

Welcome



SUMMER LOURDES 2026

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION MEETING

**BCYS IS THE YOUTH MINISTRY ORGANISATION OF THE
DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD. WE SUPPORT YOUNG
PEOPLE THROUGH:**

- **Pilgrimages**
- **Retreats**
- **Leadership programmes**
- **Faith formation opportunities**
- **Social and community events**



WHO ARE WE?



GABBY

Events & Pilgrimages Coordinator

FR MICHAEL

Chaplain to the Pilgrimage

CLAIRE

Director of Youth Ministry



WHO'S WHO



**CHAPLAINS
WISE PEOPLE
YEAR 13 LEADERS
MEDICAL TEAM**



SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP



- Site of St Bernadette's apparitions in 1858
- Place of prayer, healing and service
- Welcomes millions of pilgrims every year
- Strong focus on caring for the sick and vulnerable



WHY LOURDES?



YOUR GROUPS!



- Daily Mass
- Helping assisted pilgrims
- Processions
- Prayer and reflection
- Small group activities
- Social activities
- Free time in Lourdes
- Retreat experiences



TIMETABLE



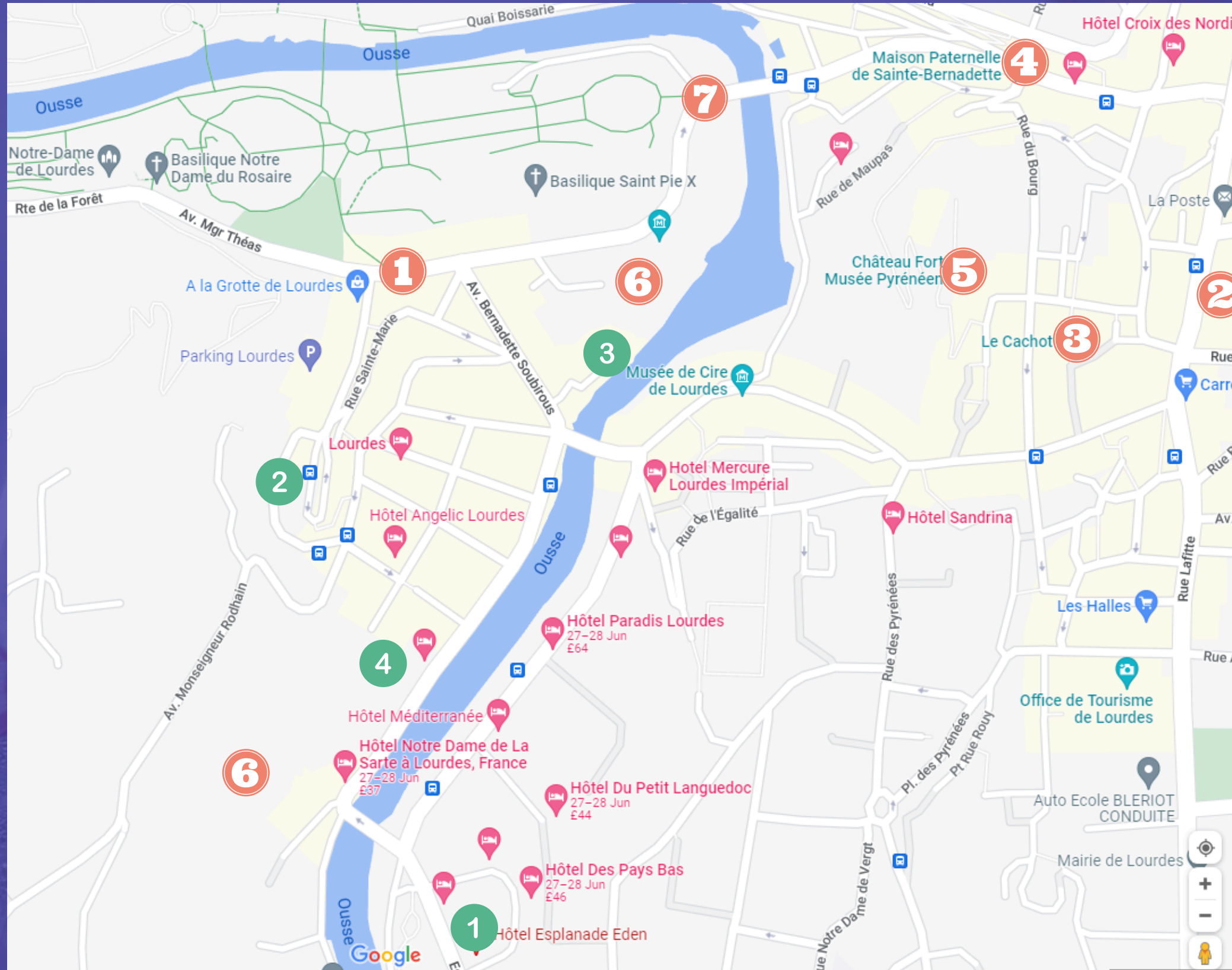
- Early starts
- Late evenings
- Significant walking
- Full timetable
- Pushing wheelchairs

Young people are expected to attend all scheduled activities as part of the group.



COMMITMENT

Lourdes – Key Places



1 Hotel Eden (BCYS)

2 Hotel Padoue

3 Hotel Solitude

4 Hotel Beau Site

1 St Joseph's Gate
main entrance to the Domaine (area around the Grotto).

2 Parish Church
includes the font where St Bernadette was Baptised (Église Paroissiale du Sacre-Coeur de Lourdes)

3 Cachot
the former prison where St Bernadette was living at the time of the Apparitions (February 1858)

4 Boly Mill
the flour mill where St Bernadette was born

5 The Castle
(Chateau-Fort) overlooking the town; magnificent views!

6 Museum of St Bernadette
story of her life, fragments of her writings.

7 St Michael's Gate
alternative entrance to the Domaine.

- A small/medium size rucksack
- Passport and EHIC/GHIC medical card
- Drinks and Snacks - NO NUTS!
- Money (please be aware that some ferries are cashless)
- Pillow / Blanket / Socks / Jumper
- Travel sickness pills / Medical supplies



ON THE COACH

- Suitable clothing - Polo shirts (named!)
- Sun cream (at least SPF 30)
- A named, reusable water bottle
- Hat/ baseball cap
- Waterproof
- Comfortable walking shoes (trainers) – not flip flops or sandals!
- Musical Instrument / Alb
- Travel Plug
- Toiletries
- A Rosary (if you have one)
- Costume for the fancy dress night!



IN YOUR SUITCASE



“BRENTWOOD BLUE” POLO SHIRTS

- Will be worn for any time we are serving the Diocese - to Mass and other events each day.
- During free time, social evenings or BCYS only activities, you are welcome to wear own clothes.
- Please ensure clothing is of an appropriate length / style for a place of pilgrimage.



CLOTHING

- Personal medical kit
- Regular prescription medication
- Sanitary products
- Travel sickness tablets
- On the go squash
- Any other medication or remedy you might take
- Suitcases will be stored underneath the coaches!



OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER



Friand hot dog
Poulet
Frites
Glace vanille/fraise

Assiette de charcuterie
Wings de poulet
Pommes sautées
Fruits

Pizza Melon/jambon
Escalope à la crème
Pommes Noisettes
Tarte chocolat

- On the coach - no nuts!
 - There will be several coach stops along the way.
 - Our first meal at the hotel will be Sunday lunchtime.
- We advise that 15 Euros and £12 be put aside for the return journey.
- Hotel will provide 3 meals a day
 - Buffet Breakfast
 - 3 Course Lunch
 - 3 Course Dinner



FOOD

HOTEL ESPLANADE EDEN

- Private Bathroom
- Toilet
- Hairdryer
- Shower
- Towels
- WiFi



THE HOTEL



- All leaders are DBS checked
- All volunteers receive training before the pilgrimage
- Comprehensive risk assessments
- Established emergency procedures
- Clear codes of conduct & Safety Policies



SAFEGUARDING & SAFETY



WITH OUR GROUP ARE

- Trained healthcare professionals
- Experienced leaders
- Chaplains
- Counsellor support

PLEASE SHARE WITH US:

- Medical conditions
- Allergies / Dietary requirements
- Mental health needs
- Medication requirements



MEDICAL SUPPORT AND WELLBEING



- WIFI IS AVAILABLE IN HOTEL
- CHECK ROAMING CHARGES
- USE DEVICES RESPECTFULLY
- RESPECT OTHERS
- FOLLOW SAFEGUARDING GUIDANCE
- USE SOCIAL MEDIA RESPONSIBLY
- WHATSAPP GROUPS



MOBILE PHONES & SOCIAL MEDIA



YOUNG PEOPLE:

- **HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR PHONES**
- **CAN USE HOTEL WI-FI**
- **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

PARENTS WILL RECEIVE:

- **PILGRIMAGE EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS**
- **HOTEL CONTACT INFORMATION**
- **BCYS CONTACT INFORMATION**



STAYING IN TOUCH



WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY?

WHO TO CONTACT IN AN EMERGENCY

- Claire / Gabby
- BCYS Office
- Hotel

STATE OF EMERGENCY ABROAD



EMERGENCY CONTACTS



HOMESICK / ILL / UPSET

Support is available from:

- Small Group Leaders
- Wise People
- Chaplains
- Counsellor
- Medical Team
- BCYS Staff



WHAT IF MY CHILD IS...

**YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WELCOME WHEREVER
THEY ARE ON THEIR FAITH JOURNEY.**

WE ASK EVERYONE TO:

- Participate respectfully
- Support the group experience
- Remain open to new experiences



FAITH AND PARTICIPATION



WE EXPECT

- Respect for leaders and peers
- Respect for the pilgrimage environment
- Punctuality
- Appropriate conduct
- Compliance with safeguarding procedures

Serious misconduct will be managed according to BCYS procedures.



BEHAVIOUR



INCLUDED:

- Travel
- Accommodation
- Insurance
- Meals
- Excursions
- BCYS polo shirt(s)

YOU MAY WISH TO BRING MONEY FOR:

- Snacks
- Drinks
- Ice creams
- Souvenirs
- Journey



MONEY



OUR POLICY

- On duty leaders each night
- Room checks on return to hotels
- Everyone keep to their own rooms



OVERNIGHT SAFETY

- SUMMER LOURDES SAFETY POLICIES / CODE OF CONDUCT
- SERIOUS EMERGENCY THAT CAUSES “LOCKDOWN” / INABILITY TO TRAVEL
- POLICY FOR REPORTING SERIOUS MISCONDUCT
- ROOM SHARE AND GROUP ALLOCATION POLICY
- OVERNIGHT SAFETY & LEADERSHIP
- RISK ASSESSMENTS

All available on request



POLICIES & PROCEDURES



THE COACH JOURNEY

- Ferry crossing between Dover and Calais
- Approximate journey time: 20 hours
- Regular comfort and meal stops



TRAVEL TO LOURDES



SATURDAY 18TH JULY

- Great Eastern Road, Stratford - leaves 11am
- St Benedicts College, Colchester - leaves 11am
- The Brentwood School - leaves 12:15pm
 - Please be there

30 minutes before!



DEPARTURE

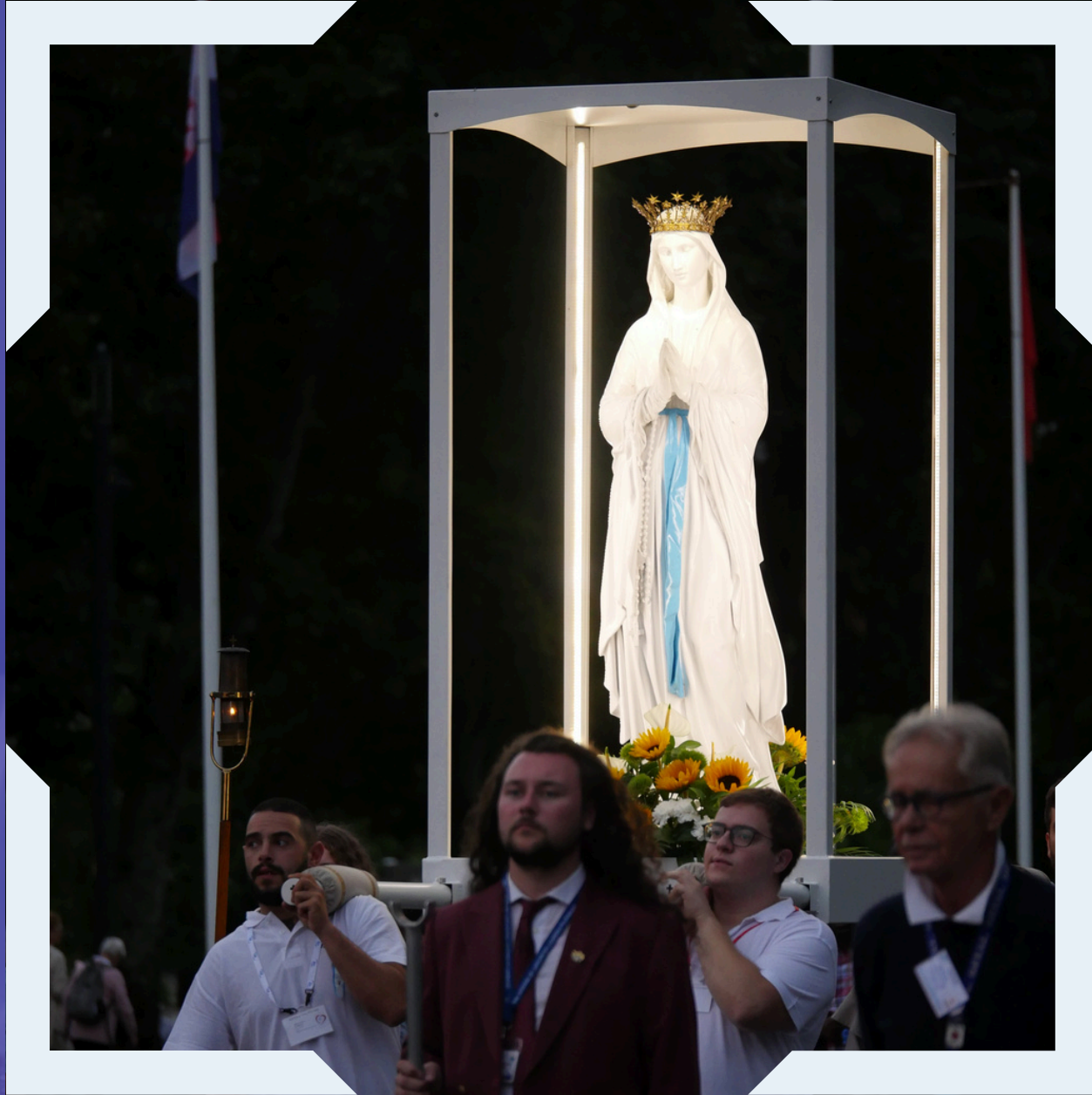


SATURDAY 25TH JULY

- All coaches return to St Joseph The Worker, Hutton for approx 11:30am
- Final Mass of the Pilgrimage
 - St Joseph the Worker, approx 12pm



RETURN



Passport valid for at least
6 months after return

✓ Valid GHIC or EHIC card

✓ Any required visa



TRAVEL DOCUMENTS



QUESTIONS?

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www.bcys.net

gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org



SEE YOU IN 3 WEEKS!