

Irish Pilgrimage – a social perspective

Justin FitzGerald

PhD student, History Dept., Mary Immaculate College

Pilgrimage has been a common activity in Ireland for centuries. However, although much has been written on the topic, very little of this comes from the actual pilgrim's perspective, nor is there much material in relation to its social impact. Therefore, this research essentially attempts to ratify this by interviewing pilgrims, while also exploring other areas not normally associated with pilgrimage in the literary record, such as commercialism, infrastructure, political involvement and much much more. This presentation will in effect give a very brief overview of the origins and development of this research to its present stage.