

## **Walsingham Pilgrimage: What are you paying for?**

The costs of the Walsingham Pilgrimage are shared between pilgrims' fees, our annual Walsingham appeal, and if necessary Latin Mass Society general funds. **The fees for 2023 are the same as they were in 2019: they have not gone up with inflation.**

The organisation benefits enormously from the LMS's 'backroom' support, from the online booking system to Public Liability insurance.

We do not charge priests, seminarians, or religious, or 'non-walking' volunteers, and we pay some of their expenses. Walking volunteers (chapter chiefs, first aiders) pay a reduced fee, as do students and minors.

The 'marginal cost' of each pilgrim is low—it doesn't cost much to fit an extra person into our venues and dinner-table—but the 'paying pilgrims' have to share the central costs of the pilgrimage: the costs of things which benefit everyone. The more pilgrims we have, the more thinly we can spread these costs between them.

## **Where does the money go?**

We make donations to the churches, and pay fees to the venues such as village halls, which we use. We have to pay for the food.

We have to hire some vehicles, notably the luggage van and a minibus. We hire coaches to take pilgrims away from Walsingham on Sunday and Monday, and we don't charge the full cost of these to users.

As the years have gone by, we have found cheaper sources of food, and we have gradually purchased items we had previously had to hire. Every year, however, there is something else to purchase!

The LMS Walking Pilgrimage to Walsingham is by far the most complicated event the Society organises each year. We have a catering team of five who make vast quantities of food from scratch each day, a team of support drivers and a mobile sacristy. For the glory of God we have excellent singing at all our Masses, and on the road, thanks to the contribution of four excellent cantors, who share the burden of walking the entire way with the rest. We have early Masses for the volunteers when they can't make the main Mass because they are preparing breakfast for the others. We have priests, seminarians, friars, first aiders, and people collecting keys for venues and dealing with food deliveries. Somehow it all comes together despite every kind of predictable and unpredictable setback.

We hope that you will support us with your presence, your prayers, and your donations!