

THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM



CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE

FRIDAY 1ST - SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2024

MARY'S SONG



INFORMATION
BOOKLET

www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk

MARY'S SONG

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to the Shrine on Friday 3rd of March for our 2023 Children's Pilgrimage, which is all about the Eucharist. We will be finding out more about it, why we do it, what it all means and why it is important for us. This booklet should contain all the information that you need to know about the weekend. Please read it carefully, and **ensure each adult has a copy, even if you have been many times before**, so that everyone is aware of any changes. There are also some things to do with your children to prepare for the pilgrimage.

WHAT TO DO NOW- BEFORE YOU COME

You will have been sent a link to complete various documents online (you may have completed these already after booking with us) along with a medical/consent form for each child and a photography consent form. These will need completing and handing in at reception in a labelled envelope

(please note- only the Shrine's forms will be accepted)

This booklet explains the documents and what you will need to do.

On the next page there is a checklist of everything that you will need to complete along with the dates that we need them by.

Do contact us if you have any questions or can't find any of the documents.

schools@olw-shrine.org.uk
01328 824205



PAPERWORK CHECKLIST

By Friday 12th February 2024

- T-shirt sizes (online form)**
Orders received after this date can not be guaranteed.

By Friday 23rd February 2024

- Safeguarding checklist (online form)**
The Shrine is committed to providing a safe place for children and vulnerable adults. It is very important that you have ensured that everything on the checklist has been acted upon and that it is returned to the Shrine. Failure to do so, by the date requested, will mean that your group will not be allowed to take part in the event.
- Pilgrim Bed list form** (this will be sent to you from the accommodation department)
Unfortunately, if we do not receive the information by this date, we cannot guarantee that any dietary or additional requirements will be met.
Only the adults and children that are named on your list will be able to take part in the event, unless you have notified us of any changes before you arrive.
- If you would like to visit the Holy House in your own time or to have your own First Visit together, you will need to book a time slot by emailing schools@olw-shrine.org.uk including the approximate time you would like. Times will be given on a first come first served basis.

On arrival- hand in to reception

In 2 separate labelled envelopes with your group name, leader's name and mobile phone number clearly on the outside.

- Shrine Medical/consent forms**
- Shrine Photo/video consent forms**
If we do not receive these, we will not be able to release any photographs which contain any members of your group.

Please note: it is your responsibility to ensure that you have handed in the correct forms for each child. They must be the Shrine's forms.

Please also notify either Caroline Ward or Jane Southward in person on arrival if you have any children who do not wish to have their photograph taken.

The group leader will need a copy of the medical/consent forms and these should be carried at all times. It is good practice to have an additional list of all adults in the group with any medical conditions/requirements.

Risk assessment

Please ensure that you have completed a risk assessment for the pilgrimage (a template has been sent to you or it is available on our website). A copy of our health and safety advice booklet and risk assessment guidance is available on our website to assist you with this.

Please ensure that you share both the Health and Safety guidance and risk assessment with all adult members of your group.

PREPARATION

Prayers: In the weeks leading up to the pilgrimage, we would like the children to write their own prayers. They can write their prayers on a piece of paper and maybe decorate it. These can then be either presented individually, or if you prefer you can stick their prayers onto a larger sheet so that they are all together. You will have the opportunity to present these in the Holy House on the Saturday afternoon.

Make a Parish Banner: We'll use these in the First Visit and on the Holy Mile walk. Make them bright and cheerful, easy to carry (on a pole/ poles) and no bigger than 3-4 feet high x 2-3 feet wide.

ARRIVAL

It is best to drop off your pilgrims outside the Shrine Church on Knight Street, so that they can gather safely on the piazza before you or another leader goes to reception in the Milner Wing to check in. Mini buses can sometimes be parked on the Wells Road near the village hall, or you can use the pay and display car park. Please see the map at the end of the booklet.

ESTIMATED ARRIVAL TIME

Supper will be served on Friday between 6.30pm and 8.00pm. If you will be arriving **after 5.30pm**, please inform the accommodation office on 01328 820255 or accom@olw-shrine.org.uk by Friday 16th February at the latest so that someone will be available to welcome you and the refectory know when to serve your meals.

T-SHIRTS, WRISTBANDS AND WELCOME PACKS

These will be available to collect from 4.30pm in the Green Room in Stella Maris. Please read the welcome pack carefully in case there have been any changes and share with all adults in your group.

You'll receive a wristband per person in your Welcome Pack. Please make sure these are worn at all times on site.



WHILE YOU ARE HERE

SUPERVISION

Please ensure that at least one of your leaders sits with the children during all services. Larger groups will need more than one adult. This will ensure that they get the most out of the weekend as they will have someone to guide and encourage them through the service. Although we want them to enjoy themselves, please try and emphasise that certain parts of the service are for silent prayer and reflection, particularly during and after the distribution of Holy Communion.

The Shrine is a public place, so the children will need adult supervision at **ALL** times and ensure that they move around the Shrine and the grounds in a safe and sensible manner.

CONCELEBRANTS

Priests Associate of the Holy House with Permission to Officiate and/or Licence are invited to concelebrate at the two Masses if they have completed and returned the self-declaration form.

On Saturday, please wear albs for the Holy Mile walk.

On Sunday, please report to the Sacristy by 10.00am when instruction will be given.

PROMPT STARTS PLEASE!

Please ensure that the children (and adults!) are in church/at other activities promptly. Check the times in your programme carefully so that everything runs as close to time as possible. **We request that you do not arrive at the Church until 15 minutes beforehand as rehearsals will be taking place.**

INHALERS, MEDICATION AND FIRST AID

Please ensure that asthmatics and others who are on regular medication have their medication with them at all times. Qualified first aiders will be available, but we advise that you keep your own first aid kit with you at all times, along with your medical/consent forms in case of emergencies.

If you require First Aid or have any problems at all during your stay, please go to Reception in the Milner Wing (or call 220 on the internal phones).

MEAL TIMES

There are lots of us to fit into the Refectory and meals will be served 'rolling on' from the start time (rather than in shifts). So, whilst we don't want the first groups through to get indigestion, we would be grateful if you could leave promptly after your group has finished eating to make space for those coming through.

Please do not let your children use the hot drinks machines, they are for adult use only.

CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Do let us know beforehand if you have any children in your group with additional needs so we can support them appropriately. If you have any children who are particularly sensitive to noise, it might be a good idea to bring their ear defenders. We do have some at the Shrine, so please speak to Caroline Ward or Jane Southward if you need to borrow some.

FREE TIME

There will be times during the weekend where there is free time or 'waiting' times. It is a good idea to bring some activities e.g. colouring, word searches, board games etc. and have some group games up your sleeve!

At some point your group might need something a bit more physical to let off steam! We would request that ball games are not played in the Shrine grounds and that children are kept off the flower beds and from playing around the Altar of the Mysteries of Light. There is a large recreation ground on Wells Road which is a great place to take them so they can run around and play. We have equipment such as footballs, rounders equipment etc. which you are welcome to borrow, just speak to Caroline Ward or Jane Southward and they will arrange that for you.

WELCOME CENTRE

The Welcome Centre is a good place for your young pilgrims to familiarise themselves with the Shrine and pilgrimage. There are interactive displays especially designed for children, as well as a short introductory film. Again, please make sure your children are supervised and please be aware that the Welcome Centre is quite small and the main entrance opens on to a busy road.

In the Welcome Centre there is a Children's Welcome Centre Trail which your group are welcome to do, but remember to bring something for them to write with!

THE SHRINE SHOP

Don't forget to visit the Shrine Shop during the weekend. There are lots of things to buy to remind the children of their visit to Walsingham. The Shrine Shop has lots of souvenirs, jewellery etc. at pocket money prices! The Shrine Shop is quite small so it is best to take your group in small groups.

VISITING THE HOLY HOUSE AND SHRINE CHURCH

Some groups like to visit the Holy House in their own time and also to have their own First Visit together. If you would like to do this, **we request that you book a time slot** by emailing schools@olw-shrine.org.uk including the approximate time you would like. Times will be given on a first come first served basis. These will need booking by **Friday 23rd February**

Please note that there will be no access to the Church from 5.15pm until 6.45pm each day due to Evening Prayer and Shrine Prayers taking place.



OVERVIEW OF THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY- FIRST VISIT

Our First Visit begins at 8.15pm in the Shrine Church. The Church will be closed until 8.00pm for rehearsals so **you will need something to occupy your children** from the end of supper until then. Please bring your Parish Banner.

SATURDAY MORNING

On Saturday morning our worship will begin at the Roman Catholic Shrine in the Chapel of Reconciliation at 9.30am. Please allow 45 minutes to walk there and we advise that you walk along 'Pilgrims Way' as this is much safer for the children than walking along the road. If you are unsure how to get there, please see the map at the back of the booklet.

Please note that if you choose to walk your group along the main road, it is at your own risk and against our advice and risk assessment.

Following a tradition which dates back to medieval times we will then walk (barefoot optional!) the famous Holy Mile back down to the Anglican Shrine, where our worship will continue in the Shrine Church. Don't forget to bring your banners!

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

On Saturday afternoon there will be a carousel of activities for your group to take part in. These will take place in the Refectory, the Orangery, the Pilgrim Hall and outside (if weather permits). Further information about what these are will be available in your welcome pack when you arrive. There's no need to pre-book activities, but you may need to come back later if an activity is full. We'll ensure your group 'get a turn' though. Please supervise your children at all times (they remain your responsibility).

You can also take your group up to the recreation ground on Wells Road if you would like time for them to run around and do something more physical.

In the Shrine Church there will be a variety of quiet, reflective prayer stations for your group to explore. During this time, we would like you to spend time with your group in the Holy House and present your prayers in front of the altar.

SATURDAY EVENING

On Saturday, there will be a disco in the Refectory. Squash will be available throughout, in the dispensers. Please encourage your children to put any cups etc. into the bins provided. You must ensure that at least 2 leaders from each group are present at the disco at all times to supervise your children. **Please do not allow your children to play outside, wander around the grounds or go off site.**

If you have any children in your group who are particularly sensitive to noise, please do let us know and we will be happy to provide some quieter activities elsewhere.

SUNDAY

On Sunday Mass will be at 10.30am followed straight away by the Last Visit.

The weekend will end with our Last Visit after Mass so you will be free to leave after lunch.

If you have any further questions about the weekend, please do get in touch by emailing schools@olw-shrine.org.uk or telephoning 01328 824205

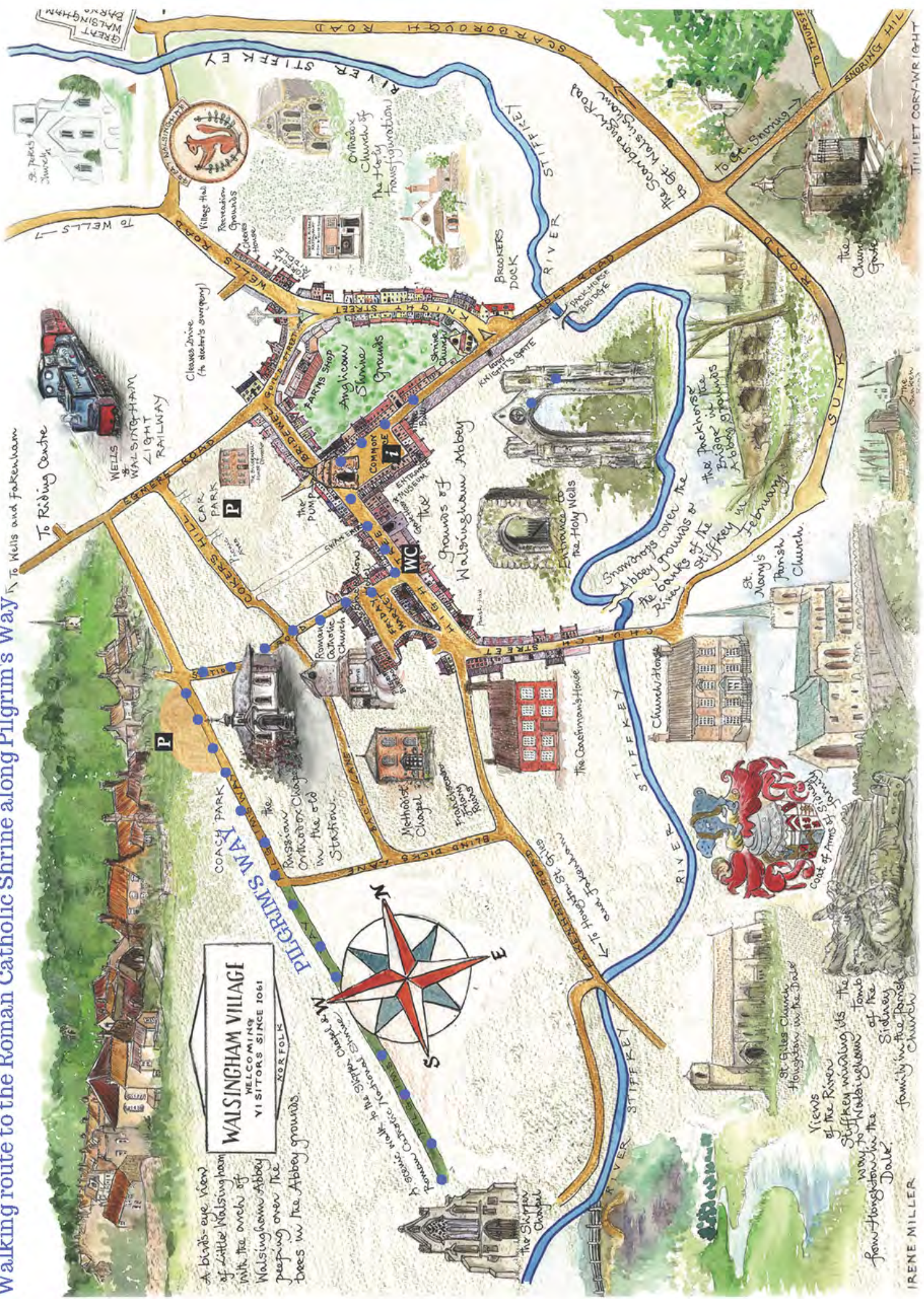


We are really looking forward to welcoming you, and hope you have a good journey to Walsingham. We'll be praying for you before you come.

May Our Lady of Walsingham pray for you and your children.



Walking route to the Roman Catholic Shrine along Pilgrim's Way



WALSINGHAM VILLAGE
WELCOMING VISITORS SINCE 1061

A birds-eye view of little Walsingham with the arch of Walsingham Abbey peeping over the trees in the Abbey grounds.



A scenic walk to the Shipley Chapel & W. Roman Catholic Festival Shrine.



Views of the River Stiffkey mirroring its tomb to Walsingham way to Houghton in the Dale.

St Giles Church Houghton in the Dale

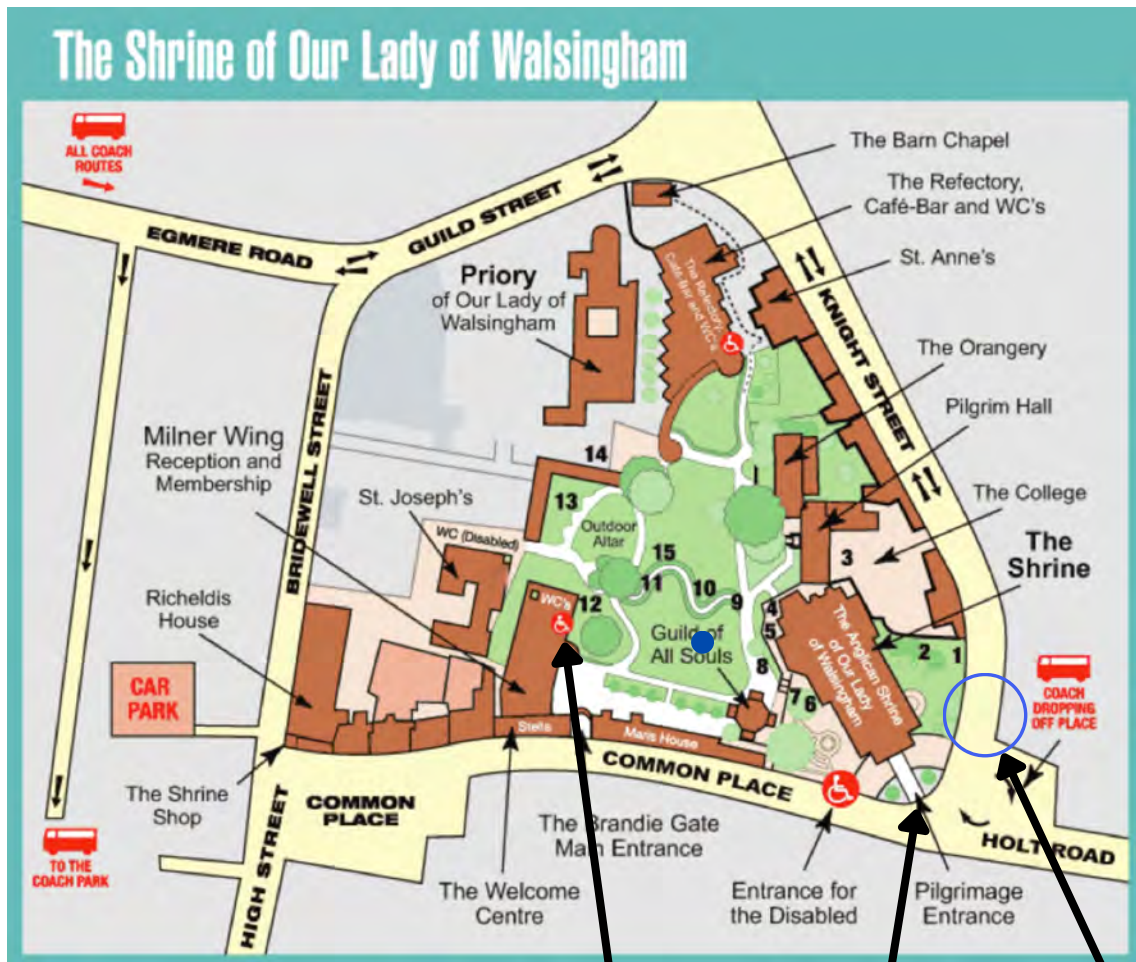
St Mary's Parish Church

St Giles Church Houghton in the Dale

TRAVEL AND DIRECTIONS

Unfortunately, coaches are NOT allowed down the village high street as it is far too narrow. Coach companies doing this risk a fine as it is a restricted route via East Barsham and Houghton St Giles. Please make sure the coach company is aware of this and drivers turn off onto the B1105. You will then come in around the back of the village from the Wells Road (B1105), by turning right where it is signposted for Walsingham Farm Shop.

Follow the road into the village, turn right at the war memorial onto Knight street and then drive to the junction. Coaches should then make a right turn at the junction and pull up outside the Shrine so that children do not have to cross the road.



Reception
(Milner
Wing)

Entrance
gate

Coach drop off
(make a U-turn at
the junction to
avoid having to
cross the road)



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Plan of the Grounds of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham