



13 January 2025

Dear parents and young people of our Catholic schools,

Happy New Year to you all!

Last month, I was able to declare the cure of John (Jack) Traynor a miracle after a very long wait. Jack was a pilgrim on the Archdiocesan first official pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1923, and was cured dramatically of epilepsy, paralysis of the right arm and paraplegia during the pilgrimage. Many people at the time considered the cure to be miraculous, but there was never any official Church-recognition because it was felt that there was insufficient medical evidence. Thankfully, some painstaking research over the last couple of years has unearthed evidence of the medical examinations of Jack Traynor at the time of the pilgrimage in 1923 and subsequently. Thus, the cure of Jack Traynor has now been recognised as the 71st official miracle to have happened at Lourdes, and he is the first person from England to have been cured at the shrine.

Though the official declaration of the miracle has come a century after the cure, it is still a significant moment for each of us in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We will, therefore, have a special Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday 18 February 2025 at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, at 7pm. A drinks reception will follow in the cathedral crypt. It will be an opportunity for people from across the archdiocese and beyond, including representatives from the shrine at Lourdes, to gather in Liverpool to mark this historic moment, and to heed the call of Pope Francis in this Jubilee Year to be “Pilgrims of Hope”.

I wish to invite you **personally**, parents, students and family members to participate in this celebration of the Eucharist, and hope that you will be able to join us in celebrating this joyful event. I include a link to help you book your place in this historic event.

[Booking form for attendance at the celebration of the miraculous cure of Jack Traynor](#)

With my very best wishes and prayers for each of you, your families, and your school communities.

Please pray for me as your archbishop and know that I pray for you each day.

Yours sincerely

Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool

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