

LOURDES, 4TH-8TH JULY

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Why is there a pilgrimage here?

Lourdes is a small town in the foothills of the Pyrenees, south-west France: a forgotten town until 1858 when Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, appeared to a teenage girl, Bernadette Soubirous, and asked her to tell the priests and people to come here in procession, to pray for forgiveness for sins, and to wash in the waters. Although sceptical at first, the parish priest, and then the local bishop believed Bernadette, and soon many people were coming to the Grotto where Our Lady appeared 18 times. Since then many millions of pilgrims have made the journey, and our diocese takes people each year, in July, to this holy place. Lourdes is especially well known for miraculous healings, of which 70 have been recorded in the last 160 years. Part of the miracle of the place is that the sick and the frail, those so often at the margins of our society, are at the heart of Lourdes, always taking the front places in processions and at Mass, and with many others of the pilgrims there at their service.

What happens on this pilgrimage?

During the pilgrimage there's daily Mass, as well as participation in the shrine-wide Eucharistic and Marian (torchlight) processions each day. The timetable also allows for a reconciliation service, stations of the Cross, the rosary, and a time to wash in the waters. Other activities, prayerful and social, are arranged, as well as quiet time to simply be in this holy place.



What do people say about this pilgrimage?

"Quite simply the invitation of Our Lady to come to Lourdes is an invitation to have a life-changing experience. The encounter with Jesus in Lourdes, mediated through the maternal intercession of Our Lady, leaves each pilgrim changed, and closer to God."

Where is it?

If you intend to come with the diocese on the flight from Heathrow, you will need to book through our tour operator Tangney Tours:
www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham

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