

# Lourdes News

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THE JOURNAL OF GRACES



## 2019 a Bernadette year

"HAPPY ARE THE POOR.  
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD." (Luke 6, 20)

"I DO NOT PROMISE YOU HAPPINESS  
IN THIS WORLD BUT IN THE OTHER." (The Virgin Mary)

1844  
175 YEARS SINCE  
BERNADETTE'S BIRTH

LOURDES  
SANTUAIRE

1879  
140 YEARS SINCE  
BERNADETTE'S DEATH

### Editorial With you, Bernadette

FATHER ANDRÉ CABES,  
RECTOR

In Lourdes, 2019 is the year that will help us rediscover Bernadette. She often manages to hide from our consciousness, but periodically we again become aware of her calling us. We cannot know Mary and Lourdes, we cannot live the mystery of the Church, confessions, masses, processions, if we forget this little lady. She is the secret of Lourdes and of Christian life, by her openness to the gift she has received. She neither adds to nor takes away from it, she allows the pure source to flow into our over-crowded hearts. May we choose just as she did, every day may we strive to really love, then we will be stripped of an ego that holds us back us, we will be this child who resembles Jesus, Saviour of the world. ■



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### Join the family of Our Lady of Lourdes!

On 22nd August 2016, on the feast of the Queenship of Mary, Mgr Nicolas Brouwet, Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, and Father André Cabes, Rector, revived the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Lourdes, established on 8th December 1872.

The Family of Our Lady of Lourdes is the implementation of the confraternity of the Immaculate Conception, canonically established in the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes by the Bishop of Tarbes, on 8th December 1872, and elevated to Archconfraternity status by Popes Pius IX, then Leo XIII,



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first in France, then throughout the world. Saint Pius X gave it its title and endowed it with spiritual favours.

It enables links between the Shrines or institutions linked to Lourdes and Saint Bernadette, but also between people who have served or who are serving in the sanctuary, and for

those who want to carry the mission of Lourdes in prayer, so they can be united by the grace of the encounter between Mary and Bernadette. A blue Lourdes scapular is the badge of belonging to this Family and a booklet details its purpose and characteristics. ■

Martine Korpai

### An exhibition at the Saint Véronica gallery

From 8th December, an exhibition on the Family of Our Lady of Lourdes at the Saint Veronica Gallery (on the ground floor of the Information Centre), retraces the history of this organisation and shows its members today, in their places of worship, their daily life and at prayer (schools, hospitals, shrines ...). Reproductions of the Grotto of Lourdes in the United States, China, Jordan, Iraq and the Ivory Coast demonstrate that the Grace

of God through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes is received worldwide. "Together, to keep the Message of the Apparitions alive, let us be part of this great family, which makes us brothers and sisters of Bernadette" Father André Cabes, rector of the Shrine, encourages us. ■ Martine Korpai

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# 2019 a Bernadette year

*The year 2019 celebrates the 175th anniversary of the birth of Bernadette Soubirous and the 140th anniversary of her death. These events are an opportunity to deepen our understanding of her life's example and to listen to her spiritual testament. Throughout the year, many initiatives are being taken to help us in this regard. Little Bernadette, who was privy to the secrets of the Virgin Mary 18 times during the Apparitions of Lourdes in 1858, became holy not because she was favoured by Mary's visits, but for the way in which she answered them. She calls us to follow her on this path ...*

Pages coordinated by Joel Luzenko

## Saint Bernadette, *honoured throughout the year.*

- ⊙ **The relics of Saint Bernadette will be on display.** There will be a special time for veneration twice a week, after the international mass, on Wednesdays and Sundays. In addition, Bernadette's reliquary will continue its travels in Europe with new stopovers in France, Italy and Spain.
- ⊙ **The path of Bernadette** that leads to the nearby village of Bartrès (the village where she lived before the Apparitions and where she looked after the sheep) will be made more accessible.
- ⊙ **The church of Saint Bernadette**, inaugurated in 1988, needs complete renovation: the work will consist in particular of creating a more modular space in the church. Where previously the church could be divided into two separate spaces, the new design will allow for a number of different arrangements which can cater for a few hundred or for several thousands of pilgrims.
- ⊙ **An annual calendar** (see below) highlights the important dates in Bernadette's life, allowing pilgrims to obtain the indulgence bestowed this year.
- ⊙ **A new liturgy**, "*From the mud flows the spring*", evokes the discovery of the spring by Bernadette and which also symbolises her journey, from the misery of the Cachot to the maternal grace of the Virgin Mary.
- ⊙ **A approach to pilgrimage** offered over the course of two days for a better understanding of the life and spirituality of Bernadette (accompanied visits, conferences, sacraments, processions ...).
- ⊙ **In addition, the Sanctuary of Lourdes is associated with two wonderful cultural projects that highlight the life and the message of the little girl from Lourdes who became a saint:**
  - **The musical "Bernadette of Lourdes"**, in residence in Lourdes for several months. A magnificent saga that combines the talent of its creators (music by Grégoire, direction by Serge Denoncourt, lyrics by Lionel Florence and Patrice Guirao) with incredible historical accuracy to offer an unprecedented encounter with the message of Lourdes.
  - **In May, national cinema release of the film "Lourdes"**, directed by Thierry Demaizière and Alban Teurlai. This documentary aims to give the starring role to the sick and vulnerable pilgrims, to try to understand why, like Bernadette, "they are attracted to the Grotto".

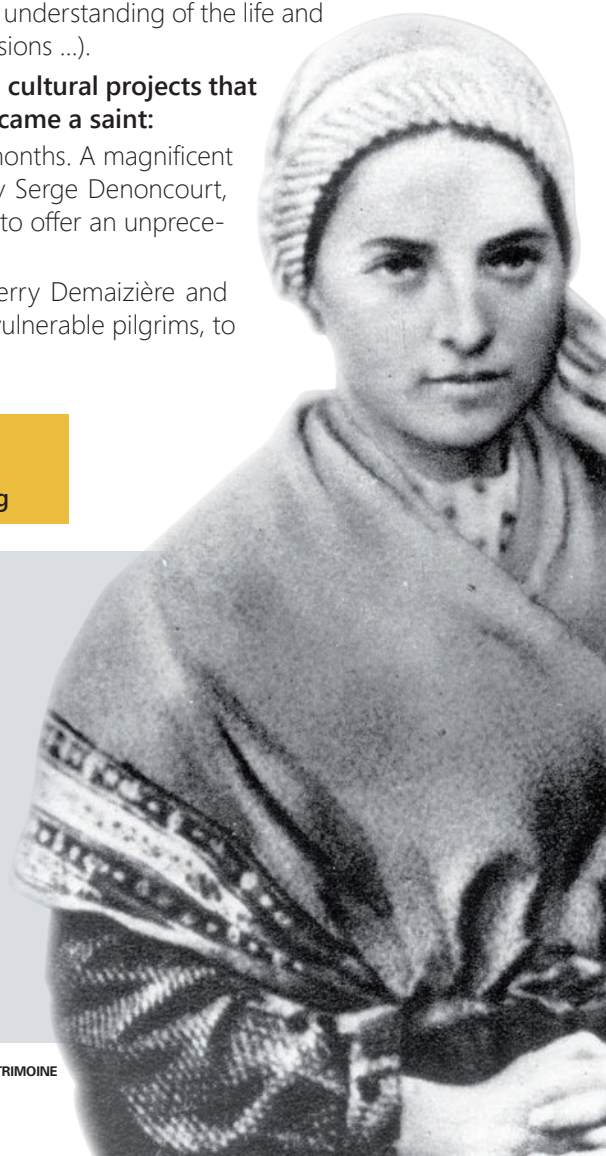


### LIGHT A CANDLE

In this Bernadette Year, offer your intentions, light a candle on the dates of the 18 apparitions: [www.lourdes-france.org](http://www.lourdes-france.org)

## Events and news 2019

- ⊙ **8-11th February:** The " Lourdes February Days": conference and celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes.
- ⊙ **15-17th February:** Pilgrimage for couples for Valentine's Day.
- ⊙ **February 18-22nd:** Conferences on St. Bernadette.
- ⊙ **May 30th:** Pilgrimage for those baptised and divorced.
- ⊙ **June 28-30th:** Pilgrimage for fathers.
- ⊙ **7-9th August:** "Open Source" Marian Gathering for Young Adults.
- ⊙ **22nd August:** Feast of the Family of Our Lady of Lourdes.
- ⊙ **12-13th October:** Pilgrimage for mothers and 1st year of the pilgrimage for chefs.





## Her birth

When we talk about the apparitions, Bernadette is often presented as a poor girl, sick and ignorant, housed in squalor with her family at the Cachot. While this is undoubtedly true, it had not always been so. When she was born on 7th January 1844, at the Boly Mill, she was the first child of François Soubirous and Louise Castérot who married for love. Bernadette grew up in a united family where everyone loved each other and prayed together. At the Boly Mill, the family experienced ten years of happiness, a childhood during which Bernadette's strong personality was forged. The descent into misery would not erase this human richness, nor its lively and spontaneous nature: "The best proof of the apparition is Bernadette herself", Father Pomian would say of her.

## Her death

In 1862, while still living in Lourdes, Bernadette's state of health had already severely declined, and she received the sacrament of the sick for the first time. She was just 18 years old. After her religious profession at the Sisters of Nevers (1867), and when her state of health permitted it, she worked in the service of the sick people in the convent infirmary. From 1878, when she was only 34, she was forced to remain almost permanently bedridden. During her suffering, she kept her eyes firmly fixed on the crucifix in her room, uniting herself with the sufferings of Christ and repeating, "All this is good for heaven". She died on 16th April 1879. The Church proclaimed her a saint on 8th December 1933.

## "Blessed are the poor" more than just a theme for the year, a programme for holiness

Reading these words, we might be tempted to take offence ... Can we rejoice in poverty? Of course not! And through the history of the Church we learn that she has always worked to fight poverty through her many works of charity. But if misery is humiliating for people, wealth that will not be shared degrades and corrupts society. Thus, the Gospel does not promote social revolution, but rather wants to revolutionise hearts. And Lourdes, from the very beginning, triggered this conversion of hearts: "rich men" carrying the stretchers of the infirm, whom they call "our lords the sick". The example of St. Benedict Joseph Labre, patron of the Hospitality of Our Lady of Lourdes, helps us to enter into the mystery of this paradox between happiness and poverty. Walking more than thirty thousand kilometres from Sanctuary to Sanctuary, assuaging the refusal of his entry into the monastic life, he finally finds his vocation: to be a pilgrim in total abandonment and detachment. Like Saint Bernadette, he invites us, in our lives and according to our personal situations, to strip ourselves on the outside so as to be available on the inside. **Do not throw everything away.** After our pilgrimage, of course, we cannot throw away our property or burn our houses. We can nevertheless change our viewpoint. If we find ourselves often concerned by the question: "What's the point?" let us take advantage of our experience here, at the foot of the Rock, to find true joy: "It is in the rags of a beggar, or in the face of a sick child, that we find joy again. Only this joy allows us to commit ourselves to serving." (Father André Cabes, Rector of the Sanctuary of Lourdes). ■



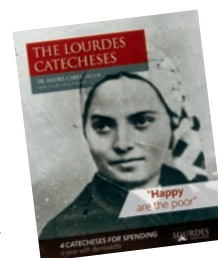
### 4 Catecheses for a Bernadette year

The collection of catecheses launched by Father André Cabes, Rector, in 2017, has been augmented this year with 4 new publications, to help us experience the message of Lourdes in 2019, the Bernadette Year.

During 2019, the Sanctuary of Lourdes is encouraging pilgrims to follow in the footsteps of Bernadette. We are, after all, in a jubilee year. Bernadette was born on 7th January 1844, and was baptised on 9th, 175 years ago. She died on 16th April 1879, just 140 years ago.

Beginning with showing us how to make a beautiful sign of the Cross, Bernadette's meeting with the Lady of Massabielle will teach us the secret of the joy of believing. Thus, we will experience life in the Church. Bernadette had to ask the priests to build a chapel, to start processions. A new humanity, a people of the destitute and poor, leads to the family home that is the Sanctuary of Lourdes. Yes, blessed are the poor, they rejoice in the happiness of Jesus, they live in the happiness of God!

This is the path that we are encouraging people to follow in these catecheses, our journey with Bernadette, the way of the Gospel and of true life. ■



### AN EXHIBITION ON SAINT-BENOIT-JOSEPH LABRE

Another illustration of the theme of the year: an exhibition on Saint Benedict Joseph Labre. On display from 11th February 2019, in the offices of the Hospitality of Our Lady of Lourdes (Accueil Jean-Paul II). You will be able to uncover the life of the patron saint of the Hospitality, beggar and pilgrim, and its link with Lourdes and Bernadette.