

The Miracle of Lourdes

MEMORÁRE PRAYER FOR PEACE

During this time of conflict in Eastern Europe we invite everyone to put the people of Ukraine under the protective mantle of Our Blessed Mother, Queen of Peace.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.

To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

**Our Lady, Queen of Peace,
pray for us.**

Millions of people, many of them very sick, make the pilgrimage to Lourdes every year. After Rome and the Holy Land, Lourdes is the most popular place of pilgrimage for the Catholic faithful.

The pilgrims flock to this holy place because of the Apparitions of Our Lady to a young, poor girl named Bernadette Soubirous. Our Lady, who identified herself as the Immaculate Conception, asked Bernadette to pray for the conversion of sinners, and for her to drink the spring water that was revealed to her at the grotto.

Bernadette suffered much in her life, not only through physical suffering due to her poor health, but also through the jealousy and suspicion from others because she was given the grace of visits from the Blessed Mother.

Today Bernadette is St Bernadette and Lourdes is a place of healing. Many travel there asking for a miracle, asking to be healed. The miracles do happen there and quite frequently, but the true miracle of Lourdes is not the healing of bodies but the healing that takes place within; the healing of the heart, the mind, the soul. This, ultimately, is the only healing that matters.

True healing gives the sick person a peace that cannot be destroyed by cancer. It gives an experience of the love and compassion of God that no illness can shatter. True healing is the fruit of true faith, a faith that learns to trust all God's purposes. True faith can enter suffering without anger. True faith can face pain and bless God from a wounded, hurt or broken heart. Bernadette had this faith, and each one of us needs it. You need it, and I need it, in order to make sense of our lives.

From 3-5 September the relics of St Bernadette will come to our Cathedral. Come and pray for the gift of true faith and true healing. May, through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette, the sick receive the grace of true faith, and true healing, that leads to true peace.

Fr Slawomir Witoń

THE RELICS OF SAINT BERNADETTE

The relics of St Bernadette will visit Westminster Cathedral as part of the national tour this September. This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for everyone to experience the gifts and charisms of Lourdes in our Cathedral. All are welcome to join us for this special event to enrich and renew spiritually. The veneration of the relics will start on **Saturday 3 September at 1pm** and will last all through the two days and nights until **Monday 5 September at 6am**. There is no need for advance booking.

We hope and pray that through the intercession of St Bernadette many graces will be given to all who come and venerate her relics, including healing, conversion and the wonderful discovery of vocation. Come and experience the miracle of Lourdes with us!

To find out more please check our website, scan the QR code or pick up a flyer from the Cathedral.

To help us with the practicalities of the running of the tour of the Relics we are appealing for volunteers who would like to play an active part in this special event.

Help is needed with providing a welcome to and stewarding of the pilgrims and different forms of assistance to them. Training will be given in due course. If you would like to help, please send an email to the Cathedral Volunteer Coordinator: marymaxwell@rcdow.org.uk, or call: 020 7798 9181.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

If you wish to sponsor one of the sanctuary lamps which perpetually burn in the Cathedral, please visit

<https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/spiritual-life/sponsor-a-sanctuary-lamp> .

TOWER VIEWING GALLERY

The tower lift will be opened very soon. Please check in the Gift Shop for the latest update.

RCIA

If you are an adult living in the Cathedral parish boundary, or come regularly to the Cathedral for Mass, and desire to become a Catholic or want to explore the Catholic faith you are welcome to

join the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Course which will commence in September. This course is also for Catholics who were baptised young but did not receive their First Holy Communion and Confirmation. For further information and to enrol please email chaplains@rcdow.org.uk. Please note that Fr Vincent who coordinates the programme is away and will reply to you only in September.

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK PILGRIMAGE

A pilgrimage to Walsingham for the Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life, organised by the Good Counsel Network, will take place on **Saturday 6 August**. Tickets cost £20 per adult and £10 for children under 10. A coach will leave from the top of Ambrosden Avenue at 7.30am. Please contact Domenica on 07913 434357 to reserve your place.

DIVINE MERCY RETREAT TO AYLESFORD

The Retreat to Aylesford will take place on **Monday 29 August** from 10.30am – 4.30pm and the main celebrant will be Rt Revd Paul Hendricks. The coach will depart from Westminster Cathedral at 7am, cost £20. To book your seat please contact Emmanuel on 07721 362000 or Caroline on 07960 466377. All are welcome.

GRAND ORGAN FESTIVAL

Andreas Sieling, Cathedral Organist of the Great Sauer Organ of the Berliner Dom gives our fifth Grand Organ Festival recital on **Wednesday 31 August**. Andreas will perform: Improvisation sur le "Te Deum" by Tournemire Passacaglia by Kerll arr. Straube, "Nun ruhen alle Wälder" (Op. 52 no. 25) by Dielen, Choral in A minor by Franck, Allegro Scherzando (Op. 37) by Dielen, Passacaglia by Muffat arr. Straube and "Victimae paschali" by Tournemire. Tickets are available on the door at £15 or £12 concession.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

Westminster Youth Ministry will be taking a group of young people (age 17-25) to World Youth Day in Lisbon, in August 2023. The pilgrimage will last two weeks and will include time in Porto, WYD in Lisbon and a chance to be with millions of young Catholics and Pope Francis. WYM is offering leadership and

formation to a limited number of young people who will receive a 50% discount off the cost of the pilgrimage. The closing date is **31 August**. For further details please visit <https://worldyouthday.com>.

CATHEDRAL GIFT SHOP

The Gift Shop is open at the following times: Friday 11am-4pm, and **Saturday and Sunday 10.30am-3.30pm**. We are currently looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help in the shop. Retail/customer service experience would be helpful but is not essential as full training will be given. To apply please contact petermcnulty@rcdow.org.uk.

CATHEDRAL CAFÉ

The Cathedral Café is open **Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm** for drinks, lunches and snacks. Please do pay a visit when you are in the Cathedral.

CAFOD

Did you know that CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, helps some of the poorest and most marginalised people across the world? We can reach so many people because we are a member of Caritas Internationalis, the Catholic Church network with a presence in 165 countries. Our local experts work with people over the long-term, helping them to have the right skills, tools and opportunities to live with dignity and support their families. For example, in South Sudan we are helping families learn how to farm better as the climate gets hotter, so that they can cope better in the future when things get even more difficult. Find out more at www.cafod.org.uk. Thank you for your support.

GIFT FOR THE FUTURE

When the time is right for you to remember a charity in your will, please remember the Cathedral. Every gift makes a difference. Simply add 'Westminster Cathedral – registered charity number 233699'. For more information, call Marie-Louise on 020 7798 9058 or email mlvanspyk@rcdow.org.uk. Full details can be found in our new legacy leaflet 'My Gift for the Future' available from the back of the Cathedral.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Postal address:

42 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QW

Clergy House Reception is open:

Monday to Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm

(Closed 1.00pm-1.20pm for lunch)

and weekends 10am - 1pm

Telephone: 020 7798 9055

Email: chreception@rcdow.org.uk

The Chaplains can be contacted through Clergy House Reception if you wish to speak to them or are in need of assistance.

Cathedral website:

www.westminstercathedral.org.uk

In an emergency:

When someone is gravely ill or has died, and a priest is required outside Reception opening hours, please call 07340 288978.

No cash? Or prefer to make your offering by 'phone? Scan the QR code with your smartphone.



This week's Diary

The Cathedral is open from 7.30am until after the evening Mass each day.

* Live streamed via the Cathedral website.

Monday to Friday

Morning Prayer: 7.35am, Evening Prayer 5pm

Mass: 8 and 10.30am (Latin), 12.30* and 5.30pm

Confessions: 11.30am-12.30pm, 4.30-5.30pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel 1.15-4.30pm

Saturday

Morning Prayer: 7.35am, Sung Vespers (English) 5.30pm

Mass: 8 and 10.30am (Latin), 12.30* and 6pm (Vigil, Sung)

Confessions: 11.30am-12.30pm and 5-6pm

Sunday

Sung Morning Prayer (English) 9.30am, Solemn Vespers and Benediction 4pm

Mass: 8 and 10am (Sung)*, 12 noon (Solemn), 5.30 (Sung) and 7pm

Confessions: 10am-12.30pm, 5-6.45pm

Sunday 31 July

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Monday 1 August

St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor

Thursday 4 August

St John Vianney, Priest

Saturday 6 August

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Sunday 7 August

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Monday 8 August

St Dominic, Priest

Tuesday 9 August

ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS

Wednesday 10 August

ST LAWRENCE, Deacon & Martyr

Thursday 11 August

St Clare, Virgin

Sunday 14 August

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturday 20 August

St Bernard, Abbot & Doctor

Sunday 21 August

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Monday 22 August

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 24 August

ST BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle

Saturday 27 August

St Monica

SUNDAY 28 AUGUST

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME