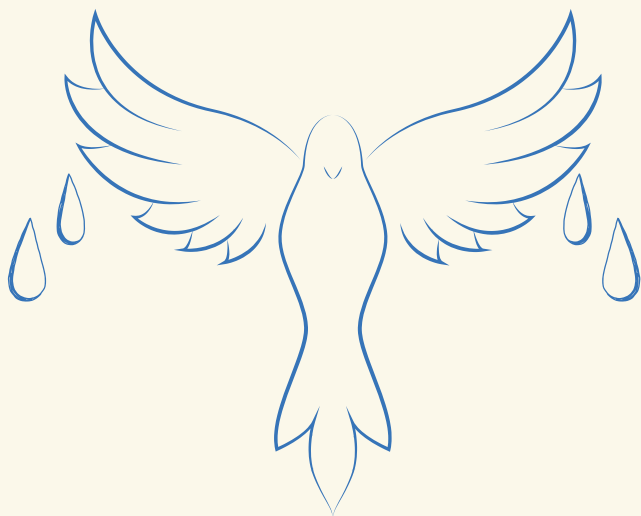




Lourdes at Home

WATER GESTURE



Taken from our 2024 Salford Lourdes
Centenary Pilgrimage Handbook

Water Gesture

Saturday 27th July, 16.00, The Prairie.

Principle celebrant: Rt Rev. John Arnold, Bishop of Salford.

LITURGY OF WASHING

Water is mentioned a total of 722 times in the Bible, more often than faith, hope, prayer, and worship. In the Bible, it doesn't take long for water to be mentioned. Water is such an essential component of life; it was created on the very first day.

"Go and drink at the spring and wash yourself there!" These are the words of the Virgin Mary to St Bernadette. The ninth apparition, 25th February 1858.

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Bishop John: Sign of the Cross and greeting.

Dear brothers and sisters, many rivers in our world nourish the land and flow into the sea. Water cleanses and brings growth, nourishes biodiversity and quenches thirst. We come together to worship our God, as the fountain of living water. As we worship God in spirit and in truth, let our hearts overflow with praise. Let us be cleansed by the waters of God's grace and forgiveness. Let us be refreshed and restored by Jesus Christ who promises us the waters of life through his resurrection.

Fr Gerard:

We come as pilgrims to Lourdes to experience a deeper sense of peace not felt before. Our Pilgrimage provides an opportunity for those of us making this journey to undergo a grace-filled conversion of heart, renewing our Faith and bringing us closer to God. While we often pray for a healing of the body, we also may seek a change, a transformation, a healing of the heart or spirit. Our washing with the life-giving waters, sanctified by Our Mother Mary, is a time of renewal and refreshment. What a treasure we all have in the prayers

and presence of our Blessed Mother in this place.

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, before the spring we remember your words; "If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink." Lord Jesus, You are the spring where I drink and wash, as your Immaculate Mother asked Bernadette "Go and drink from the spring and wash." Lord Jesus, Following in the footsteps of Bernadette, I will drink from this spring where so many in need, and sinners, drink and find freshness; where so many find hope and comfort; where so many pilgrims leave their worries behind. Like them, we turn to you; accept our thirst for true happiness, you and living source that gives us the Spirit to live as children of God. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reader

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel 36:24-28

Say to the house of Israel, thus says the Lord God: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

R: The word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of Intercession

Reader

Eternal defender of the poor and sad, hear our prayers for all who suffer.

For those who are refugees, exiles from home, because of the cruelty of enemies, or the forces of nature.

For those who are starving and whose tears are their only food.

For those who are desperate for lack of clean water, and who thirst for life-giving water.

For those who are sad and troubled, whose hearts break for want of hope.

For those whose faith is weak, who feel that God has abandoned them.

Protector of the weak, be with all who need you today, may they know that they are not forgotten.

R: Lord in your mercy

A: Hear our prayers

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Bishop John:

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life.

And so, close to the spring of Massabielle let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:

Do you renounce Satan?

I do.

And all his works?

I do.

And all his empty promises?

I do.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

I do.

Bishop John:

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

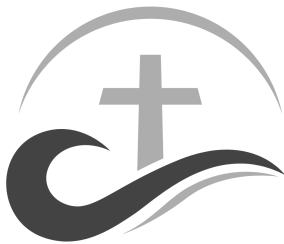
Amen.

The Water Gesture

Please join the choir in singing:

*Baptised in water, sealed by the Spirit
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise -
faithfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptised in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven
thankfully now God's praises we sing.*



*Baptised in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king;
born of one Father, we are his children
joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

Bishop John:

God our Father, we praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honour and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Bishop John will introduce The Lord's Prayer.

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Bishop John:

By God's gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn to everlasting life. In his goodness, may he continue to pour out his blessings upon all gathered here, who are his sons and daughters. May he make them always, wherever they may be, faithful members of his holy people. May he send his peace upon all who are gathered here, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A: Amen.

May almighty God, the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit, bless you and remain with you forever.

A: Amen.

B: Go in peace.

A: Thanks be to God.