

- Jesus light our way on our faith journey. Be our guide, our joy and our

# St. Bernadette

1844 - 1879

Bernadette Soubirous was born in Lourdes, France to Francois and Louise Casterot who were very poor. She was the oldest of six children but was frail and often sick.

On Thursday, February 11, 1859, around the time of her First Communion, Bernadette was sent with her younger sister and a friend to gather firewood. Whilst gathering firewood, a beautiful lady appeared to her in a cave.

Bernadette saw the lady eighteen times. The Lady told her to have a chapel built there in her honour. Many people did not believe Bernadette when she spoke of her vision. But one day Our Lady told Bernadette to dig a little hole in the ground and to wash her face. As she did, a spring of water began to flow. The next day it continued to grow larger and larger. Many miracles happened when people began to use this water. The lady asked her to. The lady was Mary, Our Blessed Lady.

The spring became popular amongst lots of people when they heard it was the place where Our Lady had appeared and many people came to visit. To this day, the spring is a place of pilgrimage, especially for the sick who visit Lourdes for healing. Bathing in the spring has cured many pilgrims.

Later Bernadette became a nun. Although her own health was poor, she helped care for the sick and elderly sisters. She died in 1879 at the age of thirty-six. Her last words were: "Holy Mary, pray for me, a poor sinner."



hope, as we learn, live, love and pray together

hope, as we learn, live, love and pray together

- Jesus light our way on our faith journey. Be our guide, our joy and our