

15th May 2020

Value of the month – Peace

Religious Education Weekly Newsletter

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers,

Last week, I suggested doing the Rosary together in support of Aid to the Church in Need(ACN); I hope you found their website interesting and helpful. As we continue our journey through the month of Mary, I thought we might do a virtual tour of Lourdes, the site where Mary appeared to St Bernadette all those years ago.

We appreciate all you are doing while we all have to stay home; remember that if you would like a prayer for family members affected by the virus, do contact us.

Take care,

Nanda Fawcett

A Visit to Lourdes



St. Bernadette was born in Lourdes, France in 1844. When fourteen, Bernadette was sent with her younger sister and a friend to gather firewood. A very beautiful lady appeared to her above a rose bush in a grotto. The woman wore blue and white and smiled at Bernadette before making the sign of the cross with a rosary of ivory and gold. Bernadette fell to her knees, took out her own rosary and began to pray.

Three days later, Bernadette, her sister Marie, and other girls returned to the grotto, where Bernadette immediately knelt, saying she could see the lady again. She fell into a trance and one girl threw a rock that shattered on the ground. It was then that the apparition disappeared.

Bernadette said "the vision" had asked her to return to the grotto each day for a fortnight. With each visit, Bernadette saw the Virgin Mary. Her parents were embarrassed and attempted, unsuccessfully, to stop her. Then one day, Bernadette claimed to have had a life-changing vision: the vision had told her "to drink of the water of the spring, to wash in it and to eat the herb that grew there". The next day, the grotto's muddy waters had been cleared and fresh clear water flowed.

The thirteenth time she saw the vision, Bernadette told her family that the lady had said "a chapel should be built and a procession formed." Bernadette claimed she had asked the woman her name, but her question was only met with a smile. Bernadette asked again, three more times, and finally the woman said, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Though many townspeople believed she had indeed been seeing the Holy Virgin, Bernadette's story created a division in her town. The Church authorities and the French government rigorously interviewed her, and confirmed she spoke the truth. Since Bernadette first caused the spring to produce clean water, 69 cures have been verified by the Lourdes Medical Bureau. Bernadette believed it was faith and prayer that was responsible for curing the sick.

Bernadette asked the local priest to build a chapel at the site of her visions and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes is now one of the major Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world.



To experience Lourdes for yourself, click on the following links. The first is more suitable for KS1; KS2 pupils could watch either, or both ☺

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTWx-b93Jjk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qsC8uEUUSM>

The Gospel Reading for Sunday 17th May 2020



The Gospel reading this coming Sunday is taken from **John 14:15-21**. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments," said Jesus. Use the following link to access an assembly based on this Sunday's Gospel reading:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/assemblies/assembly-2020-05-18/>

Important dates this week :

Ascension Day : Thursday 21st May 2020

Eid al-Fitr : Saturday 23rd May- Sunday 24th May 2020

Big Questions for the new RE Topic

Until the beginning of June, our pupils will be studying the topic of "**Reconciliation/Inter-relating**". Please discuss the relevant question(s) at home to encourage deeper thinking:

Reception : Is it good to have friends?	Year 1 : Why should we be sorry?
Year 2 : Do we need rules?	Year 3 : What helps me to choose well?
Year 4 : Why are bridge-builders important in life?	
Year 5 : How do rules bring freedom?	Year 6 : Who needs healing?

Lectio Divina and "Year of the Word"



Last week's passage for **Lectio Divina** was about retaliation. I hope it made us all consider how we resolve difficulties in our friendships and our lives.

This week, let's look at **Matthew 5 : 43-48**. Because Matthew's Gospel is written like a handbook for the early Church, it is very powerfully written, I think. Find a quiet spot, put on some quiet music, light a candle and reflect on the message in this reading. What is Jesus saying to you?

Spiritual Journaling

Earlier this year, we started introducing Spiritual Journaling to our pupils. This is a lovely opportunity for them to engage with God's Word, be it through scripture or using a hymn.

It has generally been done at the end of the day while we were at school, and pupils often would not want to stop what they were doing in order to go home!

Do try it at home; it is very uplifting. There is no "right or wrong" – it is a personal response through drawing/shading/poetry/prose etc. Write out the verse, put on some peaceful music, and let the spirit speak!

