

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland

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Dear Parent / Carer,

Lourdes Pilgrimage - 21st July to 30th July 2022



I am writing to advise you of the exciting opportunity that has been made possible as the result of the easing of travel restrictions.

Each year, approximately 500 young people make the annual trip to Lourdes with the Liverpool Archdiocese Youth Pilgrimage.

Lourdes is one of the busiest Christian pilgrimage sites in the world with 4-6 million pilgrims visiting each year. Since pilgrimages began in 1860, it is estimated that over 200 million people have visited the Shrine. Pilgrimages to Lourdes, in the foothills of the French Pyrenees, began after the Virgin Mary appeared in a series of 18 apparitions to a poor 14-year-old girl, named Bernadette Soubirous.

The Liverpool pilgrimage has been running for over 35 years and 9 coaches from across the Archdiocese take part; North Liverpool, Knowsley, St Helens, Leigh & Wigan, Penwortham, Warrington & Widnes, Sefton, South Liverpool & Isle of Man and Leyland.

While in Lourdes, the youth take part in an array of activities. They pray together, work together, eat together, sing together, laugh together and come away with some of the best friendships and memories that we will treasure for life.

Please note: This is not a school educational visit, and is organised **entirely** by the **Liverpool Catholic Archdiocese**. Young people do not need to be of the Roman Catholic Faith in order to attend this event.

If your child would like to attend this visit, they must be at least 15 years of age on 21st July 2022.

The full cost of Lourdes is £540. A deposit of £40 is required and can be paid on-line via the website <https://www.liverpoollourdesyouth.co.uk/register>.

The coach that your child would be allocated would be the Chorley/Preston coach (coach 5).

Various charity activities will be organised by the Coach 5 leader to help reduce the overall cost of the Pilgrimage. In addition, as a Catholic School, we will also support your son/daughter in arranging charity events.

If you, or your child is interested in this Pilgrimage and would like further information, please contact me on the above telephone number, or contact Jan Barton, Administrator for Liverpool Animate Youth Ministries on 01744 740 461.

As always, you and your families are remembered in prayer.

God bless.

Anthony Cave
Chaplain