

## Yr 3 Journeys LF4 The Feasts of Our Lady

### Our Lady of Lourdes information sheet

During the year, there are many days when we remember how special Our Lady is to us. We remember how brave Mary was, when she said 'yes' when she was asked to become the Mother of Jesus, and we honour her for her gentleness and kindness. One of these special days is called the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and it is celebrated on February 11<sup>th</sup>. On that day, we remember how Our Lady chose to appear to a very poor little girl who could not read or write, in a little town in France, called Lourdes. The little girl was called Bernadette, and she too was very brave, as many people did not believe her story, when she tried to explain what she had seen. We celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11<sup>th</sup> February as this was the first day that Bernadette saw Our Lady-in total, Bernadette saw Mary eighteen times, the last time was on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1858. During her fifth visit, Our Lady asked Bernadette to bring a candle with her when she visited the grotto, and so after that, she always took a candle with her, and candles still burn there today.

Mary also told Bernadette some other things that she would like to happen. She wanted a chapel to be built, and she wanted people to come in procession to the chapel. She showed Bernadette where to find a spring of beautiful clear water, and asked that people come to bathe in the water. When Bernadette tried to describe what Our Lady had asked, many people did not believe her, and said she was not telling the truth, but after a long time, a chapel was built, and now there is a beautiful big church (called a basilica) right above the grotto where Bernadette saw Our Lady. Hundreds of people come to bathe in the water, and there is a Torchlight Procession to the Basilica every night, just as Mary had asked.

