

CARD SORT

THE LIFE OF BERNADETTE OF LOURDES

9th January 1843, Francois Soubirous, a miller, married Louise Casterot.

11th February 1858, the Soubirous family needed firewood so Bernadette, her sister and a friend went down to an area near a stream called Massabielle to collect firewood.

Francois and Louise went to live with the Casterot family in the Boly Mill in Lourdes.

The girls both crossed the stream but Bernadette would not because she didn't want to catch a cold.

January 7th 1844, Bernadette was born. Bernadette was baptised in the Parish Church at Lourdes.

Bernadette saw Our Lady at the grotto for the first time – she was the only one of the girls who saw her.

November 1844, Louise had an accident and couldn't breast feed anymore. The usual practice in France was to breast feed for 2 years. Bernadette moves to live with her foster mother in Bartres.

On her third visit to the grotto, Our Lady asked Bernadette to return 15 more times, which Bernadette agreed to do. Our Lady told Bernadette she wanted a church to be built on the site.

By 1854 Bernadette's Father was unable to pay the rent for the mill – he had been too generous donating food and drink to the poor and made himself poor in the process.

On one occasion, Bernadette was told to dig into the ground until she uncovered a spring of clean water coming out of the ground that she could wash in.

In 1855 when Bernadette was 11 she became very sick with cholera and asthma.

On the 16th visit, Our Lady told Bernadette 'I am the Immaculate Conception'.

CARD SORT

THE LIFE OF BERNADETTE OF LOURDES

In 1857, the Soubirous family had to go and live in the Cachot – a small prison room.

On 3rd June 1858, Bernadette made her First Communion in the Hospital Chapel at Lourdes.

Bernadette was sent back to Bartres because she was not very well. She looked after the sheep but she wanted to go back to Lourdes so she could attend catechism class and prepare for her First Holy Communion.

Throughout the visits, Our Lady told Bernadette that she wanted people to 'come in procession, pray for sinners, to do penance and to drink and wash in the waters of the spring'.

In January 1858, Bernadette returned to Lourdes and joined the catechism class to prepare for her First Communion. Bernadette was 14 years old.

In September 1858, Fr Peyramale (the parish priest) helped the Soubirous family to move out of the Cachot.

Bernadette was confirmed by the Bishop of Tarbes in 1860.

At the age of 16, Bernadette went to live with the Nuns in Lourdes and lived there for 6 years.

In January 1862, the Bishop of Tarbes agreed that what Bernadette had seen and heard at the Grotto was really true.

At the age of 22, Bernadette left Lourdes and went to live in Nevers at the convent. The nuns there weren't easy to live with and were often jealous of the way she was treated.

On Wednesday, April 16th, Bernadette died at the age of 36 in the Convent. She was surrounded by the other nuns at her bedside.

On 8th December 1933, Bernadette was made a saint of the Church.