

Pilgrims venerate relics of St Bernadette

by Margaret Surrey

ON SATURDAY, October 1, we went to St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle, for the visitation of the relics of St Bernadette. Getting off the bus at Clayton

Street we were amazed at the number of people, with the queue stretching from the cathedral doors to the Cardinal Hume statue facing Central Station.

We joined the happy pilgrims and while we waited some of our priests

— Fr Sean O'Neill, Fr Stephen Watson and even Bishop Robert — came down to talk to us and to keep our spirits up.

We entered the cathedral after a one-and-a-half hour wait, in time for Benediction. Our group from St Anne's Church, Winlaton, got front room pews.

Fr Jonathan Bowes asked us to process behind the Blessed Sacrament around the cathedral — a great honour. We then venerated the relics of St Bernadette.

Thanks to everyone who made this visit possible. As we have not been able to visit the shrine of Lourdes for a couple of years Our Lady sent St Bernadette to us.

This was a wonderful day for our diocese.

Afterwards we went to the cathedral cafe for a much-needed cup of tea and piece of cake.

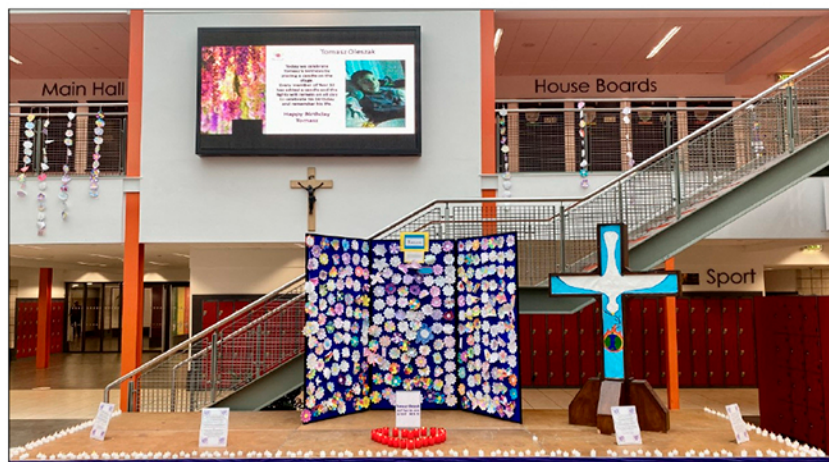
● Turn to page 24 to see more photographs.



□ The relics of St Bernadette.

Photo: Mike March/ Pilgrim Photography. diocesnh.org.uk

□ Bishop Robert Byrne with Theresa Elliott, Maureen Nicholson and Brian Surrey.



□ Students and staff remembered Tomasz in a special way on October 19, which would have been his birthday. Every student in year 10 placed a candle on the stage and his tutor group placed the larger red candles that formed a heart.

In loving memory of Tomasz Oleszak

THE Cardinal Hume Catholic School community is deeply saddened and shocked by the death of Tomasz Oleszak following an incident in the local area recently.

No parent, no family, no friend, no school, no community should have to deal with such news and understandably they are all shaken by this tragic event.

As a much loved and treasured pupil, Tomasz was a dedicated and committed young man who was the life and soul of his friendship group.

Tomasz was charismatic and engaging, and always displayed a great sense of humour.

He was a loyal friend who others could turn to as well as as a talented footballer and wonderful team

player who has been described by his friends as "someone you'd always want to have on your team".

The staff will remember his warmth, energy and positive personality. He will be sorely missed.

Staff and pupils have paid tribute to Tomasz with handwritten tributes and prayers filling the school atrium. Each pupil and member of staff is also wearing a purple ribbon in his memory. (Purple was Tomasz' favourite colour.)

In the challenging times ahead, the school's priority is to do everything they can to care for and support Tomasz' family, and the students and staff of the school, who are understandably struggling, head teacher Brendan Robson said.

£400,000 FCJ Bicentenary Scholarship Fund launched

DURHAM University's Centre for Catholic Studies has announced a new four-year postgraduate scholarship fund in partnership with The Faithful Companions of Jesus to mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the FCJ Society.

The Sisters would like to enhance their apostolic outreach as well as support ministries fitting with the FCJ charism, ethos and calls of their 2019 General Chapter.

The partnership continues the Sisters' dedication to education and the centre's aim to form outstanding theologians and scholars who will shape the future from the richness of Catholic tradition in the Church, academy and public life.

FCJ area leader Sr Brid Liston said: "It is good to be able to support the development of students in the CCS, Durham University, given the commitment of the FCJ Society to education in the North East, particularly in Middlesbrough and Hartlepool, for over 150 years."

Scholarship applications are open to and encouraged among those hoping to pursue postgraduate research across broad themes aligned to the FCJ Chapter calls of 'compassionate action' and 'care for our common home'.

Applications are particularly encouraged from women in the North East.

For more details visit durham.ac.uk/research/institutes-and-centres/catholic-studies/facilities/funding/



□ CCS scholarship students on Palace Green, Durham.