

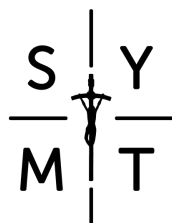
WHAT IS A *Marian* APPARITION ?



There are times throughout history when
Our Lady has appeared
that the Church has declared to be
'worthy of belief'.

Catholics are not required to believe in
these approved apparitions however there
are some that have become very popular
devotions.

AD
Jesum
PER
Mariam



TO
Jesus
THROUGH
Mary

OUR LADY OF Lourdes

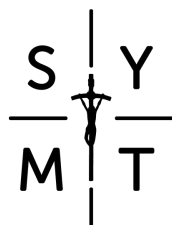


In 1858 a 14 year old girl from a poor family, Bernadette Soubirous was collecting firewood in a remote area of France. As she crossed the stream she saw:

'A LADY DRESSED IN WHITE, WEARING A WHITE DRESS, A BLUE GIRDLE AND A YELLOW ROSE ON EACH FOOT, THE SAME COLOR AS THE CHAIN OF HER ROSARY; THE BEADS OF THE ROSARY WERE WHITE...'

Our Lady appeared a total of 18 times to St Bernadette, during which a spring appeared. Many healings have been reported from this water, just over 60 of these have been approved as miraculous.

Today Lourdes is a popular pilgrimage site where many people still bathe in in the waters and take part in the processions.



'I AM THE
Immaculate
Conception'

OUR LADY OF Guadalupe

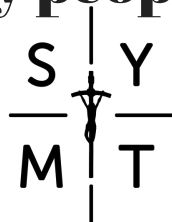


On his way to mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1571, Juan Diego saw a vision of a beautiful young woman surrounded in light on Tepyac Hill near Mexico. She told him how much she loved her people and that he should build a church for her. No one believed Juan Diego so Our Lady said that she would show them a sign.

'DO NOT LET YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED... AM I NOT HERE, I, WHO AM YOUR MOTHER? ARE YOU NOT UNDER MY SHADOW AND PROTECTION? AM I NOT YOUR SOURCE OF JOY? ARE YOU NOT IN THE HOLLOW OF MY MANTLE, IN THE CROSSING OF MY ARMS?'

Our Lady told Juan Diego to gather some wild flowers into his tilma (a cactus fibre cloak) and present them to the Bishop. When Juan Diego opened his cloak they all saw an image of the beautiful woman on it, this was the sign they needed.

The image still miraculously remains on the garment 400 years later and many people still travel on pilgrimage to see it.



OUR LADY OF Fatima



In 1917, during WWI, three shepherd children saw a flash of light in the sky. There was

"A LADY, CLOTHED IN WHITE, BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN, RADIATING A LIGHT MORE CLEAR AND INTENSE THAN A CRYSTAL CUP FILLED WITH SPARKLING WATER, LIT BY BURNING SUNLIGHT."

Over the next few months Our Lady appeared to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta six times. She encouraged them to say the rosary and to make sacrifices to pray for the end of the war.

'DON'T LOSE HEART. I WILL NEVER FORSAKE YOU. MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL BE YOUR REFUGE AND THE WAY THAT WILL LEAD YOU TO GOD.'

Later in the year people had heard about the children and their visions and a large crowd had gathered in the rain. The clouds parted and the sun 'danced' across the sky, everyone found that their clothes had dried too.

"WHEN YOU PRAY THE ROSARY, SAY AFTER EACH MYSTERY: 'O MY JESUS, FORGIVE US, SAVE US FROM THE FIRE OF HELL. LEAD ALL SOULS TO HEAVEN, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE MOST IN NEED.'"

