

Chronology of Lough Derg

I. – Patrician Period (455-1130 A.D.)

- 445 Lough Derg first sanctified by the visit of St Patrick for prayer and penance.
- 490 Placed in charge of St. Dabheoc (The elder)
- 510 Pilgrimage of St. MacNissi, Bishop of Down & Connor (Commemorated by a very ancient inscribed stone, probably contemporary, still preserved on the Island)
- 610 St Dabheoc (the younger), special patron of Lough Derg flourished.
- 721 St. Cilline, Abbot of Lough Derg, died.
- 820 In charge of Abbot Patrick
- 836 Plunder by the Danes
- 1050 Pilgrimage of Harold (afterwards King of England)
- 1113 Pilgrimage of Theoderic, knight from Utrecht (Holland), who then became founder of the St Lawrence Abbey at Oostbroek; he knew about the Purgatory through David of Wurzburg, an Irish monk who wrote De Purgatorio Patritii before 1110 (source: dr. Michael Haren).

II. – Augustinian Period (1130-1632)

- 1130 Pilgrimage taken in charge by Canons Regular of St. Augustine
- 1152 Pilgrimage of Tiernan O'Rourke, Prince of Breffni
- 1153 Famous pilgrimage of the Knight Owen (to the account of whose adventures was due the Continental fame of Lough Derg in the middle ages)
- 1184 Described by Giraldus Cambrensis
- 1186 Henry of Saltry in Huntingdonshire, writes about Knight Owen's Pilgrimage and Purgatory. 150 of this text still exist in libraries across Europe.
- 1207 Plunder by O'Boyle and MacMahon
- 1325 Pilgrimage of Le Sire de Beaujen, of the Blood-royal of France
- 1346 The fresco, depicting St. Patrick's Purgatory at Lough Derg, believed to have been painted by an artist from Siena.
- 1358 Pilgrimage of Malatesta Ungaro, of Rimini and Nicola di Beccario, two noble Italians. (They received testimonial letters from Edward III)
- 1363 Pilgrimage of George Grissaphan (Hungary / Apulia) a soldier of the Kings army of Naples, aged 24 who saw 29 visions while on Lough Derg, including the Archangel Gabriel.
- 1366 Pilgrimage of John Bonham and Guido. (Letters of recommendation from Archbishop of Armagh still extant)
- 1370 Mentioned by St. Catherine of Sienna in a letter written to a monk who was refused permission to go to Lough Derg
- 1397 Pilgrimage of Raymond Viscount de Perilleux et de Rhodes, Chamberlain to the king of France. (Two versions of his narrative extant. Also in the British Museum a safe conduct from Richard II., recommending him to the constables and marshals of the Kingdom).
- 1399 Murder of Raymond, an Italian noble, at Lough Derg by Ugolino, his sister's lover. (Raymond had murdered his own sister on account of her intimacy with Ugolino. He was doing penance for his crime on Lough Derg when he was himself murdered by Ugolino in revenge. The tragedy gave rise to a ghost story, which has persisted to this present day)
- 1406 Pilgrimage of Sir William Staunton (or of Stanton), an English nobleman. (Described in two MSS. In

the British Museum).

- 1411 Pilgrimage of Antonio Mannini, a Florentine merchant. (The Italian MS. Gives a very interesting and accurate account of the Island and the pilgrimage. It professes to be an exact copy of a letter written by the pilgrim at Dublin 25th February 1411)
- 1411 Pilgrimage of Laurence Rathold de Pasztho, a noble Hungarian. Account of his adventures written in Dublin, 1412. He accompanied Mannini, but entered the Purgatory three days later, 11th November 1411.
- 1440 Death of Prior Matthew Magrath
- 1455 Dispute between Raymond Maguire, Prior of Lough Derg, and Thomas Treanor, Abbot of Armagh, about the temporalities of Lough Derg settled in Rome in favour of the former
- 1462 Death at Lough Derg of Bartholomew O'Flanagan, Prior of Devenish
- 1479 Petition to Pope Sixtus IV, by Nellan MacGrath, a clerk in Diocese of Raphoe, to have the rectory of Templecarne separated from the monastery of Lough Derg.
- 1494 Visit and unfavourable report to Rome by a Dutch monk from Emystede when he said that the whole pilgrimage was a fraud & that at every stage of his pilgrimage money was demanded of him
- 1497 In consequence of report of the Dutch monk, the cave was closed by order of Pope Alexander VI.
- 1503 At request of Archbishop of Armagh pilgrimage was reopened by Pope Pius III., who recalled the Bull of Pope Alexander, and granted indulgences to the pilgrims, and special faculties to the priests officiating at Lough Derg.
- 1504 Death of Turlough Maguire, Prior of Lough Derg, at Athboy.
- 1507 Prior Donatus McGrath writes about the indulgences that pilgrims, and those who assisted them in their pilgrimage, receive. The diligent pilgrim could obtain the remission of the pains of purgatory for one or more of the Holy Souls
- 1515 Visit of English Papal Nuncio Chicricati. He says all the names of all the pilgrims were kept in a book, the first name being that of Guarino de Durazzo, who visited the island nearly four hundred years before)
- 1516 Pilgrimage of French Knight, recorded by the Four Masters
- 1545 Pilgrimage of Jean de Monclée, Bishop of Lens, French Ambassador to Scotland.
Herenach family, the Magraths, held this land in trust for the Church. They secured for themselves and for descendants in English law a personal title to what had been essentially Church property in Gaelic law.
- 1600 A report by Franciscan Friar – Michael O'Cleary makes the first mention of women doing the Pilgrimage.
- 1625 Archbishop Fleming of Dublin says the numbers of pilgrims was so numerous that many had to return without making the pilgrimage
- 1631 Archbishop of Armagh wrote suggesting that the Purgatory be assigned to the Franciscans
- 1632 Building destroyed by order of the Government under direction of Spottiswood, Protestant Bishop of Clogher.

III. – Franciscan Period (1632-1780)

- 1638 Letter of Henrietta Maria, the Catholic Queen of Charles I., to Lord Deputy Wentworth to have the Pilgrimage re-opened. (During the six years of suppression the people came as usual and kneeling on the shore of the lake recited the prayers of the exercises)
- 1649 Favourable report to Rome by Rinuccini, the Papal Nuncio
- 1651 Lake and its surrounding lands were passed to the family of Bishop John Leslie, where they

remained until modern times.

- 1654 Described in the Map by Sir James Ware
- 1660 Thaddeus O'Clery, Vicar General of Raphoe, Prior
- 1680 Again demolished by the government
- 1693 Excavation to discover the ancient cave by Lodoricus Phynus, a Frenchman
- 1700 5,000 pilgrims recorded for the season
- 1704 Act of Queen Anne forbidding the pilgrimage and imposing a fine of 10 shillings or a public whipping as a penalty for coming to such places of pilgrimage.
- 1710 Dr. Hugh MacMahon, Bishop of Clogher, disguised as Dublin merchant made the pilgrimage
- 1726 One of the earliest printed guides for the Station Prayers is printed for pilgrims. Written by Fr. Dominic Brullaghan, a Dominican priest.
- 1730 Pilgrimage of O'Carolan, "the last of the bards."
- 1748 Visited and described by learned Thomas de Burgo
- 1753 Father MacGrath, O.S.F., was Prior (his name is inscribed on two stones still preserved on Station Island)
- 1763 St. Mary's rebuilt by Prior Anthony O'Doherty
- 1780 Cave finally closed

1V. – Modern Period (1780-Present Day)

- 1780 St. Patrick's built by Father Murray, P.P. Errigal Truagh, first Prior from diocesan clergy (Clogher Diocese)
- 1795 Great boat accident (90 were drowned off Friars Island on 12th July). Pilgrim Miss O'Donnell from Derry was found clutching a small wooden cross that is on display in the Reliquary in St. Mary's Chapel. Of the 95 passengers on board, only 3 pilgrims survived. Twenty of the victims were buried in a mass grave on Friars Island while others were buried in Carne graveyard.
- 1800 Father Bellew became Prior (afterwards P.P. Monaghan and Dean of Clogher)
- 1813 St. Mary's rebuilt. Introduction of three-day pilgrimages.
- 1814 Bishop James Murphy of Clogher reported that six or seven priests were often occupied in the confessionals for twelve hours or more every day during the busiest part of the season
- 1816 Presbytery built
- 1820 Pilgrimage by William Carelton, the novelist
- 1826 Over 15,000 pilgrims came to the island
- 1829 Pilgrimage suspended for one season by Dr. Kernan, Bishop of Clogher, as a protest against exactions of the ferrymen, and other irregularities
- 1830 Father Boylan, Prior (P.P. Enniskillen and Dean of Clogher)
- 1831 Father Moynagh became Prior (P.P. of Donagh and Canon of Diocesan Chapter)
- 1846 Highest reputed number of pilgrims, 30,000 (just before Great Famine)
- 1848 Pilgrimage of Thomas D'Arcy M'Gee
- 1853 Visit of Bishop of Clogher (Dr. McNally) to assert ownership over the lodging houses on the Island
- 1857 Father Edward McKenna became Prior (afterwards P.P. Dromore and Domestic Prelate)
- 1857 An American visitor offered a substantial sum of money to the diocese in order to have the beds completely renovated in cut stone. The offer was politely declined
- 1860 Number of pilgrims had dropped to a tenth of the 1846 figure, where it remained until the end of the century

- 1870 Plenary Indulgence granted in perpetuum to pilgrims by Pius IX
- 1870 Installation of the bronze crosses in the centre of each of the penitential beds. Each cross bears the figure of Christ and the name of the saint to whom the bed is dedicated
- 1877 Father James McKenna became Prior (afterwards Canon McKenna, P.P. Brookeboro')
- 1879 Visited by Archbishops Croke of Cashel and Lynch of Toronto and by Bishops Gilhooy of Elphin and McCormick of Galway
- 1880 New Hospice begun
- 1881 Litigation with Leslie family about ownership of the Island
- 1882 New Hospice opened
- 1882 Ordination of priests on the Island by Archbishop Lynch of Toronto
- 1882 Erection of marble statue to Our Lady
- 1891 Erection of statues to SS. Patrick and Joseph
- 1904 Very Rev. Canon Smyth, P.P. Ballybay, became Prior
- 1905 New Presbytery built
- 1909 Rev. Patrick Keown became Prior (later P.P., Carrickmacross, V.G., Dean and Domestic Prelate)
- 1910 Ladies' Hospice began
- 1911 Part of Ladies Hospice opened
- 1912 Ladies Hospice completed
- 1912 The Picture of our Lady of Perpetual Succour erected in St. Mary's Church certified by the Superior General of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, P. Murray C.S.S.R., on 1 December, as an authentic copy of the Miraculous Picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour as is preserved in the Church of St. Alphonsus in Rome
- 1913 Visit of His Eminence Cardinal Logue – see photographs
- 1914 Instalment of waterworks system
- 1916 Record number of pilgrims since the famine, 10,584
- 1917 Leslie litigation renewed and finally settled by agreement. (Sir John Leslie withdrew claim to ownership of the Island, which was then legally vested in ecclesiastical authorities. Ferry rights and other concessions on the mainland and in the lake were made to them for consideration)
- 1918 Number of pilgrims, 12,420
- 1919 Number of pilgrims, 14,287
- 1919 New Church (Basilica) designed by Professor W.A. Scott, one of the leading architects of the time, in an individual style known as Hiberno-Romanesque. Prof. Scott died in 1921 before the work could begin because of the political situation in Ireland.
- 1921 Building of the new Church entrusted to T.J. Cullen at a cost of £80,000
- 1921 A group of prisoners from the prison camp in Ballykinlar in Co. Down performed the pilgrimage in the camp after permission was sought from the Prior. The pilgrimage lasted from 11 to 15 August and the prisoners performed three extra stations as the governor would not allow the twenty-four hour vigil. All other regulations of the pilgrimage were performed. The Prior had special commemorative medals struck for the prisoners and presented them to each of the men who took part.
- 1923 One hundred and ninety four internees on board the prison ship "Argenta" took part in a special pilgrimage on board the ship when it was moored in Belfast Lough in August. The prison chaplain sent the Prior a list of the names and they too received a commemorative medal specially made to mark the occasion
- 1956-26 Foundations of new Church constructed
- 1926 Foundation stone of new Church (Later Basilica) laid on 15th July
- 1929 First Mass celebrated in new Church on 16th August

- 1930 New Church opened for use of pilgrims
- 1931 New Church Consecrated by the Bishop of Clogher on 12th May
- 1931 New Church, constituted a Minor Basilica by His Holiness Pope Pius XI., on 13th Aug
- 1931 Solemn Thanksgiving Ceremonies in presence of His Excellence the Cardinal Primate, Cardinal McRory, the Papal Nuncio and 8 Bishops took place on 17th May
- 1932 Visit of His Excellency Mgr. Piasani, Abp. Of Constanza in July
- 1935 Steel girders erected under the Women's hospice to support it due to erosion of the foundation
- 1942 Rev. E.C. Ward, P.P., became Prior
- 1943 Number of pilgrims, 16,746
- 1944 A community of Nuns – Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Ballybay, Co. Monaghan take up duty on Lough Derg doing nursing duties and supervisory work in the Hostels and Churches.
- 1944 Number of pilgrims, 19,049
- 1944 First publication of "Lough Derg St. Patrick's Purgatory" by Alice Curtayne
- 1945 Number of pilgrims 21,883
- 1946 Number of pilgrims 23,564
- 1947 Stained glass window erected in St. Mary's
- 1947 Number of pilgrims 23,105
- 1947 New Reliquary in St. Mary's
- 1948 Number of pilgrims 24,697
- 1948 The first motorboat launch, St. Brendan.
- 1948 New toilets erected
- 1949 Number of pilgrims 25,042
- 1952 A fourth storey added to Ladies' Hospice
- 1952 George Thompson, a Scottish dentist, is the 1st reported pilgrim to die on Lough Derg. He died from a heart attack and is buried in Pettigo.
- 1954 Men's Hospice enlarged and the last of the cabins removed
- 1958 Large shelter erected on the Mainland Shore
- 1959 Sir Shane Leslie, Glaslough, generously handed over all title to the lake and its surroundings to the Diocese of Clogher.
- 1960 Rev. Thomas Flood, C.C., Monaghan, appointed Prior.
- 1960 The old Presbytery was demolished. New cut-stone two storied building erected on shelf of rock in lake to accommodate the Island Staff. Cost £42,000. Island linked to E.S.B. – grid system – by means of underwater cable and E.S.B. H.T. transformer
- 1961 Electric laundering machinery purchased, costing £6,500
- 1961 Cardinal D'Alton celebrated Pontifical High Mass on August 20th to celebrate Patrician Year. 1961 President Eamon DeValera and Taoiseach Sean Lemass also attended.
- 1965 Karol Wojtyla (later Pope John Paul II) started pilgrimage on 13th August – **to be confirmed**
- 1967 New night shelter built on piers standing on the bed of the lake to the north of the Basilica. Cost £10,500.
- 1975 In order to comply with the norms of the Ordo Paenitentiae (2nd December 1973) published by the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship, work was begun with the purpose of making St Mary's more suitable for the proper celebration of the sacrament of Penance. More suitable confessionals were built including two room-type confessionals.
- 1979 Very Rev. Sean McNaboe a native of Dromore, Co. Tyrone Prior for one year.
- 1980 Appointment of Rev. Gerard Mc Sorley as Prior, and Administrator of Pettigo, succeeding Prior Sean Mc Naboe.
- 1980 Introduction of Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Way of the Cross.

- 1980 Largest number of pilgrims (21,559) since 1964.
- 1981 Mr Joseph Treacy commissioned to draw up plans for a new hospice on a site to be reclaimed from the lake. Treacy retained Thomas Garland and Partners, Dublin as Civil Engineers and Mr Denis Lavelle & Associates from Holywood, Co. Down as Service Consultants. The project was estimated at £3m.
- 1982 Visit of the Papal Nuncio (Gaetano Alibrandi) and the Papal Nuncios to Thailand and Guatemala.
- 1982 Pilgrimage of the Duke of Norfolk.
- 1982 Installation of phone link between Pettigo and Island.
- 1982 New decks and extension to the two piers commissioned under the guidance of Mr John Gwyn of Thomas Garland & Partners and works carried out by Joseph McMenamin & Co. from Donegal
- 1982-83 Topside of basilica platform repaired by City Asphalt, Derry and by Thomas Martin & Son, Pettigo
- 1983 Pilgrimage of Cardinal Timothy Manning (Los Angeles).
- 1983 Coffee introduced as an alternative for the Lough Derg meal.
- 1983 Filming of "Lovers of the Lake" based on a short story by Sean O'Faolaoin set on Lough Derg.
- 1983 Maggie Deery, who had worked for 45 yrs on the domestic staff, retired.
- 1983 Launch of the Building Fund Appeal in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin on 17 May. It was clear from day one that the funding would only be supported by the ordinary pilgrim as no big business were interested nor were there any government grants
- 1984 End of involvement of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart, on the retirement of Sr. Margaret Mary. The Mercy Sisters of the Clogher Diocese were to succeed them in their work.
- 1984 Contract for the new hospice awarded to Messrs McAleer & Teague, Building Contractors, Dromore, Co. Tyrone at a figure of £3.5m. Work began in May to reclaim the site from the Lough.
- 1984 Underside of the Basilica platform repaired by P.J. Edwards & Co. Ltd, Dublin
- 1985 Building work began on the new hospice
- 1986 Foundation stone of the Women's Hospice blessed by Bishop Joseph Duffy of Clogher Diocese on 6th June
- 1988 Official opening of the new Women's Hospice on 22nd May by Bishop Joseph Duffy. Reordering and dedication of the sanctuary in the Basilica took place on 22 May by Bishop Joseph Duffy and in the presence of Cardinal Thomás Ó Fiach and other Church and State dignitaries The Sanctuary furniture was specially commissioned in plain white marble. The tabernacle is a modern design based on the shape of the shrine of St. Patrick's Bell, now in the National Museum of Ireland. At the back of the Sanctuary is a large plain wooden penal cross deigned by Imogen Stuart
- 21st August, Faith and Light are the first ever group to make a pilgrimage outside the Three Day pilgrimage.
- 1990 Appointment of Rev. Richard Mohan as Prior and Administrator of Pettigo, following the retirement of Mgr Gerard Mc Sorley.
- 1992 Introduction of a counselling service provided by the Sisters of Mercy.
- 1992 Introduction of a series of One Day Retreats on a trial basis.
- 1992 Creation of a Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St. Mary's.
- 1992 Bookshop opened in a room at the rear of the Basilica.
- 1993 Launch of a new passenger boat, the St. Davog.
- 1993 Demolition and replacement of main toilet block.
- 1993 Historic Anglican pilgrimage, led by Fr. Roderick Hingley from the Anglican Parish of St. Alban, Romford, Essex.
- 1993 Programme of One Day retreats begin in May.
- 1994 Refurbishment of dormitory area in Staff House.

- 1994 New heating system installed in Basilica.
- 1994 Shelter demolished and new waiting room, car and bus parks built on shore.
- 1994 Renovation of the fisherman's Boathouse.
- 1995 Lough Derg office opened on High Street, Pettigo.
- 1995 St. Brigid's boat commissioned to replace the original.
- 1995 Erection of a small chapel and enlargement of the reception area on the mainland.
- 1995 Refurbishment of the ground floor of the Staff House and the reordering of the Men's Hospice.
- 1995 New Boathouse and slipway built to accommodate the passenger boats.
- 1995 Reception extended to incorporate a Building Fund Office and Bookshop.
- 1995 Retirement of Jim Snow as boatman after 53 years of service.
- 1995 One-day retreats extended to include days in September.
- 1996 Jim Snow presented with the Bene Merenti medal for outstanding service to the Church.
- 1996 Death of a pilgrim Sean Blayney, 11th July.
- 1996 Renovations made to the caretakers house
- 1996 The Waters Edge area was raised and flagged to make it safer.
- 1997 Introduction of a Group discussion for pilgrims on vigil. This was facilitated by a lay pastoral group.
- 1997 Work completed on the steps at the South door of the Basilica.
- 1997 Pilgrimage of group from Catalonia in memory of Ramon de Perellos (1397).
- 1997 First floor of Old Hostel cleared of its furnishings to house a temporary display of artefacts, photographs etc.
- 1997 Wooden floor installed and cavities created in the St. Davog boat in an effort to reduce noise.
- 1997 Radio Mass transmitted live from St. Patrick's Basilica on RTE Radio 1 on 8th and 15th June.
- 1998 Launch of the St. Columba.
- 1988 Pilgrimage of President Mary Mc Aleese.
- 1988 Interior of the Basilica painted for the first time
- 1999 Tabernacle completed in St. Brigid's oratory. (Eugene Lang).
- 2000 First Ecumenical Day of Friendship & Prayer celebrated on the Island on Ash Wednesday, 8th March.
- 2000 Guest Speaker Rev Johnston Mc Master (Methodist Church)
- 2000 Jubilee Year commemorated with a walk from St. Mary's Chapel, Pettigo to Lough Derg on the opening day of the pilgrimage.
- 2000 Lough Derg medal struck.
- 2000 Introduction of the corporate logo.
- 2000 Recording of Lough Derg CD. (Pilgrim Praise – the Spirit of Lough Derg)
- 2000 Publication of "Pilgrims' Tales ...and more" recording stories of Lough Derg by pilgrims and staff to mark the millennium
- 2001 Dedication of the new organ.
- 2001 Relics of St. Therese arrive on the island.
- 2001 Demolition of the old Hospice and boathouse and conversion of one wing of the new Hospice to guest accommodation.
- 2001 Appointment of first Manager to Lough Derg, Deborah Maxwell
- 2001 First overnight school retreat on the island.
- 2001 Demolition of garages on the mainland.
- 2001 One-day retreats affected by Foot and Mouth with cancellation of many buses.
- 2002 Erection of Patrick the Pilgrim statue by Ken Thompson on the lakeshore, unveiled by Brian Keenan.
- 2002 Demolition of old souvenir shop.
- 2002 Replacement of Basilica roof
- 2002 Improvement to Night Shelter

- 2002 First edition of FoLD newsletter
- 2002 Death of a pilgrim, (Mrs Tierney)
- 2003 Russian pilgrimage to the island led by Vladimir Belov, a former sacristan.
- 2003 Laying of foundation stone for new retreat centre
- 2003 Visit of the Hungarian Special Olympic Team, commemorating Pilgrimages of George of Grissaphan (1353) and Laurence Rathold de Paszo (1411).
- 2003 Restoration of St. Mary's to original form and development of new Shop.
- 2003 Display of the m.v St. Patrick on the lakeshore.
- 2003 Installation of satellite link for Internet connection.
- 2003 Lough Derg awarded Excellence Ireland Foundation mark
- 2003 Donation of Albert Aegerter Stations of the Cross by Eugene Lang.
- 2004 Development of Pilgrim path.
- 2004 First use of the retreat centre and labyrinth.
- 2005 Blessing of Davog House attended by Papal Nuncio
- 2005 Death of a pilgrim (Celine Hayes) on 2nd August
- 2005 Ash Wednesday Day of Friendship & Prayer on 9th February. Guest Speaker Dr David Stephens
- 2006 International Pilgrimage for the Deaf
- 2007 Assassination of Fr. Ragheed Ganni, a former staff member, on 3rd June in Iraq
- 2007 Papal Nuncio and his classmates made a private visit to Island
- 2007 Visit of Gyula Shümeghy, First Secretary, Deputy Head of Mission, Hungarian Embassy with his wife Klana and their baby Marta.
- 2007 Death of Fr Ragheed Ganni. Fr Ganni was assassinated outside his church in the parish of the Holy Spirit, Mosul, after celebrating Sunday Mass on 3rd June 2007. He was a highly regarded member of season staff at Lough Derg from 1996 – 2003.
- 2007 Mgr Richard Mohan, Prior, represented Lough Derg at the Fifth European Conference (Congrès) of Recteurs of Shrines & Pilgrimages in Lourdes. *"Shrines & Pilgrimages: Paths of Peace and Spaces of Mercy"*. Referencing the *Spaces of Mercy* aspect it was interesting to hear (from all delegates) the importance of the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As the Sacrament is celebrated less and less at parish level, it's importance in pilgrimage grows which in turn presents the challenge of preparation and celebration. Lough Derg bears this out as each season there are more and more people wanting to take the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament . . . often after a lapse of . . . 10, 15, 20, 25 . . . years.
- 2008 Apostolic Nuncio Giuseppe Leanza visits the Island accompanied by Most Rev Joseph Duffy, Bishop of Clogher
- 2008 Mgr Richard Mohan, Prior represented Lough Derg at a Conference in Krakow, Poland. 'Reflections on Renewing a Shrine' – The Place, the Story, the Welcome, the Prayers, the Liturgy. He noted that *'one of the biggest challenges at Lough Derg is the dilemma of being dynamic and meeting the needs of today's society, while respecting the tradition of the past'*
- 2009 Margarita Mikhaylova mother of Vladimir Belov, former member of staff from Russia along with Fr Sergey Pavlov, Leonid Kurzenkov, Artist, Dilshat Kharman, Translator visit the Island to present two Icons of St Patrick to Lough Derg in memory of Vladimir Belov, deceased.
- 2010 ½ hour daily session of 'Guided Prayer – Exploring alternative forms of prayer' was introduced for pilgrims on the 2nd day of their Three Day Pilgrimage. Facilitated by Clerical Students and lay people this very worthwhile addition is now part of the programme.
- 2010 Mgr Richard Mohan represented Lough Derg at the II World Congress on the Pastoral Care of Pilgrimages and Shrines, organised by the Archdiocese of Santiago de Compostela, Spain on the theme 'So he went to stay with them' .

- 2012 50th International Eucharistic Congress, in Dublin - 10th to 17th June
 Lough Derg's lasting link with the IEC is that on 12th June 2012 Evening Eucharist was celebrated in St Patrick's Basilica by Papal Legate, His Eminence, Marc Cardinal Quillet. Concelebrants Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Brown, Bishop Liam Mac Daid, Bishop Joseph Duffy, Mgr. Sangelli, Fr. Tim Bartlett, Rev Dr Gearoid Dullea, Fr. Joe Mc Donald.
 Before the Mass, Cardinal Quillet, and his delegation, met with a group of survivors of child abuse in the Church which included representatives of institutional and clerical abuse, men and women, from different parts of the island of Ireland, North and South. The meeting lasted two hours during which each survivor spoke of his or her own personal experience of abuse and its impact on their lives. It was seen fitting then that the Healing Stone, which was unveiled at the opening of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, was placed permanently at Lough Derg following the Eucharistic Congress.
- 2013 At the September 2012 meeting of the Hierarchy in Maynooth, Bishop Mac Daid requested that each diocese appoint a priest to liaise with Lough Derg with a view to promoting pilgrimages and retreats for the Year of Faith. Diocesan Bishops were contacted individually in October 2012 and the nominated priests were invited to a meeting in Maynooth in January 2013. 18 diocese sent representatives. The Clogher priests on the Lough Derg team had prepared over a period of months for this meeting and, together with Dr Eamonn Conway of the Department of Theology at University College Limerick, Maureen Boyle and Mary Mc Daid, made a presentation on celebrating the Year of Faith at Lough Derg.
- 2013 St Patrick's Day, 17th March, was celebrated on Station Island. Over 300 people responded to the invitation to '*Celebrate St Patrick's Day in a Christian Way*'. Guest Speakers: Bishop Joseph Duffy & Tom Hamill.
- 2013 Mgr Richard Mohan, retired as Prior of Lough Derg on 31st August 2013, a position he held since September 1990, and was replaced by Very Rev Owen J Mc Eaney as Prior.
- 2014 A focused campaign undertaken by the Lough Derg Team to bring the message of Lough Derg and the invitation to 'Come and let God's Mercy find you on Lough Derg' was launched. Staff members made themselves available to speak at weekend Masses across the country. Lough Derg was represented at local Diocesan Conferences – Clogher, Down & Connor, Kilmore and Raphoe. There was a notable increase in the number of Diocesan Pilgrimages following this outreach. In some cases the pilgrimage was led by the Bishop of the Diocese.
- 2015 This 'outreach' continued into 2015 through Parish Novena's, the National Eucharistic Conference in Knock Shrine and the Faith and Life Convention in Belfast.
- 2016 Lough Derg was represented by Fr La Flynn (Clogher Diocese) & Sharon Hearty (Lough Derg Media & Marketing Consultant) at Jubilee for clergy, religious & lay faithful working in Sanctuaries & Shrines in Rome.
- 2016 A commemorative medal is struck to mark the Jubilee Year of Mercy.
- 2016 Holy Door opened at St Patrick's Basilica on 1st May by Papal Nuncio Charles Browne. In addition to the opening of the Door a 'Threshold Stone' specially commissioned to mark the Great Jubilee was unveiled. Inscribed: I AM THE DOOR ENTER AND BE SAFE this stone will be a permanent witness to the on-going mission and ministry of Lough Derg as tearmann: a sanctuary, a place to find mercy for ourselves and for our times.
- 2016 Fr Owen Mc Eaney, Prior attended the Papal audience in S Peter's Square, Rome, accompanied by Fr John Flanagh (Clogher Diocese) and Maureen Boyle (Lough Derg Administrative Team). By special arrangement the Holy Father, Pope Francis, blessed the 'Year of Mercy Candle', signifying pilgrimage as a central part of the Jubilee Year.

- 2016 Ambassador István S Pálffy, Ambassador of Hungary to Ireland visited the Island along with his wife, Mrs Judit Toth on 21st June 2016. His visit was to mark the links between Lough Derg and Hungary (from the pilgrimage of Laurence of Pásztho in 1411).
- 2017 'On Our Pilgrim Way to the World Meeting of Families' invitation issued to Three Day Pilgrims to hold 2018 WMoF preparation, success & legacy in their prayers by offering 1 Station.
- 2017 Very Rev Owen J Mc Eaney, retired as Prior of Lough Derg on 30th September 2017, a position he held since September 2013, and was replaced by Very Rev Laurence J Flynn as Prior.