

For Secondary Schools

SAINT

BERNADETTE

RELIC TOUR 2022



Opening Prayer

Mary,
Our Lady of Lourdes,
You appeared in the hollow of the rock of Massabielle
To Bernadette, a small and simple shepherdess from Bigorre.
You brought her the radiant light of your smile,
The gentle, resplendent brightness of your presence.
Day by day, you built a relationship with her
Where you looked at her as one person talking to another.
We, too, come here before you in our poverty, and we humbly pray to you.
May those who doubt discover the joy of trust,
May those who despair sense your discreet presence.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for Us!
St Bernadette, Pray for Us!





This year the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland and Wales for the very first time.

This once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the gifts and charisms of Lourdes in a church or cathedral near them.

In preparation for this special event, we will explore the following questions:

☐ *Who* is St Bernadette? ☐ *Why* pilgrimage to Lourdes?

☐ *What* is a relic? ☐ *How* can I get involved?



[Click Image for Letter](#)



 *Who* is St Bernadette?

St Bernadette was born in 1844 in a small town in France. Bernadette Soubirous was one of eight children born into a very poor family.

Although initially unremarkable, Bernadette's life was to inspire generations of people to journey in faith on pilgrimage to Lourdes.



St Bernadette's Story

Between 11 February and 16 July 1858, Bernadette saw the Virgin Mary eighteen times in a series of apparitions that took place in cave on the outskirts of Lourdes, a place now known as Grotto of Massabielle.

In the course of these miraculous encounters, Bernadette, then aged just 14, became the friend and confidante of Our Lady, the mother of Jesus.



St Bernadette's Story

The apparitions of Lourdes were authenticated in 1866 by the Bishop of Tarbes.

In that same year, Bernadette left Lourdes to live out her religious vocation within the community of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers. She died in 1879, was proclaimed blessed in 1925, and became a saint in 1933.

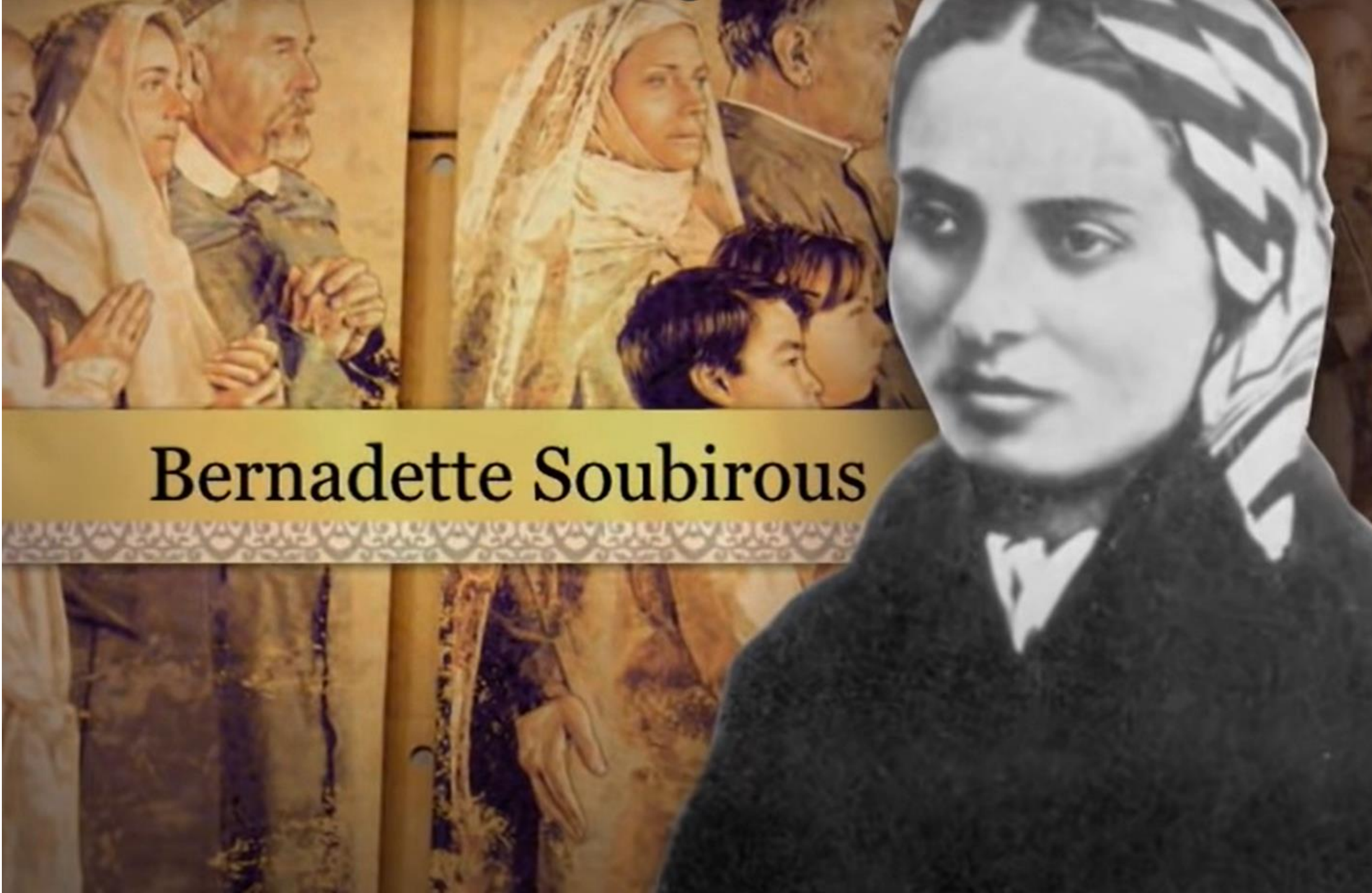


St Bernadette's Story

Click image for
link:

Saint
Bernadette
Soubirous of
Lourdes from
"Who Cares
About The
Saints?" with Fr.
James Martin,
S.J

Bernadette Soubirous



What is an Apparition?

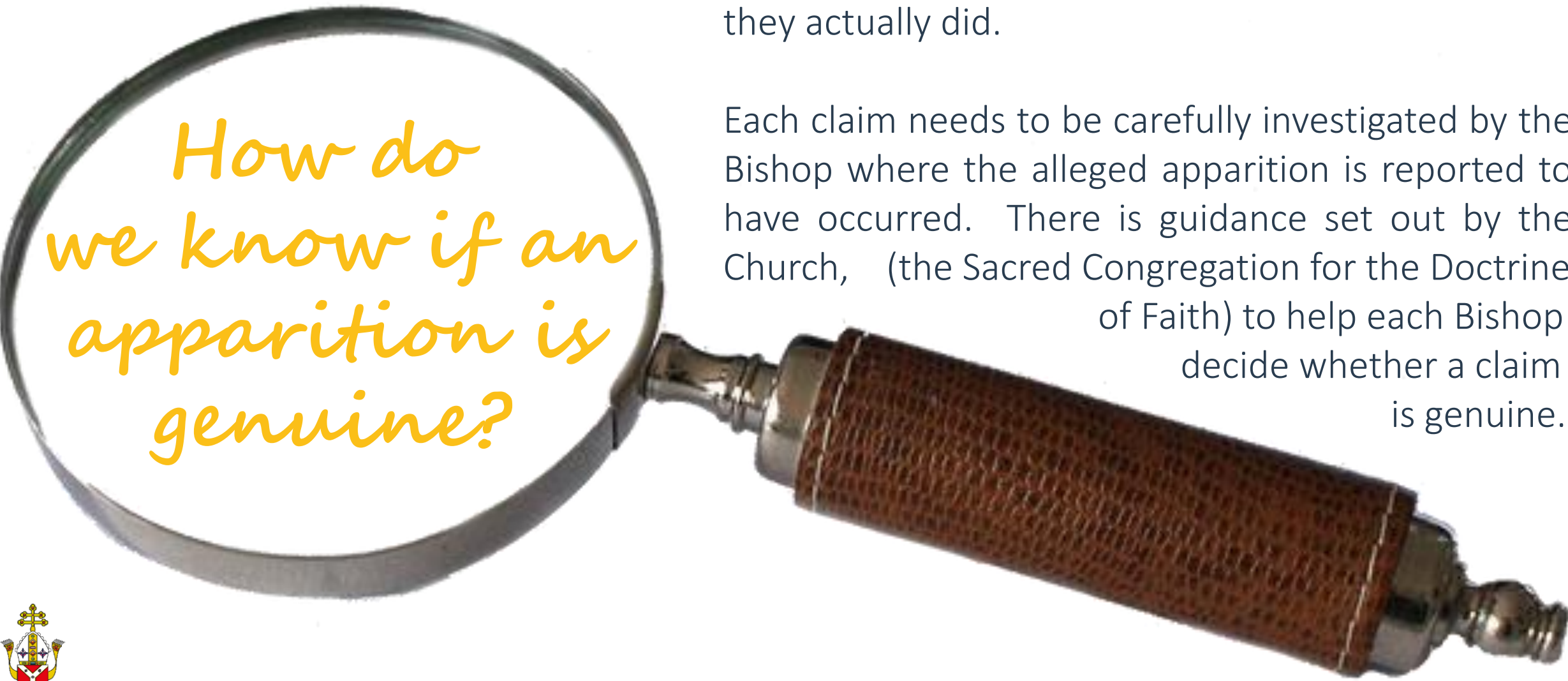
An apparition is a supernatural appearance to a person or a group of people

What is a Marian Apparition?

A Marian Apparition is an appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Usually the appearances of Mary are accompanied by a message that is communicated to at least one person.

Sometimes Our Lady has appeared once, or sometimes there is a series of appearances over a period of time.





*How do
we know if an
apparition is
genuine?*

Over the years there have been many reported Marian apparitions. However just because someone says they saw Mary, it doesn't mean that they actually did.

Each claim needs to be carefully investigated by the Bishop where the alleged apparition is reported to have occurred. There is guidance set out by the Church, (the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith) to help each Bishop decide whether a claim is genuine.



If you want to know more about Marian Apparitions and the process for approving them click [here](#)

You can find a *timeline* here detailing each of Bernadette's apparitions.



THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 1858

SUNDAY



Click on the image for link



Will you do me the kindness to come
here every day for a fortnight?

The first 7 apparitions mark a period of
joyful discovery.

Bernadette was always deeply happy; this was reflected during the first seven apparitions with her face radiating joy and light



Artist: Josephine Simon



Apparitions 8 to 12 were *penitential*.



Artist: Josephine Simon

At this point everything changed, Bernadette became sad, and sorrowful. Witnesses at the Grotto, who were growing in number every day, were deeply moved and experienced a range of emotions; some were converted to the Faith, others didn't understand Bernadette's behaviour and felt confusion or disdain.

!! Penance! Penance! Penance!
Pray to God for sinners. !!
Kiss the ground as an act of penance for sinners



The last six apparitions *looked outwards*, beginning with the missionary thirteenth apparition.



During this Apparition, Mary spoke to Bernadette saying:

❖❖ *Tell the priests that people should come here in procession and build a chapel here.* ❖❖

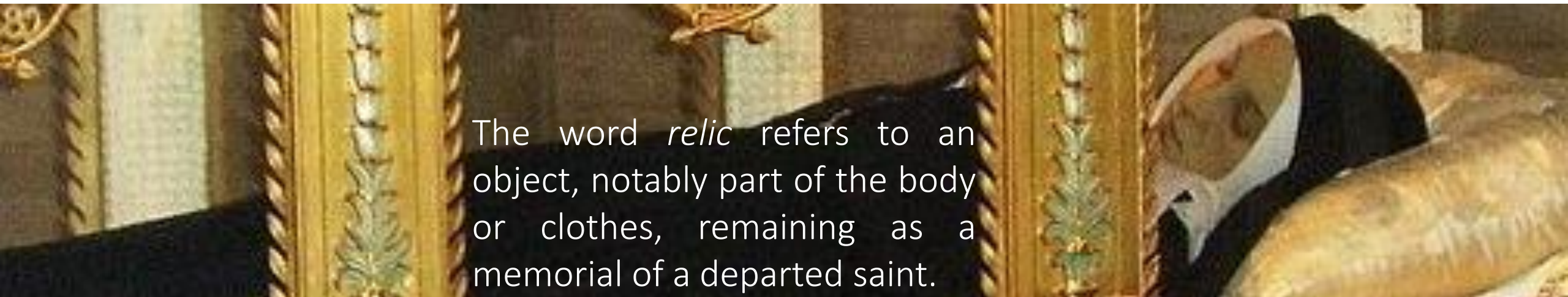
Chapels were later built to accommodate great numbers of pilgrims.





What is a relic?

What is a relic?



The word *relic* refers to an object, notably part of the body or clothes, remaining as a memorial of a departed saint.



By inviting us to venerate the mortal remains of the martyrs and saints, the Church does not forget that, in the end, these are indeed just human bones, but they are bones that belonged to individuals touched by the transcendent power of God.



Pope Benedict XVI

What is a relic?

Relics provide us with the opportunity to be close to someone that is holy. The relics of St Bernadette give us the opportunity to be inspired by the small, poor shepherd girl who was brave and determined and responded with a steadfast faith.

Can we respond with that same faith, to that same call?



Relics are important because they're a touchstone, something that helps us to remember and puts us back in touch.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Did you know...?

Every altar should have a relic inside it.

Find out what relic can be found in your local church and tag using *#RelicTour22* on:



Instagram



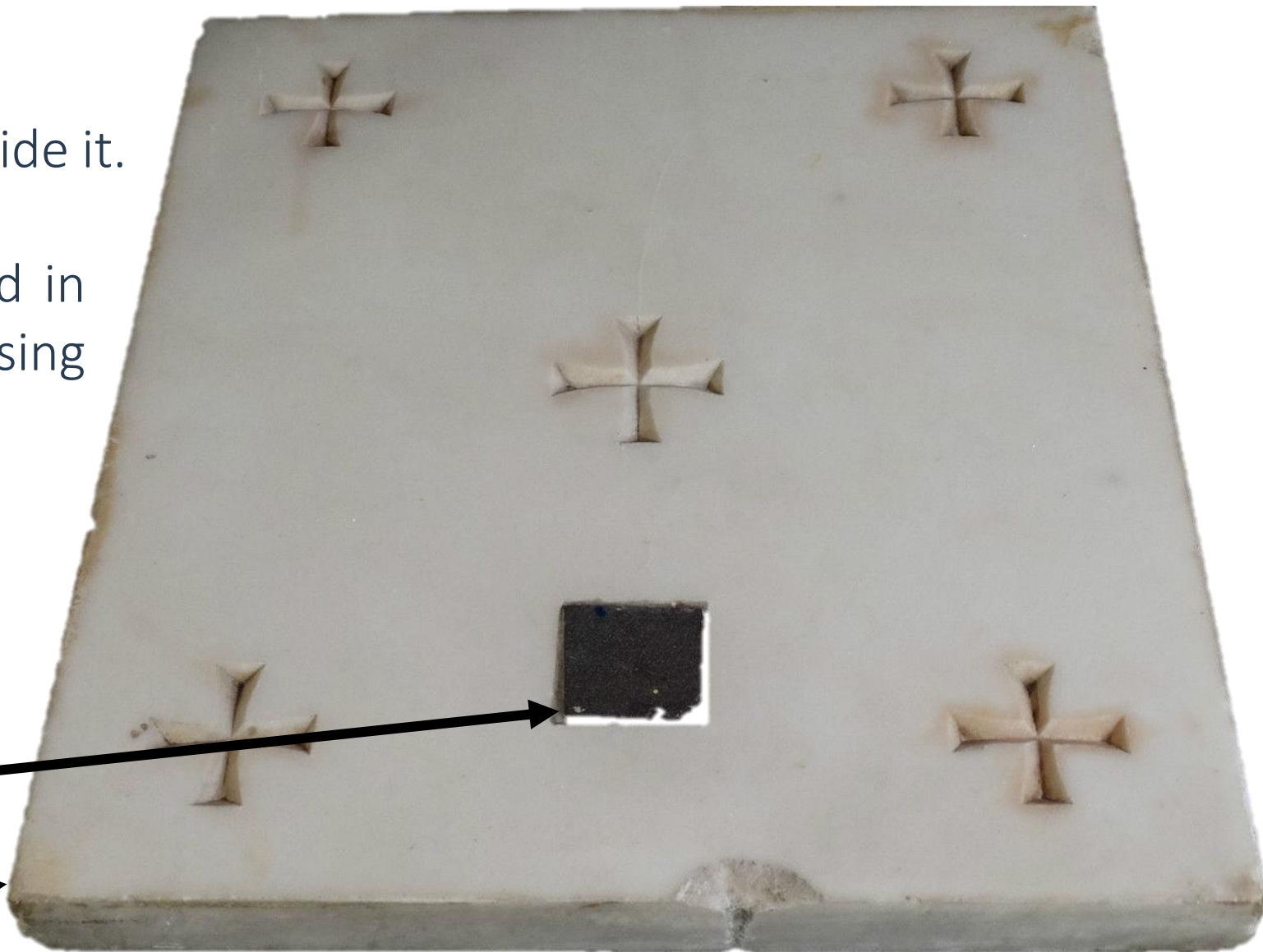
Twitter



TikTok

Cavity for Relic

Altar Stone



Why are relics important?

Catholics, among many other religions, venerate relics as a way of treating anything connected to someone we love, with care and reverence – even when someone has died!

There are two main reasons for venerating relics:

- Catholics believe **God has shown his approval** of relics by granting healing and other graces.
- Relics help us to **feel close to a holy person**, making us feel closer to saints in heaven and thus inspiring us try live lives that are more holy.



 *Why* pilgrimage to Lourdes?

Why Pilgrimage?

A pilgrimage is a journey to a place that is considered holy. It is more than just a sight seeing tour however, or a chance to visit historical sites. Although it involves a physical journey, it should also involve a spiritual journey too.

When we travel on pilgrimage it helps us to refresh and renew ourselves spiritually. We step outside the demands and routine of our ordinary lives and find space to connect ourselves to God.



Why Pilgrimage to Lourdes?

Every year, hundreds of pilgrims from the many parishes in the Diocese of Westminster journey together to Lourdes to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. With the kindness of volunteers, the group is able to support over 100 pilgrims who are sick, disabled, frail or elderly and need help to make the journey.

When we make this journey, although we may be part of a group we experience this pilgrimage in a personal way too.



Visit the Grotto



Walk towards the Grotto of the apparitions and enter beneath the rock:
you will see the spring and the famous statue of Our Lady of Lourdes;
an unforgettable experience.



Bathe in the Waters

!! Go and drink at the spring and wash yourself there! !!



Enter a bath filled with water from the spring that flows in the Grotto of the apparitions and experience something unique.

(Following the covid pandemic pilgrims are invited to wash their face and hands rather than fully body)



Light a Candle



During the fourth Apparition, Bernadette arrived at the Grotto for the first time with a blessed candle. She held it in her hands throughout.
It is from this that the custom of lighting candles at Lourdes began.



Follow the Eucharistic Procession



You can take part in the procession in honour of Jesus Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament every day.



Join the Marian Torchlight Procession



Every evening at 9pm believers from all over the world join a torchlight procession and sing *Ave Maria*. This is one of the most popular events in Lourdes

Serve Others

Service is an important part of being a Christian, and being a part of the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes is a great way of serving those in need, as well as an opportunity to grow in your faith.

Become a Red Cap



If you are over 16 years old you could volunteer to become a Red Cap – even better if your school brings a group of Red Caps! Being a Red Cap means you are assigned an ‘assisted pilgrim’ (a fellow pilgrim who is elderly, sick or disabled) and you help them with their needs throughout the pilgrimage.

Hundreds of young people take up this invitation to serve every year and have great fun in the process.



[Click here to find out more](#)

 *How* can I get involved?

Visit the relics of Bernadette

It isn't as easy for people to travel in recent years, which is why we are lucky that St Bernadette is journeying to us!



All those people who are unable to visit Lourdes on pilgrimage will now have the opportunity to visit the relics of St Bernadette, and receive all the graces that brings.



Click image
for link:

St
Bernadette
UK Relic
Tour



Tour Dates in Westminster

(click on icons for booking details)



[St Thomas of
Canterbury](#)
Fulham
2-3rd
September



[Westminster
Cathedral](#)
3-5th
September



[Immaculate
Heart of
Mary,](#)
Hayes
5-6th
September



[St Mary's
University,](#)
Twickenham
6th September



[St John Fisher,](#)
Shepperton
6-7th
September



[St Joseph's
Catholic
Church](#)
Stevenage
17-18th
October



[Shrine of Our
Lady of
Willesden](#)
28-30
October

SEPTEMBER

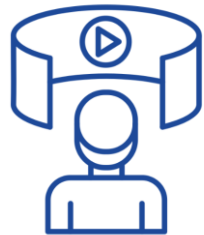
OCTOBER



Get involved...



Click icon to
watch live what
is happening at
the sanctuary in
 Lourdes



Click icon to
enjoy a 360
tour of Lourdes



Click icon to
join praying the
Rosary in
 Lourdes



Click icon to
read the news
of the latest
diocesan
pilgrimage



Click icon to
find out how to
join a diocesan
pilgrimage to
 Lourdes

Become a Red Cap School!



[Click here to
find out more](#)

Closing Prayer

Mary,
Our Lady of Lourdes,
You revealed your name to Bernadette
By simply saying “I am the Immaculate Conception”.
May we discover the joy of a forgiveness that never falters,
Instill in us the desire for a rediscovered innocence and a joyful holiness.
Help the blinded sinner.
You who gave birth to the Saviour of the world,
Look tenderly on our beautiful but tragic world.
Open in us the path of hope,
Guide us to the One who is the Living Source,
Jesus, your Son, who teaches us to say
Our Father...



Sincere gratitude to the following sources:

Much of the content of this presentation is from <https://stbernadette.org.uk/>

<https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12734a.htm>

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/st-bernadette-relic-tour-2022/>

<https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/st-bernadette-relics-dates-in-the-diocese-of-westminster/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/lpitube>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/HCPtpage>

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

Images:

www.abcjepublishing.com – Artist Josephine Simon (permission given)

www.pixabay.com

<https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/catholic-church-mable-altar-stone-1816615479>

