

Miracles and Sacrament of the Sick unit

Key words Vocabulary:

Miracle

Healing

Pilgrimage

Sacraments

Sacrament of the Sick

Special pilgrimages to places of faith

Today, many people of faith seek healing from sickness. Some people never experience this healing.

It is important to pray for people who are sick.



Pilgrimage

What does that word mean?

Look it up in the dictionary

Do you know of any places of pilgrimage where Christians gather to pray and sometimes seek God's healing.

Lourdes/Knock/Fatima/Holy Land in Jerusalem

Lourdes

Think

- Are pilgrimages just for sick people?
- How can they help the rest of us?



Pilgrimage



What is a pilgrimage?
Why is it different to other special journeys?



Photo courtesy of Roland Darré - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Christianity and Pilgrimage

There are different views on pilgrimage in Christianity.

Going on pilgrimage is important to some Christians, whereas others do not believe it is that important.

The Christians who do go on pilgrimage tend to go to places because they:

are mentioned in the New Testament in the Bible, especially the Holy Land;

are associated with saints or miracles.



Pilgrimages to the Holy Land

Mount Sinai

In the Old Testament, this is where Moses received the Ten Commandments.



Pilgrimages to the Holy Land

Bethlehem (Palestine)

A stable in Bethlehem is where the Bible says Jesus was born.



Pilgrimages to the Holy Land

Nazareth (Israel)

This is where Jesus lived as a young child. As an adult, he was known as Jesus of Nazareth.



Pilgrimages to the Holy Land

Jerusalem (Israel/Palestine)

This is the city where Jesus died.



Pilgrimages to Places Related to Saints or Miracles

St. Peter's Basilica, Rome (Italy)

Saint Peter, disciple of Jesus and first Bishop of Rome, was martyred and believed to be buried here. It is now the home of the Pope, who is the leader of the Roman Catholic Church.



Pilgrimages to Places Related to Saints or Miracles

Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

Saint James, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, is believed to be buried in the cathedral.



Pilgrimages to Places Related to Saints or Miracles

The Grotto, Lourdes (France)

This is a site where Bernadette Soubirous saw visions of Mary, Jesus' mother. A spring was found and pilgrims go there as they believe the water is holy and can help cure them.



Vatican City, Rome

The Vatican City in Rome is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It is an independent state that is run by the pope, who is the bishop of Rome and the head of the Catholic Church. Pope Francis has been the pope since 2013.

Vatican City is the smallest country in the world, with an area of approximately 110 acres and a population of around 800 people. The only people allowed to live in the Vatican City are clergy (religious people) and the Swiss Guards who are the police force of the country.



The Holy Land and Jerusalem

The Holy Land is an area in the Middle East that is holy to Christianity, Islam and Judaism. The name roughly refers to the region of Palestine. Jesus was born, crucified and died here.

Certain editions of the Bible had maps of the Holy Land, and you may recognise some of the names such as Galilee, Samaria and Judea.

Lots of people travel to Jerusalem every year to visit the places where Jesus is said to have been.



Lourdes

Lourdes is a small market town in the south of France, at the foot of the Pyrenees mountains.

Lourdes became famous across the world in 1858, when a young girl called Bernadette Soubirous claimed that she saw an apparition of Mary, Jesus' mother. It soon became one of the world's most important sites of pilgrimage and religious tourism.

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes is an area that surrounds the grotto of Mary. It is believed that the water in this grotto has healing powers. Today, Lourdes gets around six million visitors to the town every year from all over the globe. These visitors come in the hopes of curing their illness or injuries.



Santiago de Compostela

Santiago de Compostela is the capital city of Galicia in Spain. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The cathedral in Santiago de Compostela is world-famous because it is the destination of a pilgrimage route called The Way of Saint James. People have walked this route for centuries.

It is believed that the cathedral is where Saint James was buried. He was one of Jesus' apostles.



Knock

Knock Shrine is an important pilgrimage site in the town of Knock in County Mayo, Ireland.

On a wet August evening in 1879, a girl called Mary Byrne was walking her friend, Mary McLoughlin, home. They stopped at the gable of the local church, because three figures appeared before them: Mary, Saint Joseph and Saint John. They ran off to tell the locals and up to 25 people gathered to watch the scene for approximately two hours in the pouring rain.

Knock has become one of the major pilgrimage sites in Europe since then.



Fatima

Fatima is another place associated with apparitions. The shrine in Fatima, which is in Portugal, marks the spot where the Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children over the course of 6 months in 1917. They said that they saw a 'lady dressed in white' and shining with a bright light.

Two of the children died of the flu soon after, while the third child grew up to become a nun.

Since the apparition, there has been a small chapel, shrine, large basilica and sanctuary built and visitors flock to Fatima every year to spend time in this holy place.



Czestochowa

Czestochowa is a city in southern Poland, beside the Warta river. It is famous due to the Jasna Góra Monastery, a shrine to the Virgin Mary.

Within the monastery, there is a basilica and the Chapel of the Miraculous Painting of Our Lady. This is where you will find the Black Madonna painting, a shrine to the Virgin Mary. People come from far and wide every year to see it, as it is believed to have miraculous powers.



Respond/TASK

Create an information sheet/page about Lourdes. (or any other place of pilgrimage that you find interesting)

Include:

- Where it is
- Some facts about it
- Why people may benefit from going there.

Prayer

God of our pilgrimage,
you have given us a desire
to take the questing way
and set out on our journey.
Help us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus,
that whatever we encounter as we travel,
we may seek to glorify you by the way we live. Amen

