

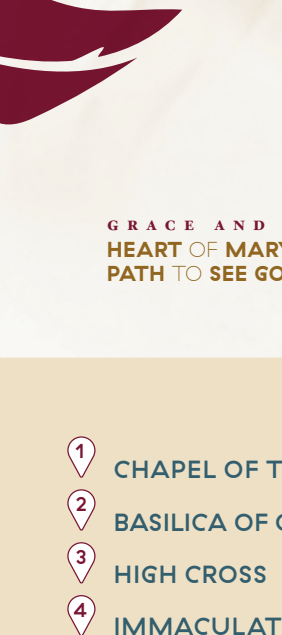


SANTUÁRIO DE FÁTIMA
SHRINE OF FATIMA

EN

PILGRIM'S ITINERARY SHRINE

2025-2027



GRACE AND MERCY:
HEART OF MARY,
PATH TO SEE GOD

PASTORAL
BIENNIUM
2025-2027

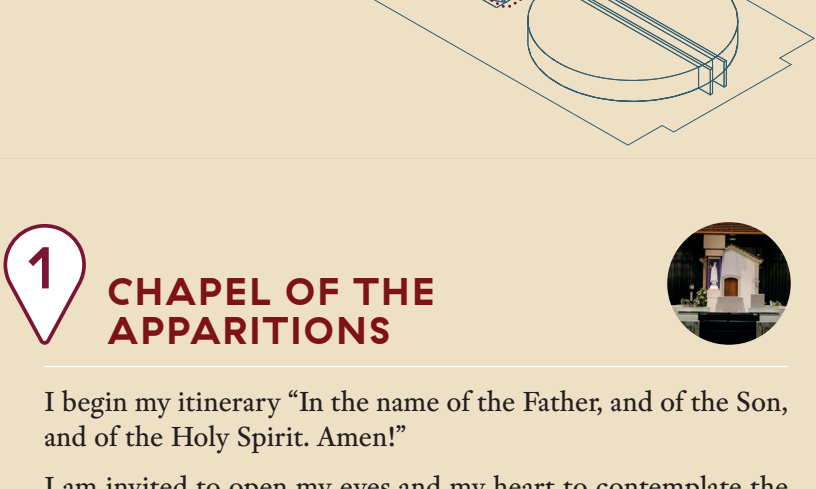
1 CHAPEL OF THE APPARITIONS

2 BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY OF FATIMA

3 HIGH CROSS

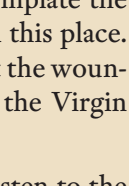
4 IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

5 BASILICA OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



1

CHAPEL OF THE APPARITIONS



I begin my itinerary “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!”

I am invited to open my eyes and my heart to contemplate the signs of the living memory of God’s manifestation in this place. Here, in the heart of Cova da Iria, God came to meet the wounded humanity to offer his *grace and mercy* through the Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ and our Mother.

Recognising this gift, I prepare myself inwardly to listen to the voice of God, which in Fatima was heard in a maternal tone.

— *Are you willing to offer yourselves to God?*

— *Yes, we are willing.*

— *Then you are going to have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort.*

As she pronounced these last words [...], Our Lady opened her hands for the first time, communicating to us a light so intense that, as it streamed from her hands, its rays penetrated our hearts and the innermost depths of our souls, making us see ourselves in God, Who was that light, more clearly than we see ourselves in the best of mirrors.

[*Memoirs of Sister Lucia, 13 May 1917*]

The small chapel in which I find myself is the heart of the Shrine. It marks the place where the Lady brighter than the sun appeared to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta in 1917, offering them — and also each one of us today — her Immaculate Heart as a refuge and a way to God.

This chapel is, in a way, an image of that faithful and maternal heart: a place of silence, recollection and prayer, which guards and celebrates the mysteries of Christ, open to all and leading everyone to God.

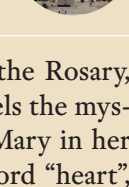
I am invited to be silent and to gather myself for a moment under Mary’s gaze and in her heart. If appropriate, I can pray the rosary here, meditating with her and like her on the mysteries of Jesus’ life. Like the little shepherds, I entrust myself to her care and let her envelop me in God’s light and lead me to say ‘yes’ to Him. I can do this through this prayer:

*Hail, Mother of the Lord,
Virgin Mary, Queen of the Rosary of Fatima!
Blessed among all women,
you are the image of the Church dressed in the Paschal light,
you are the honour of our people,
you are the triumph over every assault of evil.
Prophecy of the merciful love of the Father,
Teacher of the Annunciation of the Good News of the Son,
Sign of the burning Fire of the Holy Spirit,
teach us, in this valley of joys and sorrows,
the eternal truths that the Father reveals to the little ones.
Show us the might of your mantle of protection.
In your Immaculate Heart,
be the refuge of sinners
and the way that leads to God.
In union with my brothers and sisters,
In Faith, Hope and Love,
I surrender myself to you.
In union with my brothers and sisters, through you, I consecrate myself to God,
O Virgin of the Rosary of Fatima.
And thus surrounded by the Light that comes from your hands,
I will give Glory to the Lord for ever and ever.
Amen.*

I set off towards the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima.

2

BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY OF FATIMA



In this basilica, entirely dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, I can contemplate in the bas-reliefs of the side chapels the mysteries of Christ’s life, kept and meditated upon by Mary in her heart — that is to say, in the biblical sense of the word “heart”, entirely assumed by Mary in her life. It is these mysteries, of which the entire life of the Mother of Jesus is a transparent manifestation — as we can also perceive in various stained glass windows in this basilica —, that those who pray the rosary are invited to contemplate, so that their lives too may take on the features of Jesus.

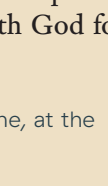
Here lie the tombs of the Little Shepherds to whom Our Lady appeared. Opening themselves in docility, each in their own way learned from her the attitude of heart that disposes one to walk the *path to see* God, the path of holiness. It is in daily fidelity, in progressively allowing oneself to be reconfigured by God’s love, conforming one’s heart to the heart of Christ, that the life of those who desire God to be their everything is moulded. It is precisely towards this totality that the devotion of the First Saturdays pedagogically guides us: confession, reparatory communion, praying the rosary while meditating on the mysteries of Christ’s life, and consoling silence with Mary are means by which we desire and seek to place our entire lives in God’s hands, responding with love to His love.

I approach the tombs of St. Francisco Marto, St. Jacinta Marto and Venerable Sister Lúcia de Jesus. I pause there in contemplative and prayerful silence, asking for their intercession with God for the good of the Church, humanity and the world.

I continue my pilgrimage towards the High Cross of the Shrine, at the top of the Prayer Area.

3

HIGH CROSS



When Jesus therefore saw His mother and the disciple standing by whom He loved, He said unto His mother, “Woman, behold thy son!” Then said He to the disciple, “Behold thy mother!” And from that hour, that disciple took her unto his own home.

[*Jn 19:26-27*]

In front of the palm of Our Lady’s right hand was a heart encircled by thorns which pierced it. We understood that this was the Immaculate Heart of Mary, outraged by the sins of humanity.

[*Memoirs of Sister Lucia, 13 June 1917*]

At the top of the enclosure stands this large cross. The cross shows me how radical God’s love is. In His large man, God embraced and took on all of humanity, with all its complexity and wounds.

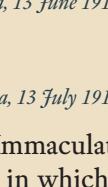
As the woman of the new humanity born of Christ’s Passover, Mary is the one whose heart lived totally centred on God and united to Him, receiving entirely this form of her Son’s heart.

Just as she stood at the foot of the cross of her Son, called to be the Mother of all the redeemed, Mary remains at the foot of the cross of humanity. To repair her wounded heart is nothing more than to consent to a movement of conversion, which welcomes and collaborates with the salvation offered by Christ, who died and rose again out of love for us.

I descend to the Galilee of the Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul and go to the atrium of the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. I contemplate the sculpture “In the Heart of Mary”.

4

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY



— *Are you suffering a great deal? 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.*

As Our Lady spoke these last words, she opened her hands and for the second time, she communicated to us the rays of that same immense light. We saw ourselves in this light, as it were, immersed in God.

[*Memoirs of Sister Lucia, 13 June 1917*]

In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.

[*Memoirs of Sister Lucia, 13 July 1917*]

Before this white heart, which is the image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, full of light and grace — full of God! — in which I see myself reflected, I recognise myself welcomed into the heart of the Virgin Mother.

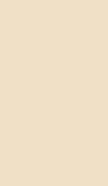
Filled with the glory of the Trinity, the Lady of the Immaculate Heart lives in the light of God and in the splendour of the vision of God. It is this same pure and maternal light that offers itself to every believer, as tenderly assured to Lucia in June 1917, as a refuge and a path to God.

In Fatima, the Lady of the Immaculate Heart reminds us that in her we find a tender refuge and a sure path to her and our God. In her heart *we see* God and *we see ourselves in* God.

If I feel called to do so, I can go to the Chapels of Reconciliation to lay before God, through his minister, the cracks in my heart, the fractures in my life, my sin. It is by God’s grace that hearts are renewed and enlightened; mine too can be renewed and reconfigured by Him.

5

BASILICA OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



The great church in which I find myself, dedicated to God the Trinity, is both an image and a place of realisation of the *ecclesia*, the assembly gathered by Christ, in communal celebration of their faith, in a living encounter with Him. With this community is Mary, Mother of the Church, docile to the Holy Spirit, who waited with the Apostles for God’s gift and who always directs our gaze and our hearts to Christ and His Kingdom.

I renew my awareness that I am a member of this community, that I too am invited to follow Jesus and called to bear witness to the good news of salvation that He Himself is. I recall my baptism and the call to let God make my heart pure and open to all. I renew my commitment to living as a member of the Body of Christ, inwardly professing my faith — the faith of the Church, of which I am a part — and striving to live in communion of one heart and one soul with those who call God ‘Father’.

I conclude my journey with the awareness that I am a beloved child, surrendering myself to the Father, praying the prayer that Jesus taught:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
and forgive us our trespasses,
those who have trespassed against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.*