

The Word of the Lord

1 Corinthians 15 : 1-11 Luke 5 : 1– 11

One of the key messages that comes from both of the New Testament readings today is that of "Faith". In the Letter to the Corinthians, Paul reminds us that "the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you." and in Luke's Gospel, when Jesus tells Simon Peter to cast his nets again, after a night in which the fishermen caught nothing; it is only because Simon Peter had faith in what Jesus told him that he follows his instructions.

There will be times in our lives when our faith is tested, often on a personal level when we are feeling at our lowest ebb. Consider, then, how Our Lord's own faith was tested at the start of his ministry when Satan tempted him in the wilderness; particularly as we commence the forty days of our Lenten observance. Think also of the faith that Bernadette demonstrated when she returned to the grotto in Lourdes day after day; and not least, the faith of Our Lady, so aptly stated in the hymn "By your faith and loving accord, as the handmaid of the Lord."



The Holy Rosary

The Holy Rosary has been prayed for over 1,200 years and can be prayed at St. Mary's after the 12.00 noon Mass every Thursday. It is a devotion to Our Lady, and Bernadette used the rosary to pray at the grotto during the apparitions.

The focus, each week, will be on one of these:

The Joyful Mysteries

The Luminous Mysteries

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Glorious Mysteries

You do not need a set of rosary beads to pray the rosary, but it does help in keeping track of your progress. You may like to use the rosary as an additional devotion during Lent, and even if you cannot get to church, you may be able to join in on the web.

Prayer at the end of the Rosary

O God, whose only-begotten Son by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech Thee, that by meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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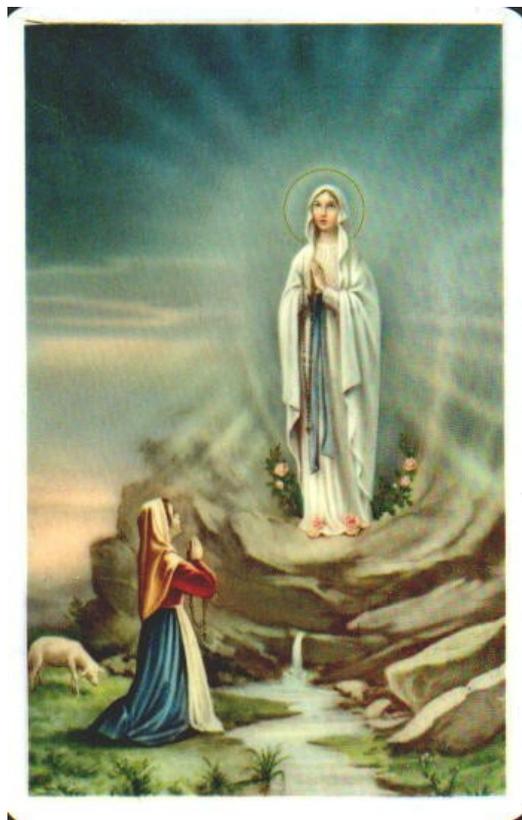
Welcome to our celebration today

10th February 2013

5th Sunday in OT - last before Lent

Our Lady of Lourdes

This week we observe the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11th February, which marks the date when Mary first appeared to the fourteen year old Bernadette Soubirous in 1858. Bernadette was out gathering firewood when she saw the first vision of Our Lady, who spoke to Bernadette in the local Pyrenean dialect and told her:



"Please come here every day for a fortnight. Go and tell the priests to build a chapel on this spot. I wish people to come here in procession. Pray - tell them to pray! Prayer and penitence! Go and drink in the spring and wash in it. I am the Immaculate Conception. I desire a chapel here." Bernadette's faith and humility brought many of the local community to pray with her at the grotto and within a short time, crowds of people from all around the surrounding area were making pilgrimages to Lourdes. In 1862, the Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes declared that the visions were authentic "...and that the faithful are justified in believing it certain."