

Lourdes 2019

Rachel, Mr Long and Miss Cook would like to thank the parents of the Lourdes 2019 Pilgrimage for their support and encouragement.



It was a privilege for Saint John Saint John Houghton Academy to be part of the Nottingham Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Our pupils were a credit to their parents and our Academy. Thank you: Marcus; Lily-Grace; Kian; Luis; Joseph; Taylor; Emily; Madison; Aoife; Jamie; Luke; Leonardo; Anthony; Jessica; Sean and Rebecca for your company, friendship and prayers.

Through the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, which we make each year, we reach out to the sick, the lonely and the marginalised. As a diocese we come together journeying with Christ and Our Lady to this special and holy place we call Lourdes. The experience of Lourdes helped our young people to have



a real 'Encounter' with Christ and to experience the power of prayers of our Blessed Mother for themselves, and all they hold close to them.

During our time in Lourdes we continued to understand the Pastoral Theme of 2019 – 'Blessed are the Poor for the Kingdom of God is theirs'. We attended the Opening Mass of the Pilgrimage, we led the Rosary for Vocations, and we participated in the Water Ceremony and bathed in the Holy Waters. We attended the Anointing of the Sick, the Reconciliation Service, the International Mass, we led the High Stations of the Cross, and were delighted Father JP joined us, we attended the Blessing and Lighting of the Pilgrimage Candle and we led our own service and lit a candle for our school community, we attended Mass in the Grotto and the closing Mass of the Pilgrimage. The Torchlight Procession was a high point of our Pilgrimage.



We visited the Grotto and posted our intentions, we had a tour of Lourdes and visited Saint Bernadette's family home, the Lourdes Museum and had time to buy souvenirs and gifts.



We enjoyed a day trip to Gavarnie and an afternoon at the Water Park.

We look forward to building on our time in Lourdes when we return to school, we shall prepare and lead an Act of Worship, we will make a display and lead a Liturgy in October and we will be available encourage others to journey to this wonderful place and share the graces we have received.

