

# Virtual Family Prayer Bag



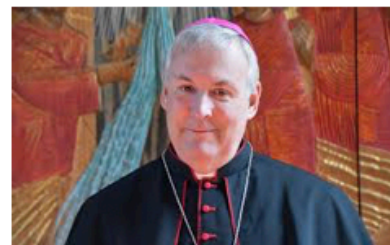
Dear Parent / Carer,  
here is an electronic version of our Prayer Bag  
for the Feast of **Our Lady of Lourdes**

## Celebrating Our Lady of Lourdes



Please take some time over the next few days  
to come together, as a family, in prayer.  
Our Lady of Lourdes is celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

## A Message from Bishop David



Dear young friends in Christ,

On February 11th every year, the Church remembers some wonderful events which took place during the nineteenth century in the south of France. In a little town called Lourdes, a young girl named Bernadette Soubirous was walking along the River Gave, collecting sticks to make a fire. Her family had fallen into hard times, and in poverty, life was very challenging. Bernadette experienced a vision of Our Lady. She did not know that this was Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Her parish priest told her to ask the lady her name. Mary said, I am the Immaculate Conception. Bernadette did not know this title for Our Lady, and this helped the parish priest to believe Bernadette's story. Bernadette prayed the Rosary with Our Lady during the visions. She was directed to a hidden spring of water, and invited to do penance. Many thousands visit Lourdes every year, when this is possible. Very soon after the visions known as apparitions, they were miraculous cures of the sick. Lourdes is still a place of prayer.

Perhaps we can remember the wonderful events which took place in Lourdes, by committing ourselves to praying the Rosary, or at least part of it, every day. Why not make it a task to do, to ask your teacher to explain the Rosary to you? It's a lovely prayer and one which I pray every day myself. And let's ask Jesus, with the prayerful help of His Blessed Mother, to heal the world of sickness, especially the illness caused by this terrible virus. Why not join me in praying the prayer that St Bernadette prayed before Our Lady in the Grotto,

Hail Mary, full of Grace  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst 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

May Jesus, our Saviour and our Healer, bless you all,

✠ David

Rt Revd Dr David J Oakley  
Bishop of Northampton

**Set aside some time in your day  
to gather together for prayer  
Make sure you are all sitting comfortably  
Light a candle**



**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**



# Our Lady of Lourdes



**On the 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1858**  
**Our Lady appeared to a poor**  
**fourteen year old girl called Bernadette**  
**in Lourdes, which is in France.**





**Mary's message to Bernadette was simple.  
She told her to pray  
and to turn away from wrongdoing  
to bring other people closer to God**



**Mary appeared to Bernadette 18 times.  
When Bernadette asked Mary  
who she was Mary replied:  
'I am the Immaculate Conception'**





**Mary then asked Bernadette to dig  
a hole in the ground.**

**Bernadette did this and she found a spring  
that still gives out gallons of water to this day.**



**Some of the people who were sick  
drank this water and were made better.  
Others who couldn't walk bathed in the water  
and could walk again.  
It's a miracle!**



**Since this happened in 1858  
Many people have travelled to Lourdes  
where a huge church,  
called a basilica, has been built.**





**About six million people  
make a pilgrimage to Lourdes every year.  
A pilgrimage is a special journey.  
They go to pray and to ask God to bless them.**





**A Reading from the Gospel according to John**

**Glory to you O Lord**

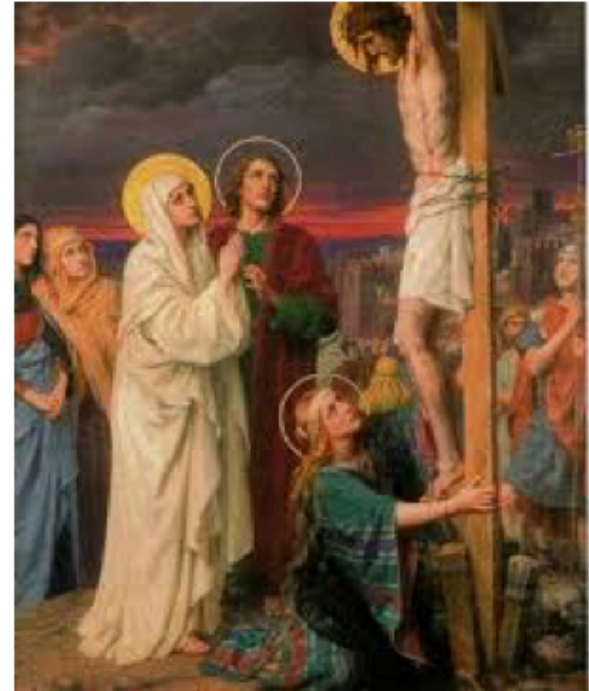
**Standing near the cross of Jesus  
were his mother, and some of the  
other women who cared for him.  
When Jesus saw his mother and John,  
standing beside her,**





he said to his mother,  
“**Woman, here is your son.**”  
Then he said to John,  
“**Here is your mother.**”  
And from that moment John took Mary  
into his own home.

The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



**When Jesus said these words  
He not only meant  
that Mary was to be like a mother to John,  
but she was to be a mother to us all.**



**Mary loves us very much.  
We can ask her to pray with us and for us**

**11<sup>th</sup> February is also the  
World Day of Prayer for the Sick.  
Sick people from all over the world  
travel to Lourdes to ask Mary to pray for them.  
We too can pray for them today  
and ask Mary, our Mother, to pray with us.**



We pray for children who are sick.....

We pray for adults who are sick.....

We pray for those who look after the sick.....

We pray for those who have no one  
to look after them.....

Lord in your mercy  
Hear our prayer





**Hail Mary,  
full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**





**What can we do to help someone  
in our family, or a friend, or a neighbour  
who is sick?**



## Loving God

We thank you for our health and happiness.

We place before you all those who are sick at this time.

We ask you to give them your comfort and peace.

We make this prayer  
through Christ our Lord  
Amen





**Click on the link below  
to watch the Story of Bernadette of Lourdes  
[The Story of Saint Bernadette](#)**