



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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26th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,



All schools in the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton have been asked by Bishop Richard and the Diocesan Education Service to have a fundraising event for the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage.

Bishop Richard writes -

This year marks the 50th anniversary of our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. I would like to take the opportunity to ensure that the benefits of the experience, particularly for young people, become more widely known.

St. Bernadette's encounter with Our Lady leaves a legacy that teaches us about faith and our relationship with the Lord, and yet many people remain unaware of the graces that are received when we come together at the Grotto. For young people this can be an inspiration for their future faith development.

All are welcome on our Diocesan Pilgrimage, especially the sick, elderly, disabled and families with young children, all of whom feel called to visit the Grotto in response to Mary's call. In whatever capacity one may travel to Lourdes, for those truly open to the presence of the Holy Spirit the experience leaves a lasting and profound effect to the good. However, many who travel are only able to do so with support. To be able to support them is a privilege and young adults and older students are vital. However, the costs of travel to Lourdes continue to rise.

I would like to propose that all School's hold an annual schools' charity day to focus on the message from Lourdes, the opportunities it can offer individuals and an opportunity to raise some funds to support helpers across the Diocese. Having this day across our schools would help in uniting us in prayer for the most vulnerable within our Diocesan Community.

At St Catherine's we will have an assembly which will explain all about Lourdes and the Diocesan Pilgrimage and following this-

**A Non Uniform Day on Friday 9th February for a donation of at least £1.
Pupils are invited to dress in blue, white or hearts on this day.**

This date is near to the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes (11th February) and the colours represent the love (also near Valentine's Day!) and devotion Catholics have for Mary.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

F McGonigle
Deputy Headteacher

Worthing Deanery Schools



Journeying Together in Christ

