

# Oblate Lourdes Pilgrimage

*Healing The Healer*

17-22 September 2022

*My intention as I begin my pilgrimage is...*

## *What I want to remember from Lourdes 2022...*

# OBLATE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

17-22 September 2022

led by

Bishop Eamonn Walsh

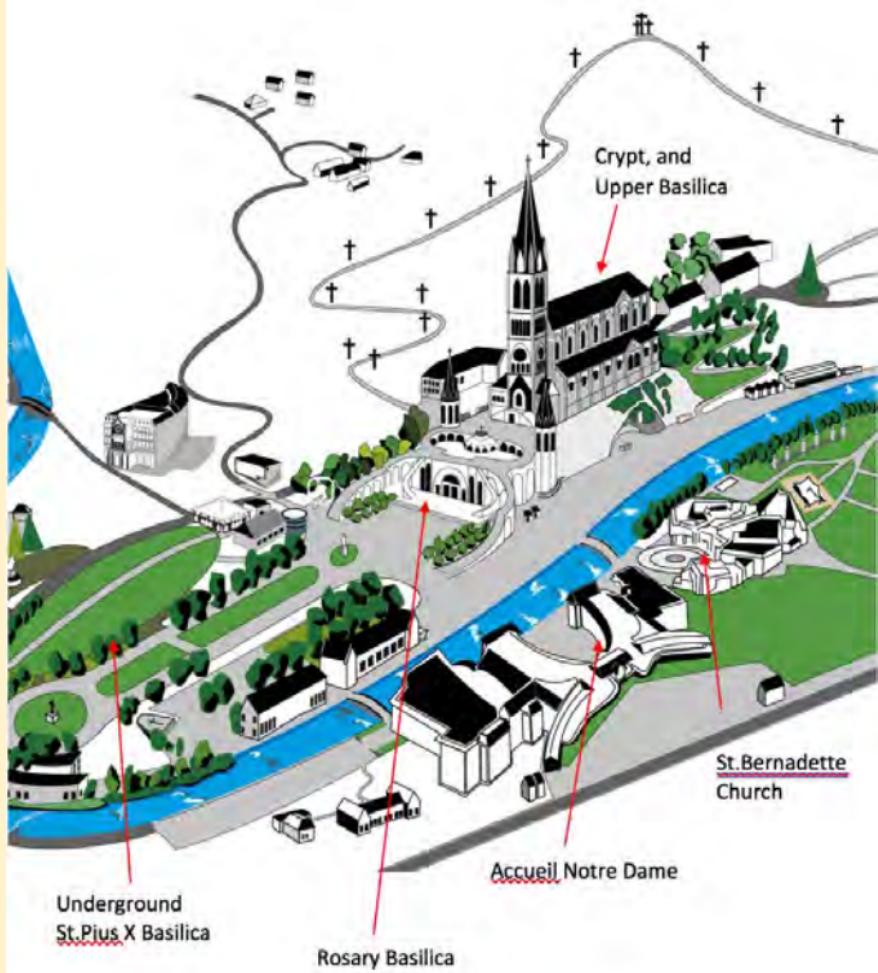
and

Fr. Oliver Barry, OMI  
(Provincial of the Oblate Anglo-Irish Province)

Under the direction of

Fr. Lorcán O'Reilly, OMI

# Map of Lourdes



# PILGRIMAGE CALENDAR

(Please note all times below are French times. Ireland/UK are 1 hour behind)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Liturgy/Activity</i>
<b>SATURDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER</b>		
8.45pm	St.Bernadette Church	Vigil of Prayer for Healing
<b>SUNDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER</b>		
10:00am	High Stations	Way of the Cross
10:00am	Low Stations	Way of the Cross
2:00pm 9:00pm	St.Bernadette Church Esplanade	Opening Mass Torchlight Marian Procession
<b>MONDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER</b>		
10:00am 5:00pm 8:30pm	St Pius X Basilica St.Piux X Basilica St.Bernadette Church	Mass Blessed Sacrament Procession Reconciliation Service
<b>TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER</b>		
10:00am 8:30pm	Grotto St Bernadette Church	Mass Reflection on pilgrimage theme
<b>WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER</b>		
10:30am 5:30pm	Esplanade Altar St.Bernadette Church	Mass of Anointing Thanksgiving & Missioning Service – Closing Pilgrimage
<b>EACH DAY</b>		
12 noon	Your hotel	Lunch
7:00pm	Your hotel	Dinner
5:00pm	St.Pius X Basilica	Eucharistic Procession
9:00pm	Rosary Square	Torchlight Marian Procession

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## THE OBLATE LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2022

*Welcome ....Fáilte ....Croeso*

Dear Pilgrim,

On behalf of the Oblates, I welcome you to this year's pilgrimage. Who could have imagined that things would change so radically when last we gathered here in 2019. So much has happened since then, and some of those who journeyed with us have since returned home to God. I am grateful that technology, through our digital pilgrimages, allowed us to remain connected in 2020 and 2021, and I know that many people will join us online to share in this year's pilgrimage. Yet, as I ponder these days, I find myself returning to the story of the Transfiguration. In this story we hear the apostles say to Jesus "It is good for us to be here". I find this sentiment resounding in my heart as we gather together in Lourdes this year under the Oblate banner.

I am also aware that not everyone can be with us. In a particular way we feel the pain of the absence of our assisted pilgrim section. Hopefully conditions will improve, so that they will join us in 2023 to once again make our family whole.

The importance of facing the pandemic together, united as one human family, has been a constant theme for Pope Francis over the last years. He reminds us:

*"The pandemic continues to cause deep wounds, exposing our vulnerability ... Thus we must keep our gaze firmly fixed on Jesus in the midst of this pandemic, our eyes on Jesus; and with this faith embrace the hope of the Kingdom of God that Jesus Himself brings us ... Within the Christian tradition, faith, hope and charity are gifts that heal us and that make us healers, gifts that open us to new horizons, even while we are navigating the difficult waters of our time"*

Aware that Mary always points us toward her Son, let us begin our pilgrimage with our eyes fixed on the love of the Lord.

Finally, my prayer for all of you is that your time in Lourdes will be a time of special grace and healing. May we come to know the love that God has for us in a new and deeper way. In this journey of discovery, we pray that Our Lady of Lourdes will watch over us, and we assure you that our prayers will accompany you.

Fr Lorcán O'Reilly OMI

*On behalf of: Fr Vincent Mulligan OMI and Fr Pascal Dillon OMI*



This year's pilgrimage will be streamed live back to an audience at home.

Over the last two years many people shared online in our Oblate pilgrimage. We continue to invite those who are unable to travel to Lourdes to join our pilgrimage journey over these days.

Full details of the programme can be found at [www.oblates.ie](http://www.oblates.ie) or on the Oblate Facebook page.



## THEME OF THE YEAR - 'HEALING THE HEALER'

In our planning for this year's pilgrimage we recognised the burdens that have been carried by so many who have been on the 'front line' over the last years. Even describing these last years shows how our very use of language has changed. Those who were 'unskilled' have become 'key workers', keeping the rest of us safe and supplied. So many people have given so much. As Christians we believe that all people are created in the image of God, and all carry innate dignity and worth. Our theme this year was chosen because of the truth that at some level we are all in need of God's healing touch.

We also know to be true that there are few of us who are not touched at some point by the experience of illness or trauma. We only have to pause to realise how immediate are those experiences, even within our own family and circle of friends. Living with the pandemic has been a reminder that ill-health is no respecter of person – from the young to the elderly, illness can strike out of nowhere, impairing or taking away our physical or mental abilities. There are no concerns that are not the concern of all of us when it comes to questions of our health and well-being. The realisation of the reality of our human fragility can create uncertainty with us. Yet our health care workers

who walk alongside us with such love and care are a sign of the merciful love of God.

Lourdes has long been a reminder to us not to forget the uniqueness of each person. We can all offer a listening ear and an open heart, for we know that even if a cure cannot be given, care and healing remain possible. It is always possible to console and support one another so as to create a closeness that transcends our illness and weakness. The ministry of consolation is the task of each one of us and none of us can be defined by our illness or frailties.

In the Gospel of Mark we read: ‘Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Then he sent him away to his home, saying, ‘Do not even go into the village.’

(Mark 8:22-26)

When Jesus heals people, there is more going on than the simple relief of physical symptoms. There is an underlying commentary on the social situation that has compounded the suffering: the marginalisation of the woman with the issue of blood; the suspicion and exclusion of the leper; the restriction of community participation and the resulting dependency on the charity of others for the blind. Healing is also an emergence into a new way of

living. Jesus says to the man with renewed vision: don't go back to the old life and the old ways.

As we discover what being healed means for us, we need to explore ways to walk on new paths. We need to leave the old village behind and explore a vision of a new world. Can our new understanding of who is 'key' to our wellbeing be extended within the spiritual metaphor of the body, to include those we have previously kept at arm's length, or out of sight?

Perhaps these days on pilgrimage are a good time to pause and bring before the Lord our vulnerabilities and brokenness as we seek healing and inner strength. As we journey together let us turn to the inspiring words of Pope Francis:

*As the Gospel shows us, Jesus healed the sick of every type, he gave sight to the blind, the word to the mute, hearing to the deaf. And when he cured diseases and physical infirmity, he also healed the spirit by forgiving sins, because Jesus always forgives, as well as "social suffering" by including the marginalised. Jesus, who renews and reconciles every creature, gives us the gifts necessary to love and heal as he knew how to do, to take care of all without distinction on the basis of race, language or nation. In order for this to really happen, we need to contemplate and appreciate the beauty of every human*

*being and every creature. We were conceived in the heart of God. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary.'*



## GETTING TO KNOW ST.BERNADETTE SOUBIROUS

Bernadette's parents, François Soubirous and Louise Castérot married in January 1843 and lived at the Boly Mill, Lourdes. Bernadette was born on the 7th January, 1844, the eldest of 9 children. Her father held a precarious job as a miller. The family fell into poverty and they had to move home three times and ended up living in what the locals called the 'Cachot'; it was a single, damp, dark hovel of a room!

From a young age, Bernadette suffered from asthma and was unable to attend school. She had a lively, witty, generous and proud nature. As she was unable to read and write, she experienced exclusion and she was sent to Bartrès as a farm girl. In 1858, she returned to Lourdes, making her First Communion.

One day, when she was accompanying her sister and her friend, Bernadette searched for firewood and went to Massabielle, Lourdes to collect dead wood. While removing her socks in order to cross the stream, she heard a noise which sounded like a gust of wind. Looking up towards the Grotto she said: "I saw a young lady dressed in white; she wore a white dress, an equally white veil, a blue belt and a yellow rose on each foot". Bernadette made the Sign of the Cross and said the Rosary with the lady. When

the prayer ended, the Lady suddenly vanished. (1st Apparition, 11th February, 1858)

Believing herself mistaken, she checked her impressions with her companions and with Fr. Pomian, the local priest. Later, she was questioned by the local commissioner, and he was surprised by her confident responses. Over a period of 5 months from the 11th February until the 16th July, 1858, Our Lady appeared to Bernadette at the Grotto on 18 occasions.

Consequently, Bernadette had to respond to the curious, to admirers, journalists and to appear before civil and religious commissions. She needed patience and sometimes humour, to weather the storms. She accepted no bribes nor blessed no rosaries thrust at her. Bernadette remembered Mary's message: "Penance! Penance! Penance! Pray to God for sinners!" During the time of the Apparitions, more and more people joined Bernadette at the Grotto. By the 15th Apparition, there were about 8,000 people present.

Over the following years, Bernadette's life wasn't easy. In 1860, Fr. Peyramale and Mayor Lacade admitted her as "a sick poor person" to the hospice managed by the Sisters of Nevers. At 16, she learned to read and write and she wrote to her family and to the Pope!

Bernadette joined the Sisters of Nevers, took the name of Sr. Marie Bernard and looked after the sick. Acknowledging that her mission in Lourdes was finished,

she withdrew to give time for Mary and Jesus by being “the work of prayer” and “praying for sinners”.

She remained faithful to her mission until her death in Nevers on 16th April, 1879. She was 35 years old. The Church proclaimed her a saint on 8th December, 1933 for the way in which she responded to the grace of the Apparitions and not for having been chosen for it.

Even now, 143 years after her death, millions of pilgrims from all over the world follow in Bernadette’s footsteps to pray at the Grotto in Lourdes and to bathe in or drink the waters of the spring that she herself dug at Massabielle on the banks of the Gave.





I shall spend every moment loving.  
One who loves does not notice her trials;  
or perhaps more accurately,  
she is able to love them.

I shall do everything for Heaven, my true home.  
There I shall find my Mother  
in all the splendour of her glory.  
I shall delight with her in the joy of Jesus  
himself in perfect safety.

Jesus is for me honour, delight, heart and soul. -

*Saint Bernadette Soubirous*



## ST. EUGENE DE MAZENOD – FOUNDER OF THE OBLATES

St. Eugene de Mazenod, was the 19<sup>th</sup> century founder of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1782 in Aix-en-Provence in the south of France, Eugene de Mazenod was a member of the French nobility. During the French Revolution, the de Mazenod family was forced into exile to avoid the guillotine. In 1795, leaving her husband and son behind in Venice, Marie-Rose returned to France with Eugene's sister. Once back home, she divorced Eugene's father.

After eleven years in exile, Eugene returned to Aix at his mother's request, where he struggled to reunite his family. However, the call to priesthood was strong, and on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1808 he entered the seminary of St. Sulpice in Paris. After his ordination on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1811, Fr.de Mazenod began working with the poor and disenfranchised people of Aix.

Eugene gathered round him a group of like-minded companions who would live in community with him and share his apostolate. He purchased a disused Carmelite convent with its adjoining church, and his small band of priests began preaching missions throughout the French countryside. They would go to the poorest people in the land to remind them of their human dignity, announce

again the message of Jesus Christ and help them to a new way of life.



Pope Leo XII gave Fr. de Mazenod full approval for his new congregation on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1826 and gave them the name "Oblates of Mary Immaculate". Before his death, his congregation of over 400 men had spread to ten countries throughout the world.

Despite being a small number, Eugene sent his missionaries to the furthest reaches of the world: to the poor in Canada and on the Texas/Mexican border; to Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) and South Africa. Oblates came to Britain in 1841 and to Ireland in 1856.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1995 St. Eugene deMazenod was added to the church's long list of holy men and women. At his canonisation, St. John Paul II said of him "*he had a heart as big as the world*".

## *A patron saint for wounded families?*

Eugene de Mazenod had far from an ideal family life. Among the countless stories of the lives of saints, St. Eugene is unique in that his parents were divorced during a time in history when divorce was rare. During the French Revolution his family became political refugees. They had to leave their home in France and journeyed through a number of cities in Italy, finishing up at Palermo. During this Italian exile the family became impoverished and came very close to destitution. His mother abandoned the family and returned to France, and later divorced her husband.

Prayers to St. Eugene can help those who feel overwhelmed, by interceding for them as they endure the pains of divorce and troubled family life.

The breakup of a marriage or struggles within family life can destroy all sense of security and open the way to a world of uncertainty. Adults often feel humiliation and a sense of failure, while children may feel inappropriate guilt and a deep fear of parental abandonment. St. Eugene can provide hope and encouragement for those trying to recover from the myriad disappointments of a separation or divorce, as he himself was the son of parents whose marriage ended acrimoniously.

### *Prayer for Wounded Families*

Almighty and loving God, you led St. Eugene de Mazenod through the sufferings and challenges of a broken family to a life of holiness. Through his constant intercession bless those whose relationships are damaged and broken. Grant them the gifts of understanding, patience, love and courage to overcome the problems of life. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

Amen-



## **Where are the Oblates today and what do they do?**

Almost 4,000 Oblate priests and brothers are to be found today in more than 68 countries of the world. Oblates from Ireland and the UK are missionaries in Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia, Philippines, Australia, United States and Canada.

Oblates exercise very diverse ministries but above all seek to dedicate themselves to the poor and abandoned. One can thus find Oblates in Britain and Ireland working in parishes, in missionary formation, preaching, on social justice and pastoral ministries or in prisons. *“No ministry is alien to us as long as we never lose sight of the main purpose of the Congregation: the evangelisation of the most abandoned”*. – *Oblate Constitutions and Rules*.

So, the Oblates strive to seek out, befriend and respect as sisters and brothers, the abandoned poor with their many faces: the weak, unemployed, illiterate, victims of addictions, sick, marginalised, immigrants, minorities – not only the materially poor, but also those who are poor in spirit, those who do not know the name of Jesus Christ. Our mission invites us to a team approach, to collaboration with laity and other religious communities, to formation of lay leaders who will serve the needs of others, to become a part of the lives of those of others.

*This is what Yahweh asks of you, only this:*

*That you act justly, love tenderly  
And walk humbly with your God.  
(Micah 6:8)*

We invite you to collaborate with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in fulfilling the Church's mission. Most of all, your prayers for the missions and for missionary vocations will be an immense support and encouragement.

You can also share in Oblate missionary work by helping with fundraising, subscribing to our magazine, or making donations, however small.

For more information on the Oblate way of life please contact:

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St Mary's Star of the Sea  
Church  
106 Constitution Street  
Leith  
Edinburgh EH6 6AW

Email: [i.morastil@oblates.co.uk](mailto:i.morastil@oblates.co.uk)





## Daily Reflection – a Personal Prayer Journey

At the end of each day we invite you to take a few moments to reflect on the day that has been. To help deepen your pilgrimage experience we suggest the following three simple steps.

### **1) Thanksgiving ....**

Begin by looking over the day and asking to see where you need to be thankful. Do not choose what you think you should be thankful for: rather, by merely looking over the day, see what emerges ...what you notice, even slightly.

### **2) Finding God In All Things ....**

Again look over the events of the day. This time ask the Spirit to show you where God's presence has been in your life, either in you or in others, and in the events of pilgrimage. Is there any one area you are being nudged to focus your attention on ....to pray more seriously over, to take action on?

### **3) Help And Guidance For Tomorrow ....**

Ask God for your needs for tomorrow. For example, you may need to pray to overcome something ... to be more sensitive to God's activity in your environment ... to celebrate in some way ... to let go ... to deal with some issue ... to be open to conversion in some area ... to make some decisions to act.



# Mass Cards Available



Mass cards will be available each day after Mass at the Oblate desk in the Permanence

which is located on the right hand side of St Joseph's gate entrance ramp to the Sanctuaries

## Safeguarding those in our care

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Oblate Lourdes Pilgrimage take very seriously the issue of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

All our volunteers who care for the sick will have current DBS (UK) or Garda vetting checks (Ireland). The safeguarding representatives for the Pilgrimage are Gerry Bennett and Miriam McDonnell. If you have a concern, no matter how insignificant, please bring it to the attention of Gerry or Miriam. They can be contacted during the pilgrimage at Accueil Notre Dame. After the pilgrimage they can also be contacted via the Mission Office on +353 1 4542888.

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate have also appointed a Safeguarding Representative, Suzanne Phelan (+353 85 1145391). Should you have any issues about any pilgrim's safety or well-being before, during or after the event do not hesitate to contact either Suzanne.

If, at any stage, you feel there is a safeguarding issue, please contact us immediately.



Pilgrims who are members of choirs in their own home parish are welcome to join our Pilgrimage choir.

You must assemble in the choir area 15 mins before each ceremony when our choir leader, Mary Duffy, will rehearse the music for the service.

Vigil of Prayer for Healing  
8.45pm Saturday 17 September  
St Bernadette Church – Grotto side  
Lourdes Theme: ‘Healing the Healer’

Tonight is an opportunity for those who wish to gather for a quiet time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament to thank the Lord for bringing us to this place. We are invited to come together to pray for one another as we prepare to begin our pilgrimage.

God speaks within every moment  
And creates the world with every breath  
God speaks from the centre of the universe,  
In the silence beyond all thought.  
Mightier than the crash of a thunderstorm,  
Mightier than the roar of the sea,  
Is God’s voice silently speaking  
In the depths of the listening heart.

*(Psalm 93: as translated by Stephen Mitchell)*

**The Gospel:**

Jesus exclaimed, ‘I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the

clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

### Closing Reflection

When all seems dark and the darkness is harsh

**GIVE ME YOUR HAND**

When I cannot see light even in the brightest day

**GIVE ME YOUR HAND**

When you are tired and every breath is heavy

**GIVE ME YOUR HAND**

When my words do not grasp the depth of yearning in my soul.

**GIVE ME YOUR HAND**

When your feelings are overwhelming or dulled

**GIVE ME YOUR HAND**

When I am confused and don't know what to do

**GIVE ME YOUR HAND**

So that we may be together  
**GIVE ME YOUR HAND**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God of Love, Light and Peace, thank you for spiritual healing that goes beyond the physical, for eyes to see beyond the here and now, for faith to claim your promises. We pray for all who dwell under the shadow of illness – mental or physical.

Give us courage to face the challenges and darkness that come uninvited, unpredictably. Make us willing to serve in ways we never envisioned. Through us, shine your light of faith into the lives of those who have lost hope. Open our minds to learn more about their needs and dreams. Make us channels of your love and mercy, to the praise of your glory. Amen





## Stations of the Cross

In Lourdes, the pilgrim has a choice of two outdoor Stations of the Cross. One, known as the 'Low Stations' is best suited to those with limited mobility. The second is known to many pilgrims as the 'High Stations'

### **High Stations**

The Way of the Cross on the hillside weaves along a steep wooded area. There are 15 stations along the 1,500 metre path.

### **The Way of the Cross for Assisted Pilgrims**

These stations are located at the far end of the Domain on the Prairie side of the river.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS – High Stations  
10am, Sunday 18 September**

***Please note:***

**These stations can be quite arduous and are not for the faint-hearted !!**

*"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me: (Mt. 15:24)*

Here in Lourdes we follow in the footsteps of Jesus who 'went out, carrying his cross, to the place called the place of the skull, which in Hebrew is Golgotha' (Jn. 19:17)

We are here because we are convinced that the Way of the Cross was not simply a journey to the place of execution. We believe that every step of the condemned Christ, every action and every word, as well as everything felt and done by those who took part in this drama, continues to speak to us. In his suffering and death, Christ reveals to us the truth about God and humanity.

*"Let us remember the sick, let us remember all those who have been abandoned under the weight of the Cross, that they may find in the trial of the Cross the strength of hope, of hope, in the resurrection and love of God."."*

Pope Francis, Good Friday 2014



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS – “LOW” STATIONS

10am, Sunday 18 September

The **Way of the Cross** is truly a pilgrim way – a journey in faith with Jesus into the mystery of God’s love for us.

Jesus did not take up the Cross in order to show us how to die, but to show us how to live.

The story of Our Lady and St.Bernadette, the message of Lourdes, is none other than a call to renew in our hearts and in our lives the message of the Gospels.

- a message of the **Father’s love**, who sent his Son in poverty to seek out the poor and the sinner;
- a message of the **Son** who leads us to the Father;
- a message of **conversion**, a coming back to the Father with all our hearts;
- a message of **mission**, that we may witness to the way of Jesus in the church and in the world.





For all Masses, our pilgrims are invited to meet at the statue of the Crowned Virgin, from where everyone will process behind the pilgrimage banner to the venue for Mass



Opening Mass – 2pm Sunday 18 September  
St. Bernadette Centre (Grotto Side)

**Entrance Hymn**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
    longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
    light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light!  
Shine in our Church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
    Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
    Make us your living voice.  
*Christ, be our light....*

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
    making your kingdom come.  
*Christ, be our light...*

## Welcome by Fr. Lorcán O' Reilly O.M.I.

### Introduction (Reader)

We gather this afternoon as part of God's family, and, for the first time in three years, we come together in person as the Oblate family. We have travelled from many different parts of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Jersey. We gather in unity with those who are still unable to travel due to Covid-19 and with those who are joining us online.

We live in a world where strength and power are often seen as more important than humility and vulnerability. But scripture reminds us, 'God chooses those the world thinks as weak to shame the strong.' God chose Bernadette, a poor and uneducated girl to proclaim the good news of the gospel. Through her life and example, generations of people continue to come to Lourdes to pray and care for those who are sick. Truly, the Lord did great things for her. Today, we are the people God calls to hear and proclaim the message of Lourdes. Each of us is called by God to follow Bernadette's example. God continues to do great things for us and great things through us. We are called to be a light for the world by showing kindness to our neighbour, in standing up against injustice, in returning hate with love, transforming one

heart at a time ...in truly seeing one another as beloved by God.

### Liturgy of the Word

#### A Reading from the Prophet Amos (8:4-7)

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country, you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat? Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.' The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

#### Responsorial Psalm (sung)

*The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Blessed be the Lord.*

I will bless the Lord at all times  
His praise ever in my mouth  
Let my soul glory in the Lord  
For he hears the cry of the poor. (Response)  
Let the lowly hear and be glad

The Lord listens to their pleas  
And to hearts broken He is near  
For he hears the cry of the poor. (Response)

We proclaim your greatness, O God,  
Your praise ever in our mouth;  
E'vry face brightened in your light,  
For you hear the cry of the poor. (Response)

### Gospel Acclamation (Sung)

I am the light of the world says the Lord;  
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

### The Gospel

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to  
Luke

All: **Glory to you Lord**

Jesus said to his disciples:

The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

‘No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.’

### Blessing the Book of Remembrance

**Bishop:** I invite ..... to bring forward the Book of Remembrance.

Since 1883 many people have travelled to Lourdes as part of the Oblate Pilgrimage in answer to the call of Our Lady to “come in procession.” Each pilgrim makes a unique contribution and helps shape our pilgrimage. In our Book of Remembrance we remember all who have gone before us as we pray:

Tender and Loving God we give thanks for the gift of those who shared our pilgrimage journey. Keep them safely in your care. Accept our prayers for those who have died in Christ and who are buried with him in the hope of rising again. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Reader :** Let us pray for members of our Oblate Pilgrimage family who have died. We especially remember those who

have died this past year .....(Names of the deceased are read out)

All: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them; may they rest in peace. Amen

**Bishop:**

Today, we also remember in a special way all those we have lost during the pandemic. With these people in our hearts I now invite you to join with me as together we offer our prayer of remembrance:

All:

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,  
we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength,  
we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart,  
we remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share,  
we remember them

So long as we live, they too shall live,  
for they are now a part of us,  
as we remember them.

**Bishop:**

Ever present God, we thank you for the special people who have shared in our pilgrimage and whom we are remembering in this book.

We thank you that you are a compassionate God who walks with us in our dark moments. We are thankful for all who continue to love and support us.

Continue to be a light for us, giving us hope, direction and courage.

As we bless this book in your name + ... May we now live our lives treasuring the memories of those special people and help us to bring light and hope to others...

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen

**Prayer of the Faithful**

PC: Let us now turn to God our Creator who is aware of our many needs.

Response to our prayers: **Hear our prayer**

**Reader 1:** As we begin our pilgrimage, we pray for all those who have asked us to remember and pray for them during our time here in Lourdes; and we remember all those who are joining our pilgrimage virtually.. (pause) Lord in your mercy

**Reader 1:** We pray for all our brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering because of war, famine and terrorism. Through our prayers and concern, may they know they are loved and not forgotten.... (pause) Lord, in your mercy.

**Reader 2:** Lord, in these days of pilgrimage, make us quiet and prayerful; in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you; in these days of emptiness, take possession of us; in these days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of your cross.  
(pause) Lord in your mercy

**Reader 2:** For our young people; inspired by the life and example of St. Eugene, may they open their hearts and lives to living the gospel and serving the most abandoned in our society... (pause) Lord in your mercy

**Reader 2:** We gather all our prayers and offer them to God through Mary as we pray, Hail Mary...

**Celebrant:** Loving God, we have offered and made known to you our prayers and intentions in faith and hope. We ask that you hear and answer them, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Lighting Our Pilgrimage Candle

**Reader:** Our Pilgrimage Candle is a symbol of our journey together for the next few days. This is a journey of caring and friendship; sometimes strenuous, sometimes gentle, sometimes sad, sometimes joyful. Our candle burning brightly will remind us of the words of Jesus, when he said: 'I am the light of the world'. Anyone who follows me will have the light of life'.

PC: Jesus, light of the world, we pray that this candle will burn brightly and be a sign of our care and service as we take part in the Oblate Lourdes Pilgrimage. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reader:** After this Eucharist the candle will be taken to the Chapel of Candles where it will remain burning over the coming days, giving us the opportunity to pray beside it during our pilgrimage. Another candle will be taken from our final service and remain as a reminder of our time here in Lourdes.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast  
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest  
Blood of my Saviour bathe me in thy tide  
Wash me ye waters, streaming from his side

Strength and protection may his passion be  
O blessed Jesus hear and answer me  
Deep in thy wounds Lord, hide and shelter me  
So shall I never, ever part from thee

Guard and defend me from the foe malign  
In death's dread moments make me only thine  
Call me and bid me come to thee on high  
Where I may praise thee with thy saints for Aye.

-----

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,  
You are one with us, Mary's Son.  
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
Pouring your love and goodness in,  
Jesus, our love for you we sing, living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,  
Born as one of us, Mary's Son.  
Led out to die on Calvary,  
Risen from death to set us free,  
living Lord Jesus, help us see, you are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to you,  
live my life for you, Son of God.

All your commands I know are true,  
your many gifts will make me new,  
into my life your power breaks through, living Lord



### Recessional Hymn

Sweet heart of Jesus, fount of love and mercy,  
today we come, thy blessing to implore;  
O touch our hearts, so cold and so ungrateful,  
and make them, Lord, thine own for evermore.

*Sweet heart of Jesus we thee implore,  
O make us love thee more and more.*

Sweet heart of Jesus, make us pure and gentle,  
And teach us how to do thy blessed will;  
To follow close the print of thy dear footsteps,  
And when we fall - sweet heart, O love us still.

*Sweet heart of Jesus we thee implore,  
O make us love thee more and more*





## **THE TORCHLIGHT MARIAN PROCESSION**

(An announcement will be made during the morning Mass letting you know where you should gather to join the procession behind the Oblate banner. The couriers from the travel agent will also have this information during your evening dinner.)

From April to October each year since 1872 this evening procession is a faithful response to the invitation of Our Lady to Bernadette during the 13<sup>th</sup> Apparition on 2 March 1858: “Let people come here in procession ...”



The procession starts at 9.00pm sharp.

Be sure to listen to announcements about this procession

*Salve regina, mater misericordiae;  
Vita, dulcedo et spes nostra salve.  
Ad te clamamus, exules filii hevae  
Ad te suspiramus gementes et flentes  
in hac lacrimarum vale  
Eja ergo, advocata nostra,  
illos tuos misericordes oculos  
Ad nos converte.  
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui  
Nobis post hoc exilium ostende.  
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis, Virgo Maria*





Mass – 10am Monday 19 September  
Pius X Basilica - Centre Altar

**Entrance Hymn**

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand,  
Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me.  
Christ be in all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
in ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

**Introduction (Reader)**

God blesses each of us through the waters of Baptism and calls us personally by our name. Pope Francis reminds us: “Faith begins when we realise we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we founder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars.

Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength: turning to good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies."

### Liturgy of the Word

#### A Reading from Prophet Isaiah

And now, thus says Yahweh, he who created you, Jacob, who formed you, Israel:

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine. Should you pass through the waters, I shall be with you; or through rivers, they will not swallow you up. Should you walk through fire, you will not suffer, and the flame will not burn you.

For I am Yahweh, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I have given Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Since I regard you as precious, since you are honoured and I love you, I therefore give people in exchange for you, and nations in return for your life.

Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I shall bring your offspring from the east, and gather you from the west. "

## Responsorial Psalm (sung)

*Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
My soul longs for you, my God.*

A thirst is my soul for God, the living God  
When shall I go, behold the face of God?

I went with the throng in procession  
Amid loud cries of joy, to the house of God.

Send forth your light and fidelity,  
they shall lead me on.  
Bring me to your holy mountain,  
your dwelling place.

## Gospel Acclamation : (Sung)

### The Gospel

PC: A reading from the Holy gospel according to  
Mark.

All: **Glory to you Lord**

On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to the disciples, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.

A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

### Ceremony of Blessing with Water

**Reader:** In 1858 Mary invited Bernadette to, 'Go and drink at the spring and wash yourself'. That same invitation is being given to us today. We are being invited to bless ourselves with that same spring water, to recall our Baptism and renew our commitment to be followers of Christ and to remember that God is the living water that quenches our deepest thirst.

**PC:** Water is a gift given to us by God the Creator. Lord, you made water a sign of your mercy when you freed your people from slavery and quenched their thirst

in the desert. We ask that our lives may also be refreshed with your living water. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

All:      **Amen**

PC:      You are now invited to come forward and bless yourself with the water of Lourdes that will be poured into your hands. As you make the sign of the cross recall your own baptism and pray in the silence of your heart for your own special intentions.

### Hymns sung during ceremony

There is a river that flows from God above

There is a fountain that's filled with his great love;

*Come to the waters, there is a great supply;*

*There is a river that never shall run dry.*

Wash me with water, and then I shall be clean;

White as the new snow, if you remove my sin.

*Come to the waters .....*

Plunged in the water, the tomb of our rebirth,  
So may we rise up to share in Christ's new life.

*Come to the waters .....*

All who are thirsty ,now hear God as he calls:

Come to the Lord's side, his life pours out for all

*Come to the waters .....*

---

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

    Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

    Break us, melt us, mold us, fill us.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on all.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on all.

Break them, melt them, mould them, fill all.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on all.

### **Renewal of Baptismal Promises**

PC:     We have been blessed with the Water of Lourdes – a reminder of our first blessing with water at our Baptism. We now renew our Baptismal Promises:

PC:     Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

All:      **I do**

PC:      Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered death and was buried,  
rose again from the dead  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

All:      **I do**

PC:      Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting?

All:      **I do**

PC:      May almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy spirit, keep us by his grace in Christ Jesus our Lord

All:      **Amen.**

### Prayer of the Faithful

PC:      We gather here as members of the Oblate family  
and present our prayers to the Lord in faith and hope.

**Reader 1:** We pray for those countries affected by war, drought, earthquake and famine, that the Spirit of God may move the hearts of world leaders to offer support and consolation to those affected. (PAUSE)

Lord hear us...

**Reader 1:** Let us pray for migrants and refugees that they may be welcomed and treated with dignity and respect by all. (PAUSE)

Lord hear us..

**Reader 2:** We pray for all gathered here, and all those participating virtually over these days, that our pilgrimage may be a time of blessing in our lives..

(PAUSE)

Lord hear us....

**Reader 2:** We pray for Oblate vocations that by following in the footsteps of St Eugene, young people may truly discover “who they are in the eyes of God’. (PAUSE)

Lord hear us....

**Reader 2:** We now place all our prayers in the hands of Mary our mother as we say – Hail Mary....

PC: Loving God we have made known to you our prayers and intentions in faith and hope and ask that you hear and answer them. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Communion Hymn

This is my body broken for you,  
bringing you wholeness, making you free.

Take it and eat it, and when you do  
do it in love for me.

This is my blood, poured out for you,  
bringing forgiveness, making you free.

Take it and drink it and when you do  
do it in love for me.

Filled with my spirit, how you will grow

You are my branches, I am the tree.

If you faithful, others will know,  
You are alive in me.

Back to my Father soon I shall go,  
do not forget me then you will see,  
I am still with you and you will know you'  
you're very close to me.

Love one another, I have loved you,  
and I have shown you how to be free;  
serve one another, and when you do  
do it in love for me.

### Post Communion Reflection

Slow us down, Lord!

Ease the pounding of our hearts by the quietening of our minds.

Steady our frantic pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time, the calmness of the everlasting hills.

Break the tensions of our nerves -with the soothing music of the singing streams that live in our memories.

Help us to know the magical power of slowing down to look at a flower; to chat with an old friend or make a new one; to watch a spider build a web to smile at a child; or to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind us each day that the race is not always won by the swift; that there is more to life than increasing its speed.

Let us look upward into the branches of the towering oak

And know that it grew straight and strong because it  
grew well

Slow us down, Lord, and inspire us to send our deep  
roots into the soil of life's enduring values  
that we may grow towards the stars of our greater  
destiny.

**Recessional Hymn:**

Bind us together, Lord

*Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.*

*Bind us together, Lord,*

*bind us together, Lord bind us together in love*

There is only one God, there is only one King.

There is only one Body, that is why we sing.

*Bind us together....*

Fit for the glory of God, purchased by his precious Blood,  
born with the right to be free: Jesus the vict'ry has won.

*Bind us together....*

We are the fam'ly of God we are his promise divine,  
we are his chosen desire,  
we are the glorious new wine.





## EUCARISTIC PROCESSION

The Oblate pilgrimage will participate in this procession on  
*Monday, 19 September*

Pilgrims who wish to process should gather behind the Oblate banner, which will be at the Prairie Altar, opposite the Grotto. In the case of rain, there will be announcements made on the Public PA system, in which case there will be no procession but Adoration and Benediction in the St Pie X Basilica. Those who do not wish to walk in procession can go directly to the St Pie X (Underground) Basilica.

This celebration affirms three things:

- The real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament
- Our need to see the One who loves us
- That the Son of God walks with us and is always amongst us in our joys and sorrows.

A few minutes before 5:00pm the Monstrance is transferred to the Prairie altar. Following a short time of prayer, the procession sets off for the St Pie X Basilica. During the procession there are meditations, prayers, hymns and chants. We are invited to respond with acclamations and invocations to Jesus, based upon scripture. Some are spoken, others are sung. The sung responses may include the following:

Lauda Sion salvatorem;  
Lauda ducem et pastorem, in hymnis et canticis.

---

Lauda Jerusalem, Dominum  
Lauda Deum tuum Sion.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna filio David



An 'AA' meeting will take place  
at 3pm on 19 September  
in the Salle Jean XXIII

*(above the Information Forum)*

For information and further details please  
speak with Fr.Lorcán or Mossie Lyons



Reconciliation Service  
8.30pm, Monday, 19 September  
St Bernadette Centre – Carmel Side

**Welcome from Presider**

Friends, we gather here this evening to pray with each other and for each other as we seek to deeply experience God's love, healing and forgiveness.

**Reader: A prayer for reconciliation**

Where there is separation  
There is pain  
And where there is pain,  
There is story.

And where there is story,  
there is understanding,  
and misunderstanding;  
listening, and not listening.

May we - separated peoples, estranged  
strangers,  
unfriended families, divided communities  
turn toward each other,  
and turn toward our stories,  
with understanding and listening,

with argument and acceptance,  
with challenge, change  
and consolation.

Because if God is to be found,  
God will be found  
in the space  
between.

### Opening Hymn

*Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are mine.*

When you walk through the waters I'll be with you,  
you will never sink beneath the waves.

*Do not be afraid ....*

When the fire is burning all around you,  
you will never be consumed by the flames.

*Do not be afraid ....*

When the fear of loneliness is looming,  
then remember I am at your side.

*Do not be afraid ....*

When you dwell in the exile of the stranger;;  
Remember you are precious in my eyes.

*Do not be afraid ....*

You are mine, O my child: I am your Father,  
And I love you with a perfect love.  
*Do not be afraid ....*

**Presider:** We are invited now to listen to the story from the Gospel of the woman who suffered with a haemorrhage for 12 years. We take a moment to hear the words that Jesus spoke to her and which are now spoken to each of us here this evening in Lourdes:  
'Courage, your faith has restored you to health'. (Matt. 9:22)

We pray together

**ALL:** Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for the promptings of your Spirit which caused the woman who needed healing to reach out to Jesus with courage and faith. We come here this evening seeking that same faith, courage and gratitude as we bring our own personal wounds, illnesses and concerns to you. We make this our prayer through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Scripture Reading

PC: A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew  
All: **Glory to you Lord**

'Then from behind him came a woman, who had suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years, and she touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, 'if I can only touch his cloak I shall be well again'. Jesus turned round and saw her, and he said to her 'Courage, my daughter, your faith has restored you to health'. And from that moment the woman was well again.

### Homily

Short Silence

### The Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Presider:** O breath of God, transforming breath, rise up out of the earth; surround us with your liberating power. Free us from the things that keep us tied only to what we know. Show us the things that stop us from being a blessing in the lives of others. Take away our resentment, fear, apathy, indifference, greed. Empty us that there may be a beautiful space in us for new things to happen. Shower us with your creating love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## A Reflection: A Prayer of Presence

We come together this day, aware that so much has changed since we last came to Lourdes.

Together we gather our hearts

We hold one another in prayer.

We come together as an Oblate Family who need your care O God.

Give my heart compassion and understanding

Give my ears the ability to hear spoken and unspoken words.

Give my eyes the ability to sense another's pain.

Give me strength, O God, as I seek to be present to so much uncertainty within myself and in others.

We pray because we worry while we trust.

We pray because we are fearful yet know our inner courage.

We pray because we are uncertain and question yet we believe.

We pray because we laugh and we weep.

We pray as we walk forward and take a step backward.

These are vulnerable times for everyone and most of us are good being present to vulnerability in others.

It is much harder to pause and to invite my own vulnerability to speak to my heart.

Please close your eyes and place your feet on the ground.  
Place yourself in the presence of the Holy One.  
Bring to mind or to heart all you have experienced this day, this week, during the last six months.

Allow your own vulnerability to speak to you this moment.  
Be Still  
Listen.

What have you seen?  
What has a hold on your heart?  
What are you feeling?  
Now listen ever so carefully to yourself.  
What do you need from God at this moment in time?

A few moments of silence

### **Examination of Conscience**

**Reader 1:** The strength and courage of the woman to go to the Lord:

**Reader 2:** We know that it's easy for us to go to the Lord when things are going well. However, do I trust

in the Lord enough to be touched by Him when I am struggling and in pain? (Short pause)

**Reader 1:** We look at outward appearances, God looks at the heart:

**Reader 2:** This sick woman reached out to the Lord in faith and hope. What stops me from stretching out my hand and letting the Lord heal and comfort me? (Short pause)

**Reader 1:** Jesus welcomed and treated all those who were in need of healing with dignity and respect:

**Reader 2:** How do I treat those around me, especially those who feel abandoned, ignored and rejected by society? (Short pause)

**Reader 1:** Like this woman, we come to Jesus to be healed and forgiven:

**Reader 2:** This night, what in my life needs the healing touch of Jesus? (Short pause)

**Reader 1:** This woman came to Jesus confident enough to believe that He would heal her if only she touched the hem of his garment:

**Reader 2:** What stops me from coming home to Jesus with the same confidence and hopeful faith?  
*(Short pause)*

**Reader 1:** This woman did not hide from Jesus the parts of her life that needed to be healed the most:

**Reader 2:** What areas of my life that I have kept hidden from the Lord can I now bring to him to be healed and transformed? *(Short pause)*

**Reader 1:** This woman shows us a courageous example in both waiting for the Lord and reaching out to simply touch the hem of his garment:

**Reader 2:** Do I have the patience to wait and stay silent long enough so that I can hear Jesus say to me this very night: 'Courage, your faith has saved you'? *(Short pause)*

**Presider:** Gathered together as the People of God to pray, let us ask for forgiveness with confidence and hope, for God is full of tender mercy.

Together we pray our Act of Contrition:

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I pray that with the help of Your

grace, I will sin no more and do my best to live my daily life following your word and example. I make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

**Presider:** Lord, You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: "Do not be afraid" (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, "cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us"

### Invitation to the Sacrament of Reconciliation



**Presider:** After you have received absolution you are invited to spend some time praying quietly before the Blessed Sacrament.

**Hymn as Blessed Sacrament is brought to the Altar**

O Sacrament most holy,  
O Sacrament divine,  
All praise and all thanksgiving  
Be every moment thine.  
*(Repeat 3 times)*

Quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

**Closing Prayer to Reconciliation Service**  
**Prayer for Courage**

**Reader:**

Courage comes from the heart  
And we are always welcomed by God  
The ‘Croí’ of all being  
We bear witness to our faith,  
knowing that we are called  
to live lives of courage,  
love and reconciliation  
in the ordinary and extraordinary  
moments of each day.

We bear witness to our failures  
and our complicity in the fractures of our world.  
May we be courageous today  
May we learn today  
May we love today  
Amen.

**Presider:** We pray the words that Jesus taught us:  
Our Father.....

**Presider:** Lord, through the celebration of this sacrament, we have experienced your tender and healing embrace. May we be strengthened to act on your word and to follow the example of Jesus your Son, as we go from this place to share your mercy and forgiveness with all those we meet. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Blessed Sacrament is returned back to the Tabernacle

### Final Hymn

Tantum ergo Sacramentum  
Veneremur cernui;  
Et antiquum documentum  
Novo cedat ritui.

Praestet fides supplementum  
Sensuum defectui.

Genitori, Genitoque  
Laus et jubilatio  
Salus, honor, virtus quoque  
Sit et benedictio.  
Procedenti ab utroque  
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.





## Mass at the Grotto – 10 am Tuesday 20 September

### Entrance Hymn

Holy Virgin, by God's decree

You were called eternally;

That he would give his Son to our race.

Mary, we praise you, hail full of grace

*Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.*

By your faith and loving accord,

As the handmaid of the Lord,

You undertook God's plan to embrace.

Mary, we thank, hail full of grace.

*Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.*

Joy to God you gave and expressed,

Of all women none more blessed,

When in our flesh your Son took our place.

Mary, we love you, hail full of grace.

*Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.*

### Introduction

**Reader:** We gather here in this sacred place this morning as members of God's family and the Oblate family. We

are where St. Bernadette stood and heard Our Lady speak to her.

During the third apparition, on 18th February, the Virgin spoke for the first time: "what I have to say to you does not have to be written down". This means that Mary wished to communicate with Bernadette in a loving heart to heart way. From the very start, Bernadette was invited to open the depths of her heart to this message of Love. Bernadette was overwhelmed by the second statement of Mary: "Would you be so kind as to come here for fifteen days?" It is the first time that Bernadette was addressed in a formal way. She felt she was respected and loved, as a person in her own right. We are all worthy of respect in the eyes of God, because He loves each one of us.

Bernadette opened her heart and life to fulfilling God's will for her. Following her life and example, may we too open our hearts and daily lives to God. We pray that like Bernadette, the Lord will do great things for us and through us.

### Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah (3.14-18)

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,  
Israel, shout aloud!  
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,

daughter of Jerusalem!  
The Lord has repealed your sentence;  
he has driven your enemies away.  
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;  
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:  
Zion, have no fear,  
do not let your hands fall limp.  
The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a victorious warrior.  
He will exult with joy over you,  
he will renew you by his love;  
he will dance with shouts of joy for you  
as on a day of festival.

**Responsorial psalm: (sung)**

*God fills me with joy, Alleluia.  
His holy presence is my robe: Alleluia.*

My soul now glorify the Lord, who is my Saviour  
Rejoice, for whom am I  
that God has shown me favour.  
*God fills me with joy ....*

The world shall call me blest  
and ponder on my story,  
In me is manifest God's greatness and his glory.  
*God fills me with joy ...*

Then glorify with me the Lord who is my Saviour  
One holy Trinity, for ever and for ever.

### Gospel Acclamation (sung)

### The Gospel

#### P: A reading from the gospel of St. Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'

She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him

the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her

### Prayer of the Faithful

**Celebrant:** Loving God, as we gather here in the place of healing and faith, we now offer you all our prayers and intentions in hope and confidence...

**Reader 1:** We pray for those who are sick in any way that they will be healed; that all pilgrims who have come to Lourdes this year, and all who are joining us virtually, will be restored and renewed in mind, body and spirit.  
(pause) Lord hear us.

**Reader 1:** We remember all those who care for the sick, whether at home, in hospital or in nursing homes; may the Lord strengthen and bless them. (pause) Lord hear us.

**Reader 2:** We pray for all our brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering because of war and famine. We pray also for those who are forced to become refugees and exiles from their own homeland. Through our prayers may they know they are not forgotten. (pause) Lord hear us

**Reader 2:** We pray for all missionaries, especially Oblates who are working in the Ukraine and in other difficult and challenging circumstances. May the Lord continue to guide and encourage them as they proclaim the good news to the poor. (pause) Lord hear us.

**Reader 2:** We gather all our prayers and offer them to God through Mary as we pray, Hail Mary...

**Celebrant:** Loving and compassionate God, we have made known to you our prayers, needs and intentions in faith and confidence. We ask that you hear and answer them through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Hymns during Communion:

A Mhuire Mháthair, 'sé seo my ghuí  
Go maire Íosa go deo im' chroí  
*Ave Maria, mo ghrá Ave,*  
*Is tusa mo mháthair, is máthair Dé*

A Mhuire Mháthair, i rith mo shaoil  
Bí liom mar dhídean ar ngach aon bhaol  
*Ave Maria.....*

A Mhuire Mháthair, 'tá lán de ghrás  
Go raibh tú taobh liom ar uair mo bháis  
*Ave Maria, ....*

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### Schubert's 'Ave Maria'

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### Communion Reflection

**Reader:** Nourished by this food from heaven let us turn in prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes:

Mary, woman of listening, open our ears; grant us to know how to listen to the word of your Son Jesus among the thousands of words of this world; grant that we may listen to the reality in which we live, to every person we

encounter, especially those who are poor, in need, in hardship.

Mary, woman of decision, illuminate our mind and our heart, so that we may obey, unhesitatingly, the word of your Son Jesus; give us the courage to decide, not to let ourselves be dragged along, letting others direct our life.

Mary, woman of action, obtain that our hands and feet move “with haste” toward others, to bring them the charity and love of your Son Jesus, to bring the light of the Gospel to the world, as you did.

Amen.

### Recessional Hymn

My soul is filled with joy as I sing to God my Saviour:  
    he has looked upon his servant,  
    he has visited his people.  
And holy is his name through all generations!  
Everlasting is his mercy to the people he has chosen,  
    and is holy is name!

I am lowly as a child,  
but I know from this day forward  
that my name will be remembered

and the world will call me blessed.  
And holy is his name...

In his love he now fulfils  
what he promised to our fathers.  
I will praise the Lord my Saviour.  
Everlasting is his mercy.  
And holy is his name...



## Reflection on Theme of the Year – ‘Healing the Healer’

8.30pm Tuesday 20 September  
St Bernadette Church

*Led by Mossie Lyons and team*

This time of reflection will open with the hymn  
“**Make Me a Channel of Your Peace**”

(for words, see page 105 of the Handbook)

### Closing Hymn

I will come to you in the silence  
I will lift you from all your fear.  
You will hear my voice,  
I claim you as my choice  
Be still and know I am here.

I am hope for all who are hopeless;  
I am eyes for all who long to see.

In the shadows of the night,  
I will be your light  
Come and rest in me.

*Do not be afraid I am with you.*

*I have called you each by name*

*Come and follow me, I will bring you home*  
*I love you and you are mine.*

I am strength for all the despairing,  
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.

All the blind will see,  
the lame will all run free  
And all will know my name.

I am the Word that leads all to freedom

I am the peace the world cannot give  
I will call your name – embracing all your pain  
Stand up now, walk and live.





Mass of Anointing  
10.30am Wednesday 21. September  
Esplanade Altar  
*(If it rains Bernadette Centre – Grotto Side)*

**Entrance Hymn**

I watch the sunrise lighting the sky;  
                  casting its shadows near.  
And on this morning, bright though it be,  
                  I feel those shadows near me.  
But you are always close to me,  
                  following all my ways.  
*May I be always close to you,  
following all your ways Lord.*

I watch the sunlight shine through the clouds,  
                  warming the earth below.  
And at the mid-day, life seems to say;  
                  'I feel your brightness near me.'  
*For you are always close to me...*

I watch the moonlight guarding the night,  
                  Waiting till morning comes.  
The air is silent, earth is at rest  
                  Only your peace is near me..  
*Yes, you are always close to me...*

## Introduction

**Reader:** Welcome to our Mass of anointing. We know from the gospel that Jesus healed the sick of every type, he gave sight to the blind, the word to the mute, hearing to the deaf. And when he cured diseases and physical infirmity, he also healed the spirit by forgiving sins, because Jesus always forgives, as well as “social suffering” by including the marginalized. Jesus, who renews and reconciles every creature, gives us the gifts necessary to love and heal as he knew how to do, to take care of all without distinction on the basis of race, language or nation.

As Pope Francis reminds us: In order for this to really happen, we need to contemplate and appreciate the beauty of every human being and every creature. We were conceived in the heart of God. “Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary”

So as we prepare to celebrate this Mass let us place this healing journey under the protection of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Health. May she, who carried Jesus in her womb, help us to be trustful. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we can work together for the Kingdom of God that Christ inaugurated in this world by coming among us.

## Liturgy of the Word.

### A reading from the letter of St. James. (5:14-15)

If any one of you is in trouble, they should pray; if any one of you is feeling happy, they should sing a psalm. If one of you is sick, they should send for the elders of the church, and they will anoint with oil those who are sick in the name of the Lord and pray over them. This prayer of faith will save those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up again.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Blest be the Lord; blest be the Lord,  
The God of mercy, the God who saves.  
I shall not fear the dark of night,  
Nor the arrow the flies by night.*

He will release me from the nets of all my foes.  
He will protect me from their wicked hands.  
Beneath the shadow of his wings I will rejoice,  
To find a dwelling place secure.  
*Blest be the Lord...*

I need not shrink before the terror of the night,  
nor stand alone before the light of day.

No harm shall come to me, no arrow strike me down,  
no evil settle in my soul.

*Blest be the Lord...*

Although a thousand have fallen by my side,  
I'll not be shaken with the Lord at hand.  
His faithful love is all the armour that I need  
to wage my battle with the foe.

*Blest be the Lord...*

### Gospel Acclamation (sung)

### The Gospel

**PC:** A reading from the Holy Gospel according St. Mark

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, ‘Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.’

And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, ‘Son of David, have pity on me.’ Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him here.’ So they

called the blind man. ‘Courage,’ they said ‘get up; he is calling you.’

So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ ‘Rabbuni,’ the blind man said to him ‘Master, let me see again.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has saved you.’ And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

### Liturgy of Anointing

**Celebrant:** We now begin the Liturgy of Anointing. God’s tender healing is freely offered to all of us. Within our community here there are few who are not touched in some way by experiences of sickness or trauma. Many of us carry pain within our hearts and each of us need at some point to experience the healing power of Christ in our lives.

Those who struggle with the reality of impairment and suffering often feel isolated and alone. This is also true of those who care for others. Therefore we need to remind one another that we are not alone. We are called to gather as a community to support one another in coping with the challenges of illness, impairment and loneliness. In a few minutes, you will be invited to experience the

healing touch of the Lord through anointing with this sacred oil.

**Celebrant:** Jesus says to each of you here this morning, 'What do you want me to do for you?' Jesus invites us to come as we are; with our wounds and our brokenness. We pray for all those we know who are carrying the pain of illness in body, mind or spirit. We pray also for those who have dedicated their lives to caring for the sick, whether in their own homes, hospitals or nursing homes.

Our response is: Anoint them with your healing, Lord

**All:** **Anoint them with your healing, Lord.**

**PC.** Bless the sick who have travelled here; fill them with new life and strengthen them.

**All.** **Anoint them with your healing, Lord**

**PC:** Ease the pain and suffering of all our sick. We remember in a special way our assisted pilgrims who are unable to travel with us this year.

**All:** **Anoint them with your healing, Lord.**

**PC:** Bless all those who look after the sick.

**All:** **Anoint them with your healing, Lord.**

**PC:** Loving and compassionate God, reach out and heal our brothers on whom we now lay our hands and anoint in your name.

### LAYING ON OF HANDS

In silence, the priests stretch out their hands over all the pilgrims.

**PC.** God of love and compassion, ease the suffering of all who are gathered here today. Through the anointing with this Holy Oil, may we experience in our lives your healing power and presence.

### ANOINTING

The priests will now go to the pilgrims, anointing each person individually.

First they will anoint their forehead saying:

'Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Then, anointing the hands, the priest says:

'May the Lord who frees from sin save you and raise you up'

Response of those being anointed: **Amen.**



### Hymns during Anointing

*Lay your hands gently upon us,  
Let their touch render your peace,  
Let them bring your forgiveness and healing,  
Lay your hands, gently lay your hands.*

You were sent to free the broken hearted.  
You were sent to give sight to the blind.  
You desire to heal all our illness.  
Lay your hands, gently lay your hands.  
Lay your hands gently upon us...

Lord, we come to you through one another,

    Lord, we come to you in all our need.

Lord, we come to you seeking wholeness.

    Lay your hands, gently lay your hands.

*Lay your hands, gently upon us...*

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Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me sow your love.

    Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
and where there's doubt through faith in you.

Make a channel of your peace.

Where there's despair in life let me bring hope.

    Where there is darkness, only light,  
and where there's sadness ever joy.

O, Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
    to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
    in giving to all that we receive,

and in dying that we are born to eternal life.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Celebrant:** Loving and compassionate God, we now come before you and offer you all our prayers and intentions....

**Reader 1:** We pray that whatever we go through in life, we may know in our hearts that Jesus walks beside us as our companion.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

**ALL:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader 1:** We pray that having being anointed with this sacred oil, Jesus will continue to strengthen us as we carry our crosses and follow him as his disciples.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

**Reader 2:** We pray for all families who are experiencing pain and difficulties; through our prayers, may Christ the Healer be with them and comfort them.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

**Reader 2:** We pray in thankfulness for all those who care for our sick pilgrims; our medical team, our Oblate hospitalier team and our Youth Service. May the Lord

continue to bless and inspire them in their caring work and ministry.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

**Reader 1:** We offer all our prayers to God through Mary as we pray, Hail Mary...

**PC:** Loving and healing God, we have offered you our prayers in hope and faith; we ask that you hear and answer them, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Hymns during Holy Communion

I am the bread of life.

You who come to me shall not hunger;  
You who believe in me shall not thirst.

No one can come to me

Unless the Father draw them.

*And I will raise you up,, And I will raise you up,  
And I will raise you up on the last day.*

The bread that I will give  
is my flesh for the life of the world,  
and if you eat this bread,

you shall live for ever; you shall live for ever.

*And I will raise you up...*

Unless you eat  
of the flesh of the Son of Man,  
and drink of his blood; and drink of his blood,  
you shall not have life within you.  
*And I will raise you up.*

---

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One is here.  
Come bow before him now,  
with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found; we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light.  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place,  
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;  
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place

### Recessional Hymn

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in his shadow for life.

Say to the Lord: my refuge, my rock in whom I trust.

*And he will raise you up on eagle's wings;  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun.  
And hold you in the palm of his hand.*

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
And famine will bring you no fear.

Under his wings your refuge,  
his faithfulness your shield.  
*And he will raise you up.....*

You need not fear the terror of the night,  
Nor the arrow that flies by day;  
Though thousands fall about you,  
near you it shall not come.  
*And he will raise you up ....*





Thanksgiving and Missioning Service  
5.30pm, Thursday, 21 September  
St Bernadette Church – Grotto Side.

**Gathering Hymn**

God's Spirit is my heart.  
He has called me and set me apart.  
This is what I have to do; what I have to do.  
*He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,  
tell pris'ners that they are pris'ners no more,  
tell blind people that they can see,  
and set the downtrodden free,  
and go tell everyone the news  
that the kingdom of God has come,  
and go tell everyone the news  
That God's kingdom has come.*

Just as the Father sent me,  
so I'm sending you out to be  
my witnesses throughout the world,  
the whole of the world.  
*He sent me to bring the good news to the poor....*

## MISSIONING CANDLE

**Reader:** This missioning candle symbolises the light of Christ helping us in two ways on the next step of our pilgrim journey together. Firstly, as our time to go home draws near, we, as the Oblate family, will light this candle to say Thank You to God and to Mary for all the blessings received here in Lourdes. Secondly, we light this candle to remind us that each of us is called through our baptism to be a missionary disciple. We are being sent out to share with others the Good News which we have experienced here at Lourdes.

**Presider:** We thank you Lord, our God, for the Good News which has freshly entered our lives this week. We praise and thank You for sending us out as your missionary disciples. So we pray together:

**ALL:** The Lord has done great things for me. Holy is His name!

## LIGHTING OF OUR MISSIONING CANDLE

**Presider:** I now invite ..... to come forward and light our Missioning Candle.

## SCRIPTURE READING:

P: A Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke  
(1.46-56)

Mary said, my soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. He looks on his servants in her lowliness; from now on all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is His name! His mercy is from age to age on those who revere him. He puts forth his arms in strength and scatters the proud hearted. He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly. He fills the starving with good things and sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel his servant, remembering his mercy; The mercy promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.

### Carrying the Message Home

**Reader:** The theme of our pilgrimage this year has been ‘Healing the healer’. The theme of healing has long been associated with the message of Lourdes, and the World Day of the Sick is celebrated on the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes.

In his message for the World Day of the Sick Pope Francis reminds us that in the Gospel Jesus heals sick people of every kind.

With our heart's gaze directed toward the Grotto of Massabielle, let us contemplate Jesus as the true physician of bodies and souls, whom God the Father sent into the world to heal humanity.

It is for this reason Pope Francis challenges us by asking, "How many sick and elderly people are living at home and waiting for a visit! The ministry of consolation is a task for every baptised person, mindful of the word of Jesus: "I was sick and you visited me" ( Mt 25:36).

We may have experienced healing, and a deepening of our faith in the Good News, during our time here in Lourdes. As we prepare to leave we are invited to reflect on the following questions:

- Can I think of one word that might describe these days here in Lourdes? (*short pause*)
- 
- What do I want to remember from our time here in Lourdes? (*short pause*)
- 
- Will I speak to others about my pilgrimage experiences when I return home? (*short pause*)

### Prayers of Intercession

Reader 1: Our response is **Hear our Prayer.**

**Reader 1:** We pray in thanksgiving for all the blessings we have experienced during these days of pilgrimage through the care, concern and compassion shown by others. *Lord in your mercy..*

**Reader 1:** We thank God for everyone who selflessly and so freely gave of their time, talents and gifts to organise and lead our pilgrimage. *Lord in your mercy..*

**Reader 2:** As we prepare to leave this sacred place, we pray that we will return to our families renewed, refreshed, and ready to share God's blessings with our communities. *Lord in your mercy..*

**Reader 2:** We remember those who have asked us to pray for them during our pilgrimage as we pray the prayer Mary asked Bernadette to say..

**All:** Hail Mary.....

### Blessing of Holy Objects

*Fr. Lorcán now lists the names of those due to receive 5 year service medals and asks them to stand in their places.*

## Blessing for Workers who have completed 5 year service

**Bishop Eamon:** Lord Jesus, our brother, you showed your love for the sick by your concern for them. Help us to see you and serve you in caring for the sick. Bless + these women and men who have dedicated themselves in service to our sick pilgrims for the last five years. Guide them in their labours, and shower them with your love. Continue to reward their service with the peace and joy of your Holy Spirit. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Commitment prayer

All the 5 year workers due to receive their medal, stand and say the follow Commitment Prayer together::

**“With the help of God's grace and under the patronage of Mary Immaculate, I pledge myself to the service of our sick pilgrims, to bear witness to my belief in the dignity of each person and the compassion of God for all peoples”.**

**Bishop Eamon:** Lord Jesus, servant of all, we thank you for giving us your life as an example to follow each day. We ask you to continue to bless all our workers and their ministries as they generously give of themselves in all they do. We ask our prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Final Prayer: 'The Memorare'

We pray together:

ALL: Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes      Pray for us  
Our Lady of Lourdes      Pray for us  
Our Lady of Lourdes      Pray for us

PC: As we draw our pilgrimage to a close let us remember the words of Pope Francis, "God's love calls us to move beyond fear. We ask God for the courage to put on faith, hope and love as we go out into the world and become the word in body as well as spirit."

PC: The Lord be with you:  
ALL: And with your spirit.

**PC:** May God the Father, who led his chosen people from slavery to freedom, enable you to testify to his liberating power.

**ALL:** **Amen.**

**PC:** May God the Son, who trod the sorrowful path of suffering and pioneered the way of glory, reveal himself to you as your faithful companion.

**ALL:** **Amen.**

**PC:** May God the Spirit, through whom the disciples were empowered, breathe the life of new creation deep within you.

**AL:** **Amen.**

**PC:** And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you, those you love and those you pray for, this day and for ever.

**ALL:** **Amen.**

**PC:** As the missioning candle is extinguished, let us sing together our closing hymn, after which we have the ceremony to distribute the medals.

*(The Missioning Candle is now extinguished in order to be carried, at the end of distribution of medals, to the Chapel of Candles)*

### Closing Hymn

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
give me joy in my heart, I pray.

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.  
Keep me praising till the end of day.

*Sing Hosanna! Sing Hosanna!*  
*Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings!*  
*Sing Hosanna! Sing Hosanna!*  
*Sing Hosanna to the King!*

Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,  
give me peace in my heart I pray.

Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.  
Keep me resting till the end of day.

*Sing Hosanna ....*

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
give me love in my heart, I pray.

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
keep me serving 'till the end of day.

*Sing Hosanna .....*

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Distribution of the 5 year medals

Bishop Eamon gives to those previously named by Fr Lorcán a medal that is a sign of their 5 years of service to the sick.

Pilgrimage candle is taken to the Chapel of Candles  
Our Pilgrimage candle will now be brought to the Chapel  
of Candles and with it will go all our joys, sorrows and  
hopes, all our prayers and intentions.

A word of thanks from Fr. Lorcán





## LOURDES WEBSITE

The aim of our website is to share the story of the pilgrimage and to provide regular updates about upcoming activities and events. You will also be able to view photographs from previous years' pilgrimages on the site.

This year we invite YOU to share your experience of the pilgrimage. Your reflection should be about 400-500 words long and we will hopefully publish a number of them on the website after the pilgrimage. The website address is:

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



## Time for Personal Confessions

*Prayer to help the pilgrim with silent preparation prior to approaching the priest for confession.*

Loving God, as I prepare to experience your healing and forgiveness, I thank you for all the great and wonderful things you have done for me. I know there are times when I have said and done things that have hurt others. I am truly sorry for having said and done these things. I ask that you continue to welcome me with open arms and that through your loving embrace, I will be forgiven and healed

### Suggested Act of Contrition

Loving and Life-giving God, you call me by my name. I am heartily sorry for all my sins because they offend you who are infinitely good. I firmly resolve that with the help of your grace I will never offend you again. Amen

## **Some thoughts for personal reflection:**

Pope Francis quote – ‘Modern Day Beatitudes’:

*‘Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring pain inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart’.*

### **PERSEVERANCE, PATIENCE AND MEEKNESS**

*The first of these great signs is solid grounding in the God who loves and sustains us. This source of inner strength enables us to persevere amid life’s ups and downs, but also to endure hostility, betrayal and failings on the part of others. “If God is for us, who is against us?” (Rom 8:31)*

Pope Francis – “The Call to Holiness in today’s world”

### **PERSEVERANCE, PATIENCE AND MEEKNESS**

*We need to recognize and combat our aggressive and selfish inclinations, and not let them take root. “Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger” (Eph 4:26). When we feel overwhelmed, we can always cling to the anchor of prayer, which puts us back in God’s hands and the source of our peace.*

Pope Francis – “The Call to Holiness in today’s world”

## PRAYER FOR STRENGTH

Every day I need you Lord

But this day especially.

I need some extra strength

To face whatever is to come.

This day more than any other day

I need to feel you near me;

To fortify my courage

And to overcome my fear.

And so, dear Lord,

Hold my trembling hand.

*St.John XXIII*



## THE SANCTUARIES

### **The Grotto**

It is at this Grotto that Our Lady appeared on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous between 11 February and 16 July 1858. It is accessible both day and night. Mass is celebrated here every day.



### **The Crypt**

Located underneath the Upper Basilica (Basilica of the Immaculate Conception), this was the first chapel opened for worship. Its main corridor was cut out of the rock of Massabielle by 25 men (one of whom was Bernadette's father) working day and night for 3 months. Mass was first celebrated here on 19 May 1866.

### **Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (Upper Basilica)**

This was built in response to Our Lady's request to Bernadette "*tell the Presiders to have a chapel built here*". The chancel is situated exactly above the place where Our Lady appeared.

## Rosary Basilica



Completed in 1899, this church was built just over 40 years after the Apparitions and was dedicated to the Holy Rosary to honour the fact that Our Lady always appeared to Bernadette with a rosary beads in her hand. The arms of the basilica lead you upwards towards the Crypt and the Upper Basilica.

## Basilica of St. Pius X (Underground Basilica)

This Basilica is capable of holding almost 30,000 pilgrims. It was consecrated on 25 March 1958 by Cardinal Roncalli who, just a few months later, became Pope John XXIII.

## St. Bernadette's Church

This church was designed to meet the needs of several pilgrimages and groups at the same time. It can accommodate 5,000 pilgrims and 350 wheelchairs. It has its own Blessed Sacrament chapel and 8 conference rooms.

## Chapel of Reconciliation

This is located in part of the former Accueil Notre Dame. It contains more than 50 confessionals where Presiders from many countries hear confessions in all languages.

## **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed until 5pm each day in the Blessed Sacrament chapel attached to St. Bernadette's Church. After the afternoon Eucharistic Procession it is once again exposed in this chapel until midnight. From midnight until 7am the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the Crypt.

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## **The Sanctuaries Choir**

While we are in Lourdes, we are asked to provide singers to join the Sanctuaries Choir for the two daily processions and the International Mass (on Wednesday and Sunday mornings). You are welcome to offer yourself for this service. Rehearsal times are:

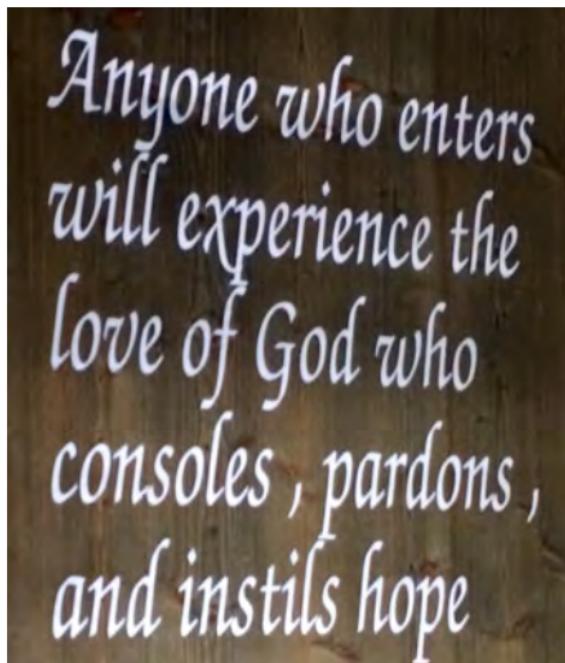
**EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION** – report at 4.30pm to the  
Choir Corral in St.Pius X (Underground) Basilica  
**INTERNATIONAL MASS** – report at 8.30am to the Choir  
Corral in St. Pius X (Underground) Basilica.

**TORCHLIGHT MARIAN PROCESSION** – report at 8.30pm in  
front of Rosary Basilica

**VERY IMPORTANT: You will NOT be admitted to the Choir  
if you are late for rehearsal**

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## The Baths



The Baths of the Sanctuary of our Lady of Lourdes are marble bathing pools created as a response to the request of our Lady to Bernadette: "*Go drink of the spring and wash yourself there.*" Because of Covid, immersion no longer takes place. Pilgrims are invited to take part in the water gesture by washing their face, hands and forearms with water from the miraculous spring. The gesture can be done alone, but also with family, friends or those close to them.



Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
Anglo Irish Province

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