

Lourdes Assembly Notes

Who is the assembly for?



The assembly is designed to be used by any member of staff or young people to produce a 15 min time of collective worship. Within this time there will be pilgrimage information, reflection, prayer and a call to respond. The assembly is meant for those Yr 10-13. You may need to adapt the content appropriately.

Reasons for the Assembly

Some schools have indicated that before they are able to inform young people about the possibility of their young people going to Lourdes many of the coaches are already nearly full. This assembly gives equal access to young people to go on pilgrimage from across the whole Archdiocese.

+Sign of the Cross

Prayer of Annunciation

Mary, help us to grow daily in union with Christ,
To have his mind, his attitudes,
His all embracing love.

Intercede for us with God, that, like you, we may always respond to the Spirit in great openness and with courageous faith; saying with you:

“behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to Your word.”

Amen

(Loreto Prayer Book)

Introduction

In this assembly we will be focusing on the pilgrimage to Lourdes, in France which young people take part in each year. This could be a great opportunity for you and your friends to make a real difference to other people. It is also a chance for you to grow personally and spiritually.

Lourdes is in the foothills of the Pyrenees mountains and is a unique place. As this dvd will show, people believe that something spectacular happened there in 1858. Since that time people have been drawn there as part of their spiritual journey. Each year the Liverpool Archdiocese takes over 100 sick and elderly people there. For seven days young people serve them through taking them around to different services, shopping and generally befriending those who are less mobile. Lourdes is a very practical place to show a real concern for other people. In Lourdes everyone can find a role, that is why so many young people like yourselves generously volunteer each year to be of service to others. Could you make the a real difference to someone's life this year?

This dvd gives a better idea than words can about what Lourdes is all about.

DVD

Personal Account

The dvd and other information is a helpful way of introducing the purpose of the pilgrimage. There is no better way than someone standing up and even for 2 minutes giving a personal account of their own experience. Out of the 40 schools in the Archdiocese 26 of them have young people who regularly take part in the pilgrimage. Each year it would be a great testimony to the generosity of young people if living examples could say something of what the pilgrimage has meant to them. In a time when so much media attention focuses on young people and knife crime and other social disorder, this is a great opportunity to proclaim 'good news' among their peers.

It is often useful for one or more young people to talk about what they do in a typical day in Lourdes.

What do I do now?

1. You may feel nervous about serving the sick and elderly.
2. You may be thinking I cannot afford to go.
3. You may think I am not particularly religious.
4. You may be sitting there excited and ready to find out more.

Whatever your questions are I would encourage you to find out more. This could make a real difference to your life as you will make a real difference to other people lives.

Website

More information is on the Animate website, you can download an application form from October 14th. A non-returnable deposit of £100 secures your place. From about February the coach from this area will start meeting together. There is often an opportunity to fundraise as a coach but you could start now, in school (if appropriate), cake sales, sponsored events, battle of the bands, etc and also through your local parishes. People will want to support you as they know what a valuable role you will undertake.

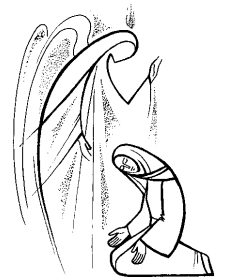
www.animateyouth.org

Conclusion

We listen to how God worked in the life of Mary, a young girl who was open to amazing things.

Luke 1: 36

The angel said, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the most high will cover you with its shadow.....for nothing is impossible for God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord', said Mary, 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.



As one community we ask Mary to pray for us. Hail Mary.....

Prayer.

Father as we travel on our pilgrimage through life may we always be open to the Spirit of power, new beginnings, and full life so that we may serve in the example of your Son Jesus Christ, the Way, Truth and the Life.

Amen