blessing,

✠ Alan McGuckian