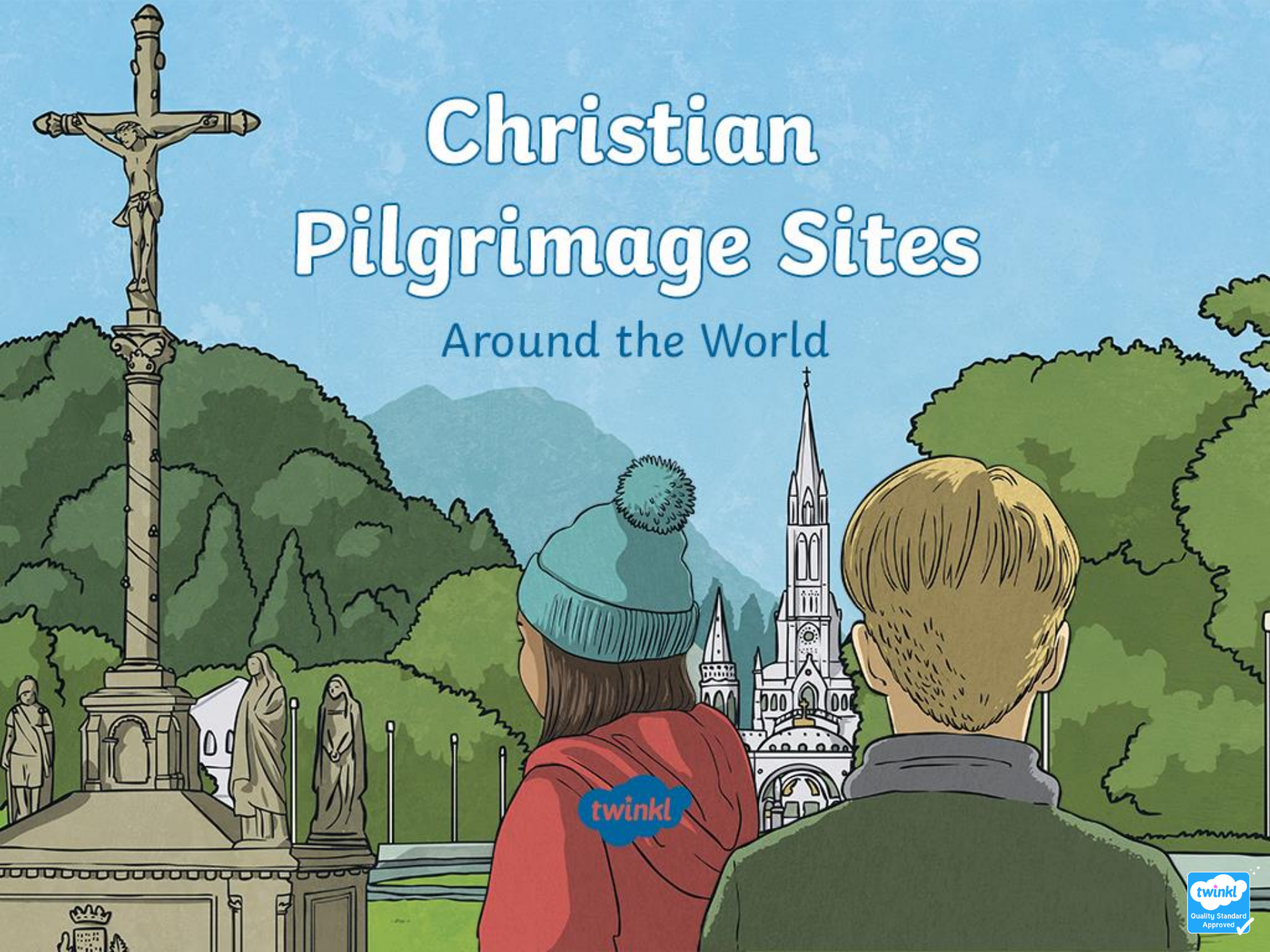

Christian
Pilgrimage Sites
Around the World
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Learning objective: To know places of pilgrimage for Christians and why they are important to them.

Today we are going to make a whistle stop tour of 7 sites around the world which Christians make pilgrimages to.

Task One: Please complete a **5W**s for three of the sites. (**W**ho, **W**here, **W**hat, **W**hen and **W**hy – not all the Ws may be applicable so try to choose the sites that cover the most Ws)

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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.



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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.





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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.

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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.





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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.





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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.



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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.



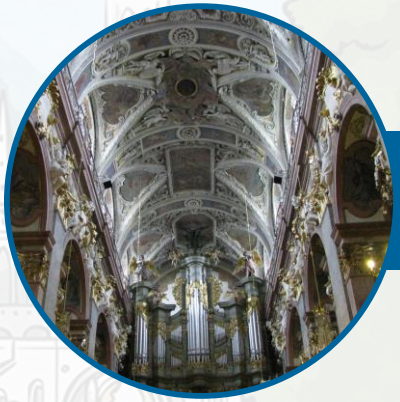


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Now we are going to have a more detailed look at one of these pilgrimage sites, Lourdes in France

Lourdes is a town in France where up to six million pilgrims go every year! Lourdes is a special place of a famous vision seen by a 14-year old called Bernadette Soubirous in 1858.

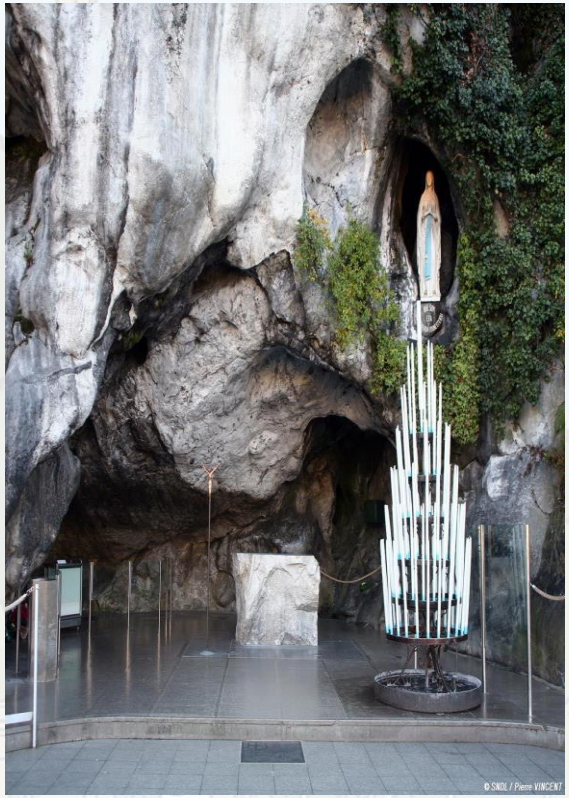


One day, when Bernadette was out collecting firewood she is said to have seen Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Mary appeared to her dressed in white with a blue sash and a yellow rose on each foot. Bernadette had visions of Mary many times.

You may like to watch this video clip (please zip past the adverts) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGe_P7oaSgQ

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The location of where Bernadette's vision took place has a statue of Mary and is called the Grotto.



In one vision, Mary asked Bernadette to drink water where she was standing. The next day clear water appeared at that spot. A few days later, a stonecutter is said to have bathed his eyes with the water and reported a miraculous cure. Hearing of this, pilgrims started to go to Lourdes, believing that the spring had healing powers.

During a different vision, Bernadette was told that a chapel should be built. In total, three churches were built, which together are called the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes.

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Bernadette became a nun when she was older. She died of a disease called tuberculosis when she was 33 years old in 1879. She was made a saint by the Roman Catholic church and her saint's day is 18th February.

Between four and six million pilgrims go to Lourdes every year. The main pilgrimage season is between April and October. On 15th August, the main day, the Feast of the Assumption is celebrated to remember Mary ascending to heaven.

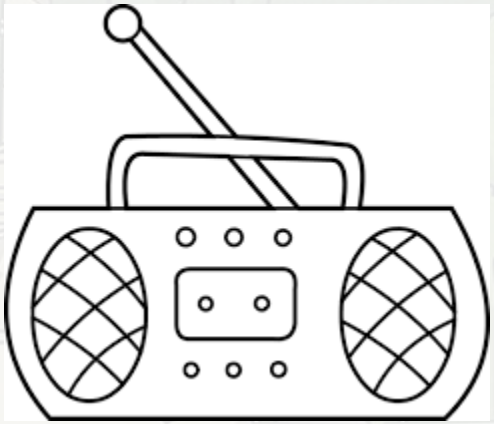
Please watch this clip which summarises why people make the pilgrimage to Lourdes.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7GHlVUhj9c

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Your final task

Please make an advert – radio clip, drama sketch, or poster to encourage Christians to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

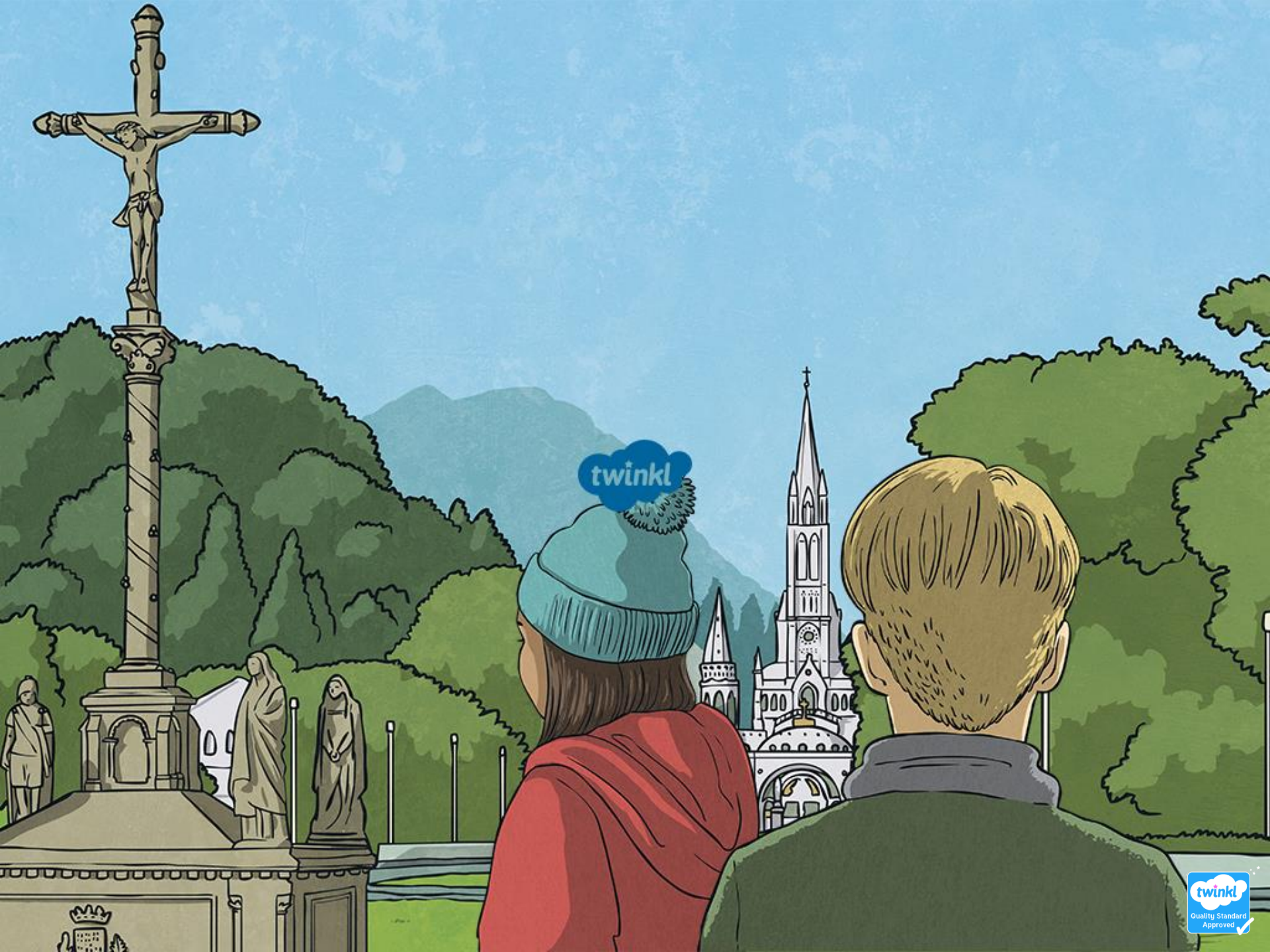
Include as many details as you can about the benefits of making a pilgrimage and why Lourdes is so special and important.







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