

P2-5

St Bernadette & the story of Lourdes

CfE Experiences and Outcomes & TIOF Core Learning:

RERC 1-19a – Hours of God

I know that the Holy Spirit strengthens my faith and the faith of the saints and I have reflected on how the stories of the saints can inspire me to live a more Christian life.

RERC 1-15a – Hours of God

I can honour Mary as the mother of Jesus and our mother. I can share why we honour her.

Success Criteria from Core Learning:

- I can explain that that a saint is a person who, during their lifetime was moved by the Holy Spirit to say yes to God in prayer and action.
- I can explain that saints give us a glimpse of what God is like.
- I can identify St Bernadette as a saint who said “yes” to God.
- I can recognise Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the story of Lourdes and identify that she appeared to give Bernadette an important mission.

Key Vocabulary

Saints, Holy Spirit, Saying Yes to God, prayer and action, icon of Mary, Procession.

Teaching and Learning

Introduction

Thought shower the word “saint” and make a display of the children’s prior knowledge on the whiteboard.

Hearing and responding to the story

Listen to the Story of Bernadette (AR2-5a). Discuss the key points of the story, that Bernadette was simply a child who listened to this beautiful lady, trusted her, and passed on the message that she was to pass on, accepting her mission in spite of others doubting her.

Deepening Understanding

Drama activity

(AR2-5b) to deepen the children’s engagement and understanding of the story.

Discussion

of how people began to believe Bernadette as a result of Mary telling her that she was the “Immaculate Conception” and that Bernadette could not have pretended to know what these words meant.

Exploring images

Display an image of the spring (AR2-5c) which Mary told Bernadette to dig for with the children. Discuss that Mary asked Bernadette to wash in the spring and pray here in this special place and that it was her special mission to encourage others to do the same.

Look at images of the Lourdes Grotto and Basilica in groups of 3 and use the Harvard Thinking Routine, (I see... I think... I wonder...) to discuss and write ideas around the picture. Highlight the basilica that Bernadette had built as Mary asked and that people come to the Grotto to pray and wash just as Mary had instructed her to do so.

Plenary

Review the display created at the start of the learning experience about the term "Saint". Give each child a worksheet with a picture of Saint Bernadette (AR 2.1.c). They then copy, from the display, ways in which Bernadette demonstrates a good example of a saint.

Prayer and Reflection

Simple Litany of Saints written by children and prayed

Sing The Bells of the Angelus (tune: Immaculate Mary) – verse 2 is especially appropriate (lyrics AR2-5e)

Resources

- The Story of Bernadette (AR2-5 a)
- Drama Activity Resource file (AR2-5b)
- Image of the spring (AR2-5c)
- St Bernadette worksheet (AR2-5d)
- Bells of the Angelus (AR2-5e)

Research Challenge

What do people in your house know about St Bernadette and the Lourdes Grotto?