



Diocese of Hallam

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I am delighted to have this opportunity to invite you to join me on 4th & 5th October for something very special, as we host the relics of St Bernadette. Cardinal Vincent said recently “Relics are important because they are a touchstone – something that helps us to remember, and puts us back in touch”.

You will recall that nearly 165 years ago in Lourdes, Our Lady invited Bernadette, during the 3rd Apparition, to come and see her in these words: “Would you do me the honour of coming here for a fortnight!” Bernadette accepted the invitation of “The Lady” (‘Aquero’ in the local dialect) and that led to Lourdes, a small town in South West France, becoming a place of pilgrimage, prayer and healing, drawing people from all over the world.

The presence of the Relics of St Bernadette among us is an invitation to come together in prayer and celebrate the special gifts of Lourdes here in our Diocese of Hallam. This invitation is for everyone – whether you have ever made a pilgrimage to Lourdes or not.

Whenever Lourdes is mentioned perhaps our first thoughts are of Mary and Bernadette. But we mustn’t forget the special place of the Eucharist in Lourdes – the daily Masses celebrated throughout the day in Lourdes, and, of course, the Blessed Sacrament procession each day.

This should come as no surprise. In the huge dome inside the Rosary Basilica there is an inscription which reads: “Par Marie a Jesus” – “Through Mary to Jesus”.

During the days of journeying with St Bernadette I pray that she will lead us to “The Lady” and that she, in turn, will lead us to a deeper relationship with Jesus, her Son.

I do hope that you will join me at one of the liturgies planned at the Cathedral, and St Peter in Chains, Doncaster, when “Lourdes comes to Hallam”.

Our Lady of Lourdes Pray for us

St Bernadette Pray for us

+ *Ralph*