

March 25

16th apparition: the revelation of her name

Three weeks have passed without anything to report. The priest did not organise a procession. Yet people continue to go pray at the cave and while Bernadette is there, more people gather.

On 25 March, the day of the Annunciation, Bernadette feels again called. At the fourth request of Bernadette, the Lady said, finally, her name: «I am the Immaculate Conception.» The angel at the Annunciation had hailed as » full of grace.

Bernadette repeats the message to the priest. This time, he is convinced. Bernadette could not have made up these words; she had not yet completed her catechism.

April 7

17th apparition: in the light of Easter

the last two apparitions, like the first two, in these two, no words are exchanged. We are in the week after Easter. Bernadette comes, taking in her hands, a large candle that was given to her. The candle is consumed during the apparition: the hands of Bernadette now surround the flame itself. At the time, no pain, no trace of burning afterwards. This is a beautiful symbol of Christian life: the light of the Risen radiating through the lives of saints.

July 16

18th apparition: farewell

Once again, Bernadette feels called. The authorities have closed access to the cave. Bernadette stands at a distance. It was concealed in order not to be recognized. It will thereafter she never saw the Virgin as beautiful. It is the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the magnificent mountain in Israel.

The apparition took place at the end of the day. Bernadette is aware that this is the last. Soon it is important, because it knows that in heaven, it will be even more beautiful.

The 18 apparitions of Lourdes

* February 11

1st apparition: the first contact

Bernadette came with two other girls to collect firewood. It feels windy but the trees are not moving. Suddenly there is a light in the cave. The light is shaped like a girl. Bernadette rubs her eyes. She is afraid. She gets her rosary. She wants to make the sign of the cross but she is not able to lift her hand. The apparition makes a sign of the cross. Bernadette does likewise. She recites the rosary. No words are exchanged.

* February 14

2nd apparition: a smile

Bernadette's parents did not want her to return to the cave. But then they allow her to go allow. The Apparition: does it come from God or from the devil? Bernadette takes Holy Water from the parish church. When the lady appears, Bernadette sprinkles some Holy Water. The Lady smiles, but she does not speak.

The fifteen apparitions

February 18

3rd apparition: Promises

The apparition does not come from the devil. But who is she? What is her name? When Bernadette asked her to write it, the Lady replied: «It's not necessary.» The Lady makes a request to Bernadette. «Would you give me the favour of coming here for fifteen days?»

Bernadette is quite surprised: the Lady said «you».

Bernadette promises. The Lady responds with another promise: «I promise you to be happy, not in this world, but in the other.»

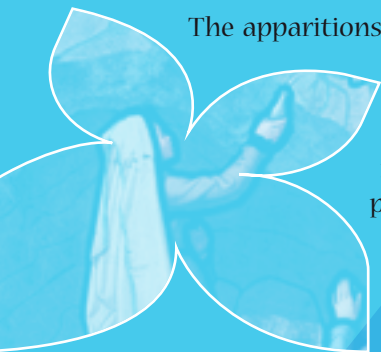


19 - February 23

4th to 7th apparition: prayer

Bernadette was true to her promise: she came every day. On 22 February, the lady does not: it's a test for Bernadette. The civil authorities want to stop her from going to the cave. They accuse her of disturbing public order. They threaten prison.

The apparitions are, above all a time of prayer. The face of Bernadette is so beautiful that the crowd is increasing every day to see. The lady talks with Bernadette but Bernadette does not repeat what is said: it is a time for confidences.



24 February – March 1

8th to 12th apparition: penance and the discovery of the spring.

In these days of February and March, the Church observes the season of Lent. The bishop of the diocese has recommended the people to live with particular intensity in prayer, fasting and penance. At the cave, Bernadette hears and repeats the words of lady: «Penance penance penance. Pray to God for the conversion of sinners.» At her request, Bernadette goes on her

knees further into the cave. She eats some of the grass that grows there. All this, «for sinners,» as Christ was humiliated until the death on the cross. On 25 February, the Lady Bernadette leads to a point of the cave where she discovers a spring: «Go drink at the fountain and you wash yourself there.» At the beginning, it's a puddle of water and very muddy. But bit by bit it becomes more and more clear: like the triumph of grace that overcomes sin. On 26 February, the Dame does not appear: it is a Friday of Lent.

2 - March 4

13th to 15th apparitions: a call to the Church

the Lady sends Bernadette on a mission: «Go and tell the priests to come here in procession and to build a chapel.» This is a new test for Bernadette, as she has to speak to the parish priest who does not believe the stories of the apparitions of a Lady who has still not said her name.

The 15 ended and without any sign spectacular, if not the source and the first healings.

