

MEATH DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

12th-19th September 2022

INTRODUCTION



On 11th. February 1858 Bernadette, her sister Toinette and a friend of theirs, Jeanne, went looking for wood on the meadows and led towards “the place where the canal rejoins the River Gave”. They were in front of the Grotto of Massabielle. Toinette and Jeanne crossed the icy water, crying out with the cold; Bernadette hesitated to do this because of her chronic asthma. She heard “a noise like a gust of wind”, but “none of the trees were moving”. “Raising her head, she saw, in a hollow of the rock a small young lady, who looked at her and who smiled at her. This was the first Apparition of the Virgin Mary

On 25th. March 1858, the day of the sixteenth Apparition, Bernadette went to the Grotto, and on the instigation of the Parish Priest, Abbé, Peyramale, asked the Lady for her name. Three times Bernadette asked the question. On the fourth request, the Lady responds in dialect “Que soy era Immaculada Conception”. (“I am the Immaculate Conception”). Bernadette does not understand immediately the meaning of these words. The Immaculate Conception is, as the Church teaches, “Mary, conceived without sin, thanks to the merits of the Cross of Christ”. (The definition of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception 1854) She goes to the Parish Priest to tell him the Lady’s name. He understands that it is the Mother of God who has appeared at the Grotto of Massabielle. Later the Bishop of Tarbes, Monseigneur Laurence, confirms this.

In Lourdes in 2004 John Paul II reminded us that “here the Blessed Virgin asked Bernadette to recite the Rosary, as she herself fingered the beads. This Grotto has thus become a unique school of prayer where Mary teaches everyone to gaze with burning love upon the face of Christ. Lourdes is the place, then, where the Christians of France, and those from so many other nations of Europe and the world, fall to their knees and pray.

THE ANGELUS

Traditionally recited at 6:00 a.m., noon, and 6:00 p.m., the Angelus can be incorporated into your pilgrimage journey if you are traveling near those hours. This prayer can be used at other times to invoke the protection of the Blessed Mother.

V/. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

R/. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

R/. Be it done unto me according to your Word.

Hail Mary...

V/. And the Word was made flesh,

R/. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

V/. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts:

that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son

was made known by the message of an Angel,

may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



THE ROSARY

The Rosary is a Scripture-based prayer. It begins with the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic faith. The Our Father, which introduces each mystery, is from the Gospels. The first part of the Hail Mary is the angel's words announcing Christ's birth and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary. St. Pius V officially added the second part of the Hail Mary. The Mysteries of the Rosary centre on the events of Christ's life. There are four sets of Mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and—added by Saint John Paul II in 2002—the Luminous. The four sets of mysteries might be prayed on the following days: the Joyful Mysteries on Monday and Saturday, the Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesday and Friday, the Glorious Mysteries on Wednesday and Sunday, and the Luminous Mysteries on Thursday.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

The Annunciation

Mary learns that she has been chosen to be the mother of Jesus.

The Visitation

Mary visits Elizabeth, who tells her that she will always be remembered.

The Nativity

Jesus is born in a stable in Bethlehem.

The Presentation

Mary and Joseph take the infant Jesus to the Temple to present him to God.

The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Jesus is found in the Temple discussing his faith with the teachers.

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

The Agony in the Garden

Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before he dies.

The Scourging at the Pillar

Jesus is lashed with whips.

The Crowning With Thorns

Jesus is mocked and crowned with thorns.

The Carrying of the Cross

Jesus carries the cross that will be used to crucify him.

The Crucifixion

Jesus is nailed to the cross and dies.

THE MYSTERIES OF LIGHT

The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan

God proclaims that Jesus is his beloved Son.

The Wedding Feast at Cana

At Mary's request, Jesus performs his first miracle.

The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

Jesus calls all to conversion and service to the Kingdom.

The Transfiguration of Jesus

Jesus is revealed in glory to Peter, James, and John.

The Institution of the Eucharist

Jesus offers his Body and Blood at the Last Supper.



THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

The Resurrection

God the Father raises Jesus from the dead.

The Ascension

Jesus returns to his Father in heaven.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit comes to bring new life to the disciples.

The Assumption of Mary

At the end of her life on earth, Mary is taken body and soul into heaven.

The Coronation of Mary

Mary is crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth.



PRAYING THE ROSARY

Make the Sign of the Cross.

Holding the Crucifix, say the Apostles' Creed.

On the first bead, say an Our Father.

Say one Hail Mary on each of the next three beads.

Say the Glory Be

For each of the five decades, announce the Mystery (perhaps followed by a brief reading from Scripture) then say the Our Father.

While fingering each of the ten beads of the decade, next say ten Hail Marys while meditating on the Mystery. Then say a Glory Be.

(After finishing each decade, some say the following prayer requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have most need of your mercy.)

After saying the five decades, say the Hail, Holy Queen, followed by this dialogue and prayer:

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: O God, whose Only Begotten Son, by his life, Death, and Resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

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 like 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.

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,

Instil 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 call God Father.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRAYER FOR HEALING

O ever-Immaculate Virgin,
Mother of Mercy, health of the sick,
refuge of sinners, comforter of the afflicted,
you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings;
look with mercy on me.
By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes,
you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary,
whence you dispense your favours;
and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities,
both spiritual and corporal.
I come, therefore,
with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession.
Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. (mention your petition)
Through gratitude for your favours,
I will endeavour to imitate your virtues,
that I may one day share your glory. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION TO MARY

St. Louis M. Montfort Grignon

In the presence of all the heavenly court
I choose thee this day for my Mother and Mistress.
I deliver and consecrate to thee as Thy slave,
my body and soul,
my goods, both interior and exterior,
and even the value of all my good actions,
past present and future;
leaving to you the entire and full right of disposing of me,
and of all that belongs to me,
without exception,
according to Thy good pleasure
to the greatest glory of God,
in time and in eternity. **Amen.**

