

A Spiritual Pilgrimage from Cork and Ross to Lourdes 12th to 17th June 2020

This year we are unable to travel and gather together physically in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, but we are all invited to join together on our 2020 Diocesan spiritual pilgrimage to Lourdes. From as far back as the nineteenth century, the Church instituted the practice of making a spiritual pilgrimage for all those who could not, for whatever reason, physically make a pilgrimage to a holy place.

Follow the pilgrimage here from your home or each day on our facebook page you will find the day's reflections - www.facebook.com/CorkandRossPastoralDevelopment



To help us on our pilgrim way, we draw on Bernadette's own experience. During the eighteen Apparitions, Bernadette never came to the Grotto alone. She was always accompanied; sometimes by people who helped her physically to get near the Grotto safely; sometimes by people who were already praying whilst waiting for her in front of the Grotto. We should also remember that, during the Apparitions, Bernadette was always accompanied on her spiritual path by priests, particularly by the young Abbot Pomian, who became her spiritual director.

Bernadette moved to the Convent in Nevers on the 7th July 1866, and each day she made a spiritual pilgrimage to the grotto saying: *"Every day I go in spirit to the Grotto. I make a pilgrimage there."*

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them". (Matthew 18:20). So with Bernadette and with each other we make our spiritual pilgrimage to Lourdes bringing with us our prayers and petitions.

1. We join the Chaplains at the Grotto in Lourdes each day beginning on Friday 12th June and concluding on Wednesday 17th June by watching on TV Lourdes as we pray together.

<https://www.lourdes-france.org/en/tv-lourdes/>

2. Each day in English there is Rosary at the Grotto at **2:00pm** (Irish time) and Mass is celebrated in English at **4:00pm** (Irish time) at the Grotto. (watch on Lourdes TV)
3. A large candle will be lit at the grotto for the intentions of the pilgrims of our diocese on 12th June
4. Each day of our pilgrimage we begin with this prayer



Prayer to the Immaculate Conception for a spiritual pilgrimage

Our Lady of Lourdes,
You who revealed your presence to Bernadette
by simply saying "I am the Immaculate Conception"
Grant us the grace to be present with you
at the Grotto of Massabielle.
We cannot be there today
but we are present in spirit
with Bernadette and all the pilgrims from Lourdes
who have gone before us.
You gave birth to the Saviour of the world.
Look tenderly on our world in her distress.
Open in us a path of hope.
Guide us to Him who is the Living Source,
Jesus, your Son, who teaches us to say
Our Father...

5. Each day of our spiritual pilgrimage to Lourdes we offer our prayers and Mass for the following intentions...

Day One:

Friday 12th June: for the intentions of all who are making this spiritual pilgrimage

Reflection: The Baptistery at the Parish Church in Lourdes

On the 9th January 1854 the eldest daughter of Louise and Francois Soubirous was baptised in the parish church of Lourdes. She was named Marie Bernarde but was always called Bernadette by her friends and family. At the beginning of this spiritual pilgrimage, let us give thanks for the Baptism we have received. Our Baptism marks us for life as Christians, but perhaps we have lost the spirit of freshness and vigour imparted to us on that day. May this pilgrimage allow us to find that grace once again. The message of Lourdes and all that Lourdes has become since 1958 situates it in the life of the Church, and Baptism is our entry into the Church.

Day Two:

Saturday 13th June: for a spiritual renewal in the hearts of all the people of our diocese

Reflection: The Cachot

The Cachot sheltered the Soubirous Family from November 1856 until September 1858. It was not a proper home for a large family, it was narrow, damp, dark and very small. Prior to moving to the Cachot

the Soubirous family lived at the Boly Mill. As we reflect on life at the Cachot it was a sign of downfall, even moral decay, of a ruined family. Bernadette attended neither school nor catechism class. However, it was here under incredibly difficult conditions, that Our Lady sought her messenger. It was in the obscurity of the Grotto that she caused the light of her Immaculate Conception to shine.

Day Three

Sunday 14th June: for all who are sick in our diocese

Reflection: Penance! Penance! Penance!

In Lourdes we are all called to prayer and penance. On the 25th of February (ninth apparition) when the water came forth from within the Grotto area, it was extremely muddy, so much that Bernadette could not drink from it until her fourth attempt. But, very quickly the water became clear and plentiful. Since 1858 these waters have flowed and have become waters of mercy. The water from the Source is itself an instrument of conversion, it was muddy and then became clear. Again, what a beautiful symbol! Whenever we are on a path through life, and whether we are praying this pilgrimage alone or together, we can honour in prayer the action Our Lady asked of Bernadette: Go and drink from the water and wash yourself there. And when we will be in Lourdes again take time to drink from the actual spring water. Let us ask Our Lady to help us discover the spring of charity that is already within us and to share it with others we meet each day.

Day Four

Monday 15th June: for all the young people of our diocese

Reflection: 'Would you do me the honour...'

On the 11th and 14th of February, as Bernadette stood before the Grotto, the Lady was silent, revealing nothing. It was only natural that Bernadette began to wonder who this figure was standing before her. On the 18th of February, Bernadette came to the Grotto for the third time, having asked the Apparition her name she smiled, drew back and finally spoke 'it is not necessary' she said, that her name be recorded. Then followed an exchange of promises where Bernadette would honour her by coming to the Grotto for fifteen days in succession. In this fourth day of our pilgrimage, we are invited to hear God's call and to respond to it.

Day Five

Tuesday 16th June: for all who have died remembering in particular those who have travelled in previous years as pilgrims with us and all who this year have died from the coronavirus

The sign of the Cross on the 11th February 1858

Let us reflect on the Sign of the Cross. As Bernadette stood before the Apparition, she was afraid, but she had an authentic Christian response: to pray, but first to make the Sign of the Cross. Bernadette clutched her Rosary and again tried to bless herself. But her arms fell to her sides. The Apparition beckoned, then Bernadette was able to make the Sign of the Cross. Why could Bernadette not make the Sign of the Cross on her own? It is Mary who will guide Bernadette in the ways of prayer, as she does for us when we pray the Rosary.

Day Six

Wednesday 17th June: for Bishop Fintan Gavin, Bishop Emeritus John Buckley, the priests and religious of our diocese and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Reflection: I am the Immaculate Conception (Lourdes Pastoral Theme 2020)

The highpoint of Bernadette's eighteen meetings was on the 25th of March on the Feast of the Annunciation (the sixteenth apparition), Bernadette again made her way to the Grotto. As she had many times before, she asked the Apparition to reveal her name. After three attempts, as with the water, she

had still received no answer. It was only on her fourth attempt that the Lady responded, this time with the words which from that moment forth, would carry countless graces for all humanity: 'I am the Immaculate Conception'. When Bernadette delivered the message to the parish priest of Lourdes it was then that he believed that all that was happening at the Grotto had to be true, because Bernadette could not have lied about reporting the Lady's words. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception was promulgated on 8th December 1854 by Pope Pius IX in Rome.

We pray the rosary each day



The Mysteries of the Rosary

Sorrowful Mysteries – prayed on Friday 12th and Tuesday 16th

1. The agony in the garden
2. The scouring at the pillar
3. The crowning with thorns
4. The carrying of the cross
5. The crucifixion

Joyful Mysteries – prayed on Saturday 13th and Monday 15th

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation of Jesus
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

Glorious Mysteries – prayed on Sunday 14th and Wednesday 17th

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption of Our Lady
5. The Crowning of Our Lady as Queen of Heaven

To begin

Pray the Apostle's Creed

followed by praying Our Father, three Hail Marys and the Glory be to the Father for the intentions of our Holy Father Pope Francis

First mystery (depending on the day – see above)

God Our Father, among all your creatures, you created Mary, the perfect being, “The Immaculate Conception”. Here in Lourdes, she spoke that name and Bernadette repeated it. The Immaculate Conception is a cry of hope: evil, sin and death are no longer victorious. Mary, the precursor of the word, the dawn of salvation!

Our Lady of Lourdes, our refuge, we pray to you.

Our Father; 10 Hail Marys; Glory be to the Father

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!

Second mystery (depending on the day)

Lord Jesus, you gave us Mary as Mother. She shared your Passion and your Resurrection. Here in Lourdes, she showed herself to Bernadette, saddened by our sins but radiant with your light. Through her, we entrust to you our joys, our sorrows, our hopes, those of the sick, caregivers and researchers, those of all men and women.

Our Lady of Lourdes, our sister and our mother, our confidant and our support in our trials, we pray to you.

Our Father; 10 Hail Marys; Glory be to the Father

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!

Third mystery (depending on the day)

Holy Spirit, you are Spirit of love and unity. Here in Lourdes, through Bernadette, Mary asked for a chapel to be built and for people to come in procession. Inspire the Church that Christ built on the faith of Peter: gather it in unity and help all its members, nourished on the bread of life, to face this international health emergency confident in faith.

Our Lady of Lourdes, you who are filled with the Holy Spirit, model of Christians and maternal face of the Church, we pray to you.

Our Father; 10 Hail Marys; Glory be to the Father

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!

Fourth mystery (depending on the day)

For all the graces received, for all the conversions, all the forgiveness, all the healings, for the vocations and the promises that you have confirmed or that you have brought to birth here, for the joy of the service that you help us to experience, and for the strength and the hope that you place in our hearts in these troubled times.

Our Lady of Lourdes, help of Christians, we thank you.

Our Father; 10 Hail Marys; Glory be to the Father

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!

Fifth mystery (depending on the day)

With all our brothers and sisters in humanity, with peoples in search of peace and justice, with young people who are finding their way, you who appeared as a young girl to Bernadette, with the victims of disease, of handicap, of failure, with those who have reason to despair and those who mourn a loved one.

And for those who have been taken from us by this disease.

Our Lady of Lourdes, we pray to you!

Our Father; 10 Hail Marys; Glory be to the Father

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!

CONCLUSION

The “Prayer of a poor beggar to Jesus” by Saint Bernadette Soubirous

“O Jesus, give me, I pray you,
the bread of humility,
the bread of obedience,
the bread of charity,
the bread of strength to break my will and melt it to yours,
the bread of inner mortification,
the bread of detachment from creatures,
the bread of patience to bear the pain that my heart suffers.
O Jesus, you want me crucified, fiat,
the bread of strength to suffering well,
the bread of seeing only you alone in everything and always,
Jesus, Mary, the Cross, I do not want other friends than these.” AMEN

On the final day of our pilgrimage we turn to Mary in prayer – this is usually prayed by all pilgrims at the statue of the Crowned Virgin for a safe return home and that they will return one day to Lourdes



O Mary, Mother of Jesus, I thank God, through you, for the grace of a happy pilgrimage, and for that has happened to me while I have been making this spiritual journey over these days. Pray for all who have shared in this pilgrimage with me. Pray that I may be renewed in body, mind and spirit as I return to my daily life bringing with me what I have learnt from you over these days of pilgrimage.

Our Lady, Health of the sick – pray for us

Our Lady of Lourdes – pray for us

Saint Bernadette – pray for us

As we conclude our days of pilgrimage let us remember one another in prayer that one day we might travel to Lourdes to be present at the grotto with Our Lady and Saint Bernadette. Amen

We look forward to our Lourdes pilgrimage 2021 – 18th to 23rd June

