



Rt. Rev Ralph Heskett CSsR

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20 October 2022

Dear Mr Hoyes,

St. Bernadette Relic Tour – Wednesday 5 October 2022

I am writing to thank you for your school's involvement in the St. Bernadette Relic Tour on Wednesday, 5 October 2022.

Between St. Marie's Cathedral and St. Peter-in-Chains, Doncaster, 700 children and students joined us to venerate the Relics, make a water gesture with Lourdes Water during a short liturgy, and write petitions that will be taken to the Grotto in Lourdes early next month. This was a short, but powerful time, reminiscent of what many of us experience in Lourdes, on pilgrimage.

In total, we estimate that over 2,500 people participated in this visit during the 24 hours we hosted the Relics. That is an astonishing number for a diocese of our size, and I am very grateful to all those who took up the invitation for this encounter, and to those who organised the visit.

I was fortunate to be able to be in both Churches throughout the visit and to meet some of the children on the day. It was a humbling experience to see so many people gathered, in faith and wonderful to see so many people of different ages.

As I said on Wednesday at the Cathedral, I was inspired before the visit by a video of short testimonies from young people who had visited the relics elsewhere in England, Wales & Scotland. My prayer on Wednesday was that the experience of **our** children and young people during the visit would further cement their faith and make them want to do better, and be better. Thank you for giving them that opportunity by organising the visit from your school.

Yours sincerely in Christ, the Redeemer,

+ *Ralph*

Bishop of Hallam