

## The Grotto where God comes to meet us



The month of February is that of the first apparitions of the Virgin Mary to Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes in 1858.

The place of the meeting is quite unexpected: the **Grotto** of Massabielle.

It is not in a sumptuous place, quite the contrary. The place where Our Lady reveals herself to Bernadette is a dirty, damp and cold place. This grotto was called the “pigs’ place” because it was the place where the pigs were led.

The Virgin Mary chose to come to an unsanitary site. We note that there is an immense contrast between this Grotto full of garbage and the presence of the Virgin Mary the Immaculate Conception, the all pure.

Our Lady does not hesitate to approach and join us where we are, in the darkness of our humanity. By coming to meet Bernadette, the Virgin Mary thus comes to show us **the light that illuminates our life: her Son Jesus Christ**

Thus, the Grotto is not only the place of the event, a geographical place, it is also a place where **God calls us to reveal his heart** and our own heart. It is a place where God leaves us a message **to tell us that he loves us and that he wants to save us.**

**In these apparitions in Lourdes, the Virgin Mary invites us to change our lives, to convert in order to return to God.**

So in **trust**, let us not hesitate to let Jesus enter **the grotto of our heart, to welcome Him** and allow him to illuminate our lives. He is only waiting for us to open the door to him; will we be able to do it?

May the Immaculate Conception, our beloved mother, be our guide and help us to welcome her Son more and more throughout our lives.

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