

SAINT

BERNADETTE

RELIC TOUR 2022



# Opening Prayer

Mary,  
Our Lady of Lourdes,  
You appeared to Bernadette,  
A small and simple shepherdess from the French mountains.  
You brought her the beautiful light of your smile,  
The gentle, brightness of your presence.  
Day by day, you become her friend  
talking to her, just as one person to another.  
We, too, come before you and humbly pray to you.  
We pray that those who find it hard to believe discover the joy of faith,  
and that those who are sad, feel the warmth of your love.

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





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

St Bernadette was a little girl who lived near Lourdes in France. One day she had an amazing experience that changed her life. So that we can understand how important the relics of Bernadette are we are going to look at the following questions:

- ☐ *Who* is St Bernadette?
- ☐ *What* is a relic?
- ☐ *Why* do people go to Lourdes?
- ☐ *How* can I get involved?

**FRANCE**





*Who* is Bernadette?

I was one of eight children and we  
didn't have very much money.

I was born in a  
small town in  
France in 1844.

Hello, I'm  
Bernadette!



I was quite sick as a child  
and often didn't feel well.

Something very special  
happened to me and even  
though I was small I had  
to be very brave!

# St Bernadette's Story



The story of  
Bernadette

Click image  
for link:

The Story of  
Bernadette  
(HCPT)

(Recommended  
for Primary  
School)



0:03 / 12:50





## *What is an Apparition?*

An apparition is a supernatural (beyond the laws of science) appearance to a person or a group of people


## *What is a Marian Apparition?*

A Marian Apparition is an appearance of Mary, Jesus' mother.

Usually when Mary appears, she also has a message that she wants people to hear because it will help them to become closer to her son, Jesus.

The person she appears to is asked to be a special messenger and to tell people the important news.





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

Over the years there have been lots of people who have said that they have seen Jesus' mother, Mary. However just because someone *says* they had an apparition, it doesn't mean that they actually did.

Each time someone says Mary has appeared to them, it must be carefully investigated by the Bishop who lives nearby to check they are telling the truth and not mistaken.

*If you want to know more about Marian Apparitions and how they are investigated click [here](#)*





The local Bishop investigated Bernadette's visions and said that she was telling the truth.

You can find a *timeline* here telling the story of each of Bernadette's apparitions.



THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 1858

SUNDAY



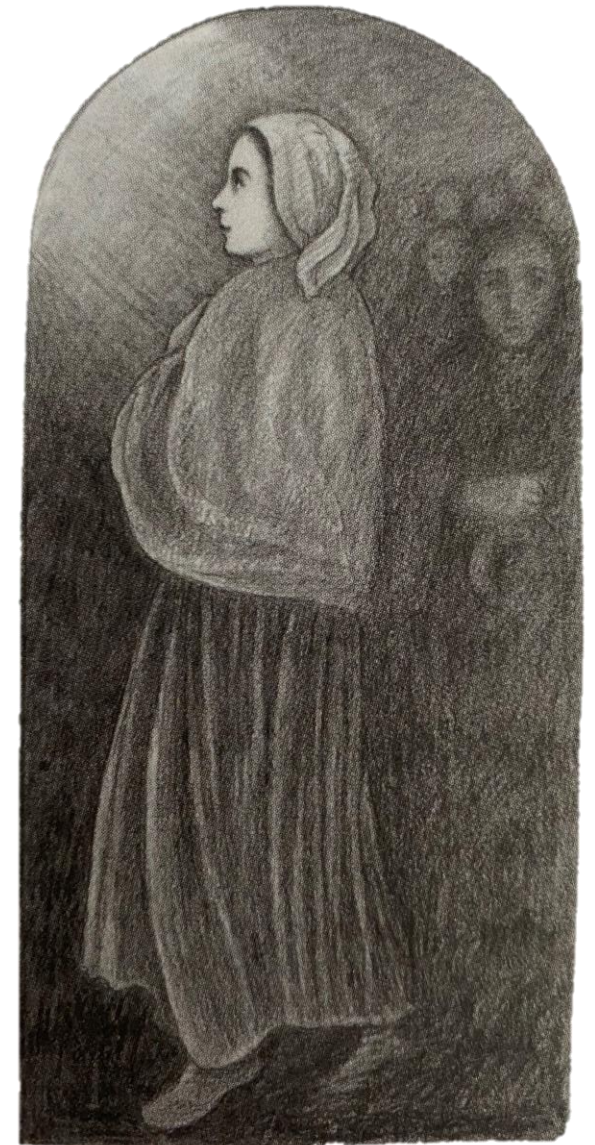
*Click on the image for link*



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

The first 7 times Mary appeared to  
Bernadette, it was *joyful*.

Bernadette was always deeply happy;  
this was seen in the way her face shining with joy and light



Artist: Josephine Simon



## Apparitions 8 to 12 were *penitential*.

Penitential means that things became less joyful and felt a bit more sad and sorrowful.

The people who were coming to the grotto each day to watch Bernadette as Mary appeared to her, didn't always understand what was happening and why Bernadette was behaving as she was.



Artist: Josephine Simon







The last six apparitions *looked outwards*, beginning with the 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. ”*

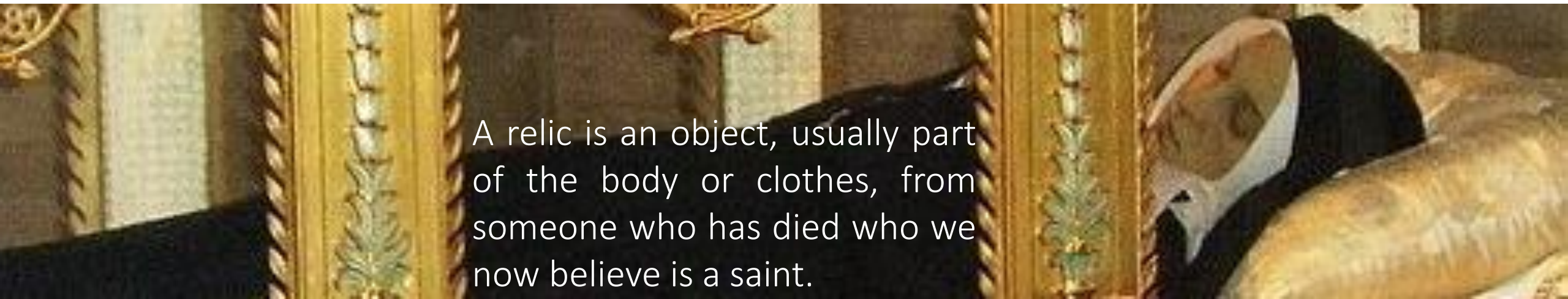
Over the years there have been churches built at the place where Bernadette saw Mary. Lots of people visit and go there to pray and celebrate Mass.





*What* is a relic?

# What is a relic?



A relic is an object, usually part of the body or clothes, from someone who has died who we now believe is a saint.

Relics are important to Catholics because:

- Through the relics God sometimes heals people or gives them special gifts
- They help us to feel close to a holy person which will hopefully help us to be inspired and live better lives



# What is a relic?

Relics help us to feel close to someone who we know is very close to God.

The relics of St Bernadette help us to be close to the small, poor shepherd girl who was brave and determined and had a strong faith. But most importantly, they help us to be close to Mary's son, Jesus.

Could you be as brave and as faithful as Bernadette was?



“ 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 ask your teacher to tag [#RelicTour22](#) on:



Instagram



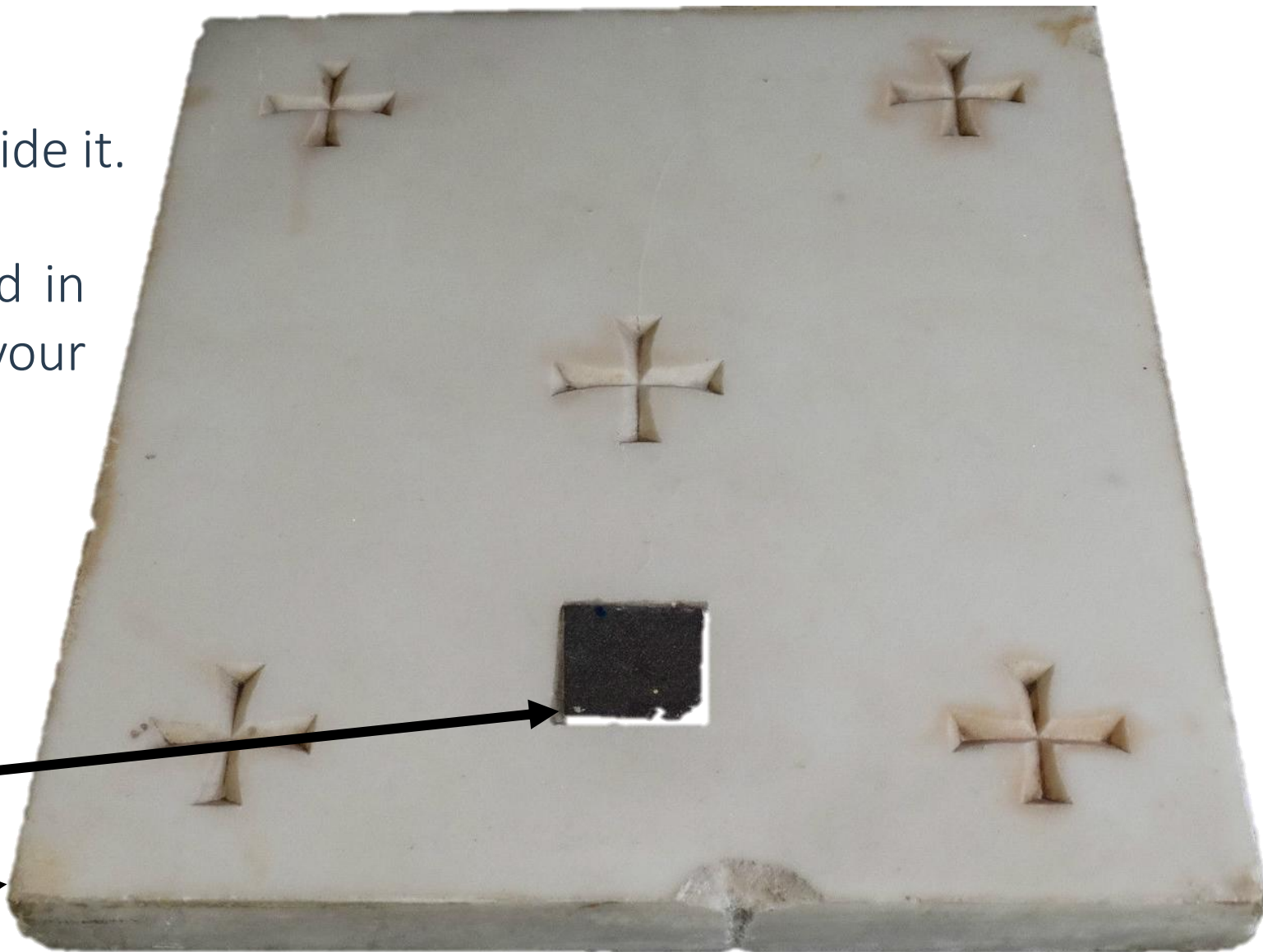
Twitter



TikTok

Cavity for Relic

Altar Stone



□ Why do people go to Lourdes?

# Why Pilgrimage?

A pilgrimage is a journey to a place that is holy. It is more than just a sight-seeing tour 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 of our busy lives and find space to connect ourselves to God.



Let's find out about some of the things that you can do when you make a *pilgrimage to Lourdes*



# 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, 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 (Hail Mary)*. This is one of the most popular events in Lourdes



# 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 pilgrims make this journey, although they are part of a group they experience this pilgrimage in a personal way too.





*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  
2-3<sup>rd</sup>  
September



Westminster  
Cathedral  
3-5<sup>th</sup>  
September



Immaculate  
Heart of  
Mary,  
Hayes  
5-6<sup>th</sup>  
September



St Mary's  
University,  
Twickenham  
6<sup>th</sup> September



St John Fisher,  
Shepperton  
6-7<sup>th</sup>  
September



St Joseph's  
Catholic  
Church  
Stevenage  
17-18<sup>th</sup>  
October



Shrine of Our  
Lady of  
Willesden  
28-30  
October

## SEPTEMBER

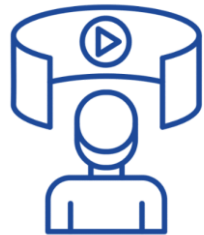
## OCTOBER



# 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



# Lourdes Red Cap

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.



When you turn 16 years old you could volunteer to become a **Red Cap**!

Being a **Red Cap** means helping a fellow pilgrim who is elderly, sick or disabled 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

# Closing Prayer

Mary,  
Our Lady of Lourdes,  
You told Bernadette your name  
By simply saying "*I am the Immaculate Conception*".  
Help us to be faithful and holy just as Bernadette was.  
Help us to discover the joy of being a good friend to others,  
Help us to bravely stand up for those in need.

Mary, you gave birth to the Saviour of the world,  
Look tenderly on our beautiful world.  
Open in us the path of hope,  
Guide us to your Son, Jesus, 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](http://www.abcjepublishing.com) – Artist Josephine Simon

[www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com)

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

