

# FATIMA

Fatima is a shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the mountain region of central Portugal near Cova da Iria. It was the scene of six apparitions of Our Lady, from May 13 to October 13, 1917, to three peasant children, Lucia Santos, Jacinta Marto and her brother Francisco. During the apparitions the Virgin Mary told the children to have processions in honour of her Immaculate Conception and to tell the faithful to do penance and pray the Rosary because otherwise the world would be chastised for its sins. During the October apparition seventy thousand people witnessed a spectacular solar phenomenon which became known as the Miracle of the Sun. Among the crowds were sceptics and non-believers who were converted. The Miracle was widely reported in the newspapers.



In 1930 the bishops of Portugal declared the apparitions to be authentic, and in 1942 Pope Pius XII, in response to the Virgin Mary's request, consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1967 Pope Paul VI visited and prayed at the shrine on the fiftieth anniversary of the apparitions.

In 1982 Pope John Paul II made a pilgrimage to the shrine in thanksgiving for his survival of an assassination attempt the previous year - an attempt that had been made on May 13, the anniversary of the first apparition.

Our Lady of Fatima is also known as Our Lady of the Rosary. Prior to the apparitions an Angel had appeared to the children and taught them the following prayers:

## FATIMA PRAYERS

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee, and I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee.

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly, and I offer Thee the most precious Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ really and truly present in every tabernacle of the world, in reparation for the countless outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which He Himself is offended, and through the infinite merits of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners. Amen.