

Week beginning 10th February (Monday)

Our Lady of Lourdes

*One who loves does not
notice the trials, but is
able to love them*



QUE SOY
ERA
IMMACULADA CONCEPCION



This week, on Tuesday, the Catholic Church celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. On the evening of February 11, 1858, a young Roman Catholic girl, Bernadette, went to fetch some firewood with her sister and another companion. While they were at the Massabielle Grotto, on the outskirts of Lourdes, a small town in the south of France, a Lady who was indescribably beautiful appeared to her. Although the Lady did not tell Bernadette her name when asked at first, she told her to return to the grotto.

On subsequent visits, the Lady revealed herself to be the "Immaculate Conception". This was a reference to the dogma of the Immaculate Conception which had been defined only four years earlier in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, stating that the Virgin Mary herself had been conceived without sin.



*Let us pray for the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes as we say
together;*

O ever immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comfort of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; deign to cast upon me a look of mercy.

By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, where you have given your kindness,

We come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence, to ask your maternal intercession.

Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of our requests. We will attempt to imitate your virtues, that we may one day share your glory, and bless you in eternity.

Amen.

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Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, Bernadette saw Our Lady a total of 18 times. To escape public attention, she became a boarder in the local school run by the Sisters of Charity of Nevers. In 1866 she was granted admission into the novitiate (to become a novice nun) in the motherhouse at Nevers. There she completed her religious instruction and passed her remaining years in prayer and seclusion, happy and loved for her kindness, holiness, and wit, despite almost constant sickness and pain.



**Dear Saint Bernadette, you were chosen by Almighty God as
a
channel of His graces and blessings, and through your
humble
obedience to the requests of Our Blessed Mother Mary, you
gained
for us the miraculous waters of Spiritual and physical
healing.**

**St Bernadette, place our petition in the hands of our Holy
Mother Mary, so that she may place them at the feet of her
beloved Son,
Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and He may look on us
with mercy
and compassion
Amen**

Week beginning 10th February (Wednesday)

Our Lady of Lourdes

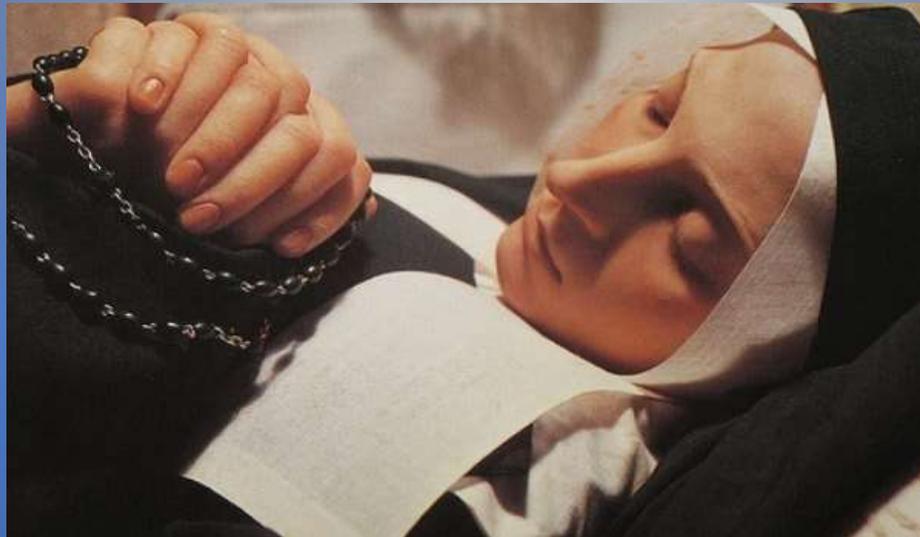
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Bernadette was diagnosed with tuberculosis of the bone in her right knee and was unable to take part in convent life. She died in the Holy Cross Infirmary of the Convent of Saint-Gildard at the age of 35 on April 16, 1879, while praying the holy rosary. Even on her deathbed Bernadette suffered severe pain and, keeping with the Virgin Mary's warning of "Penance, Penance, Penance," she proclaimed "all this is good for Heaven!" Bernadette's last words were, "Blessed Mary, Mother of God, pray for me. A poor sinner, a poor sinner."

In December 1933 Bernadette was canonized by Pope Pius XI. Saint Bernadette is the patroness of illness, people ridiculed for their piety, poverty, shepherds, shepherdesses, and Lourdes, France



Let us ask for the intercession of our blessed mother in heaven as we say
together;

Hail Mary, full of grace.

The Lord is with thee.

*Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.*

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Today Lourdes has a population of around 15,000 but it takes in 5 million pilgrims every year. Lourdes is the third most visited pilgrim site by Catholics in the world after Rome and the Holy Land.

Pilgrims travel from all over the world to pray at the place where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette over 150 years ago.

Many miracles of healing have taken place in Lourdes.

Let us pray to Our Father in heaven, who loves us dearly, thanking him
for the gift of our mother Mary

Our Father,

Who art in heaven

Hallowed be Thy Name;

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

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The case of a French nun who recovered from a decades-old back problem that prevented her from walking normally has been recognised as the 70th miracle at France's shrine of Lourdes.

Sister Bernadette Moriau from northern France visited the holy spring in the foothills of the Pyrenees mountains in July 2008, then aged 69, seeking a cure to her ailment like millions of other pilgrims each year.

Shortly after returning home, her chronic sciatica or pinched spinal nerve disappeared for the first time since her condition was diagnosed at the age of 27. Sister Bernadette had undergone four unsuccessful operations.

"She experienced an unusual feeling of relaxation and heat in the whole of her body (and) heard a voice telling her to take off her equipment, the corset and the leg brace," said a statement from her Catholic parish in Beauvais in the north of France.

After further examinations by doctors and three meetings of church figures in Lourdes, the medical committee in the town confirmed that Moriau's recovery could not be explained scientifically, the statement said.

"Sister Bernadette Moriau now lives a perfectly normal life," the committee's president Alessandro de Franciscis said "She is in very good health and herself visits the sick on a regular basis."



Dear Lord Jesus

*We finish this week thanking you for the gift of faith
We thank you for the miracles that we see around us everyday;
the miracle of life and of healing
Thankyou for allowing us to see your miracles
Amen*