



Religious Education

Year: 5 Teacher: Mr McPhail Week Beginning: 8th February 2021

Today is a very special day, it is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes! This special day of celebration focuses on Our Lady of Lourdes, and our RE learning this week is going to focus on this special day.

Lourdes is in France. It has a grotto with Holy Water in it, and tens of thousands of people go to Lourdes every year to bathe in the Holy Water, as well as to pray to Our Lady. There is a hospital to accommodate any ill people who attend Lourdes in hope of a miracle. Lourdes is considered a holy site because Mary appeared to a local girl named Bernadette in several visions and prayed the rosary with her. Eventually, Mary told Bernadette to dig in the ground. She did, and water flowed from the ground, starting the famed holy grotto that is still an important pilgrimage site today.

For your task today, I would like you to read the below story, retelling how Bernadette came to see Mary for the first time. Can you retell the story from Bernadette's point of view as a diary entry? Try to think about how Bernadette might have felt when these amazing events were happening to her.



After dinner on the Thursday before Ash Wednesday, Bernadette's mother told her children that there was no more wood in the house.

Bernadette and her sister, Toinette, and a neighbour friend, Jeanne Abadie, went to the river Gave to gather wood. They had to cross a canal of cold water. Fearing that she would have an asthma attack, Bernadette stayed on the bank, and the other two girls crossed the stream and picked up wood under the grotto until they disappeared along the Gave.

Bernadette heard a great noise like the sound of a storm, but nothing was moving. She was frightened and stood straight up, losing all power of speech and thought. She turned her head towards the Grotto of Massabielle and saw in the opening of the rock a rosebush, one only, moving as if it were very windy. Almost at the same time, there came out of the interior of the grotto a golden-coloured cloud, and soon afterwards, a Lady, young and beautiful --exceedingly beautiful -- the likes of whom she had never seen, came and placed herself at the entrance of the opening above the rosebush. She looked at Bernadette and immediately smiled and signalled her to advance, in a way that a mother motions her child to come near. Bernadette took out her rosary and knelt before the Lady, who also had a rosary on her right arm. When Bernadette tried to begin saying the rosary by making the sign of the cross, her arm was paralyzed. It was only after the Lady had made the sign of the cross herself that Bernadette was able to do the same. As Bernadette prayed the rosary, the Lady passed the beads of her rosary between her fingers, but remained silent. She did recite the Gloria's with her, however. When the recitation of the rosary was finished, the Lady returned to the interior of the rock and the golden cloud disappeared with her.

Bernadette told her sister of the extraordinary things that had happened to her at the grotto, asking her to keep it a secret.

The below text is a recorded quote from Bernadette, describing the appearance of the Lady

"She has the appearance of a young girl of sixteen or seventeen. She is dressed in a white robe, girdled at the waist with a blue ribbon which flows down all around it. A yoke closes it in graceful pleats at the base of the neck. The sleeves are long and tight-fitting. She wears upon her head a veil which is also white. This veil gives just a glimpse of her hair and then falls down at the back below her waist. Her feet are bare but covered by the last folds of her robe except at the point where a yellow rose shines upon each of them. She holds on her right arm a rosary of white beads with a chain of gold shining like the two roses on her feet."