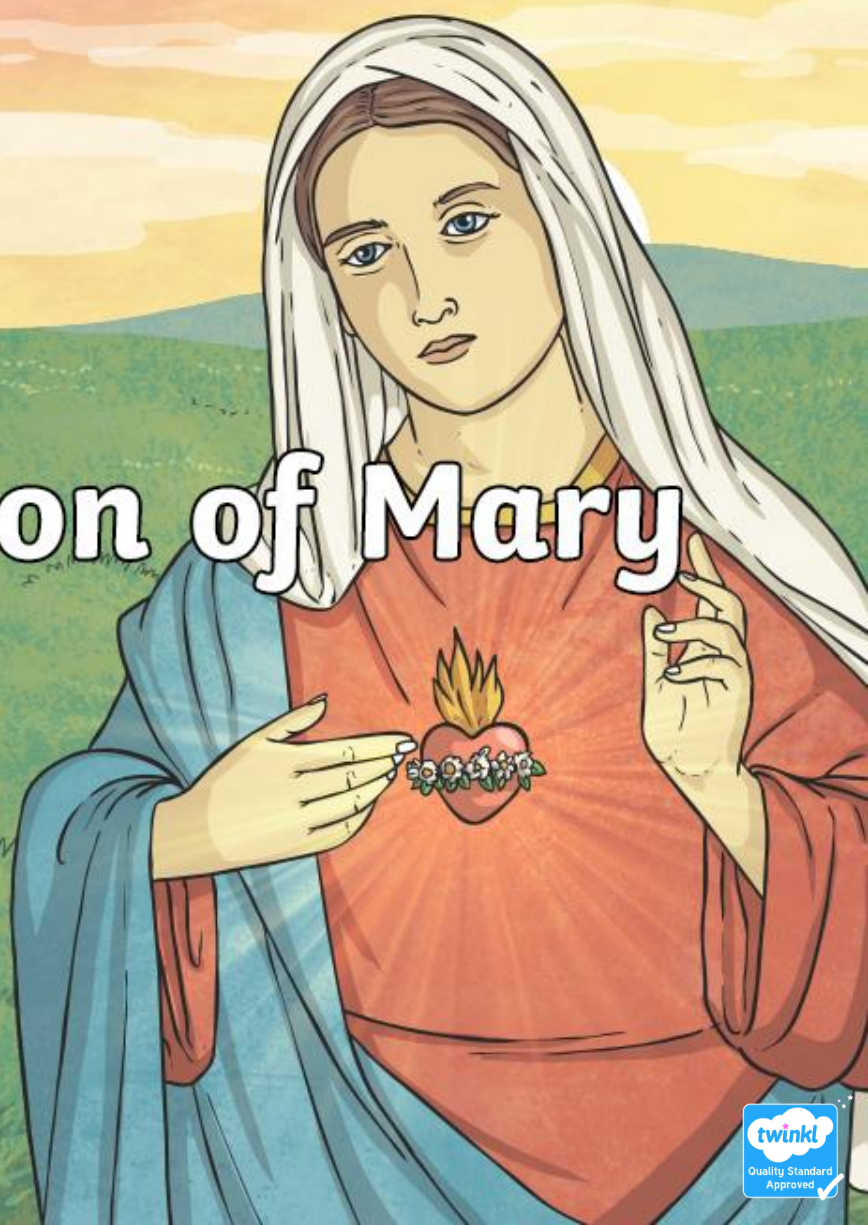
The Assumption of Mary



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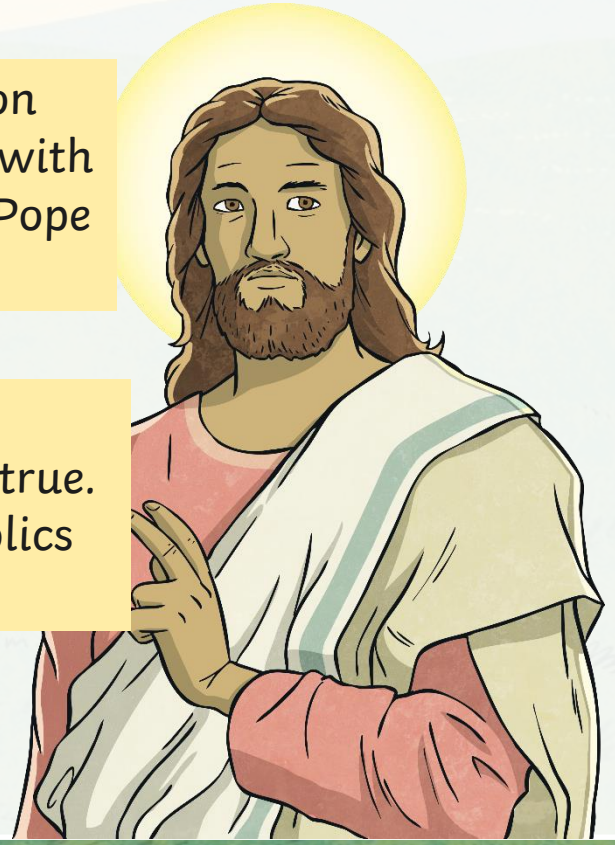
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What Is the Assumption of Mary?

The Assumption of Mary is a doctrine (or teaching) of the Catholic Church, which states that after the Holy Mother of Jesus died, she was resurrected, glorified, and her soul was taken to heaven.

The Assumption signals the end of Mary's life on Earth and her return to heaven to be reunited with Jesus. This doctrine was defined as dogma by Pope Pius XII on 1st November 1950.

A dogma, in religious terminology, is a principle or set of principles believed to be true. It is therefore a required belief of all Catholics and followers of the Catholic Church.



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The Assumption of Mary

It is observed on 15th August every year.
The Assumption of Mary is also known by the following names:



the Dormition of the Mother of God;

the Feast of the Assumption;

the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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Background History

Teachings of the Assumption of Mary have existed since the fourth century.

The earliest printed reference to the belief was a document entitled 'The Falling Asleep of the Holy Mother of God.'



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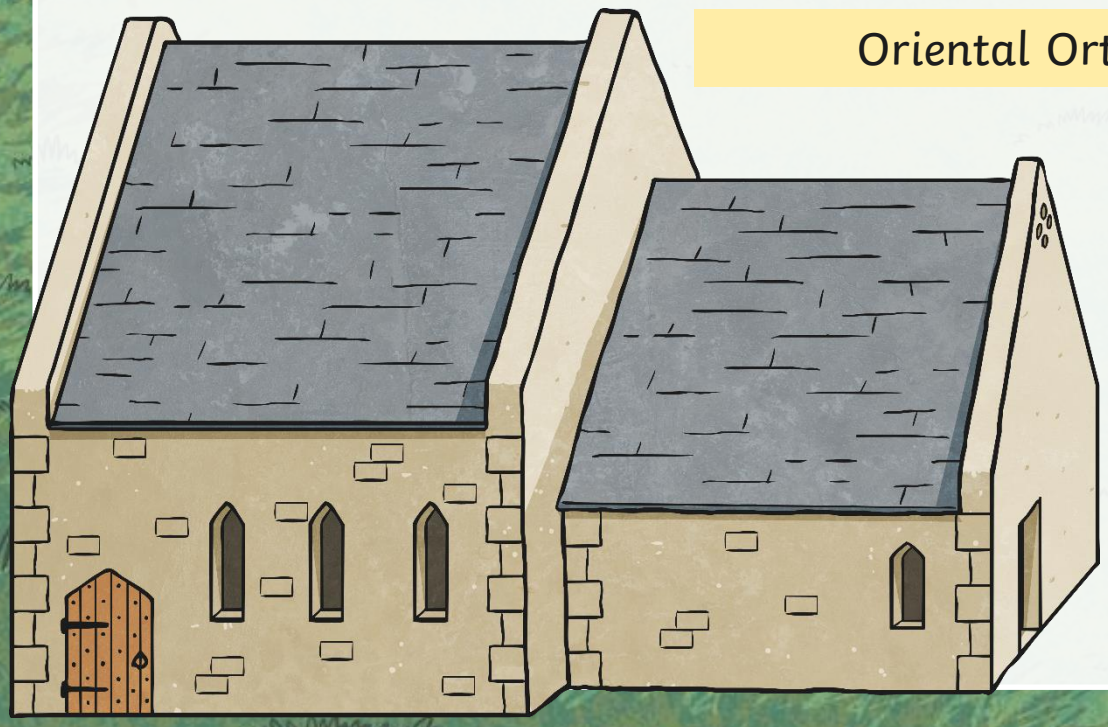
Who Is It Celebrated By?

The Assumption of Mary, although it is a teaching of the Catholic Church, is also an important belief within the following churches:

some parts of the Anglican Communion;

the Eastern Orthodox Church;

Oriental Orthodox Churches.



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How Is It Celebrated?

Assumption Day is a Holy Day of Obligation – Catholics are obliged to attend church services.

On this day, many people attend church services.

The Feast of the Assumption of Mary is celebrated with music, food, fireworks and processions through the streets.

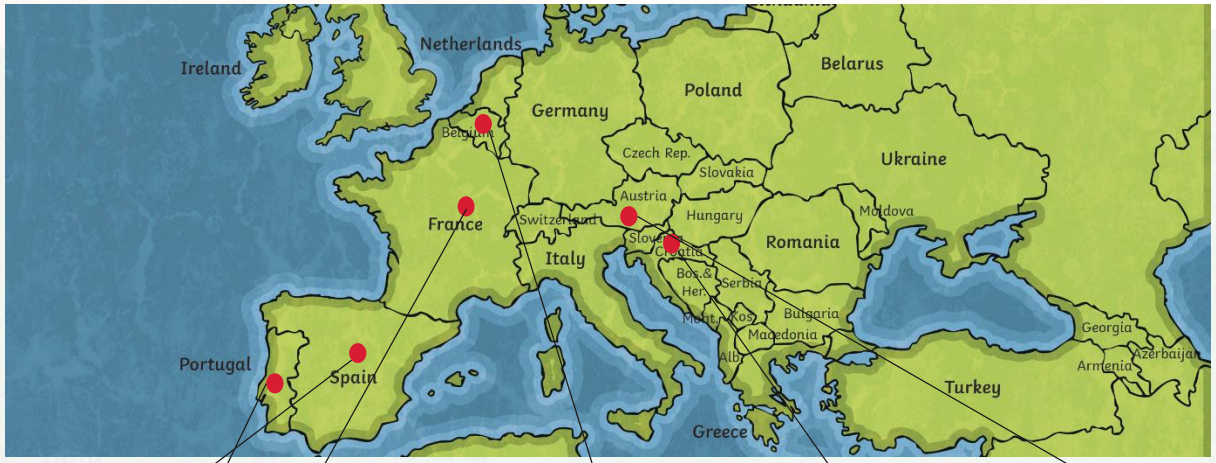


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Where Is It Celebrated?

Assumption Day is a public holiday in the following countries:



Spain

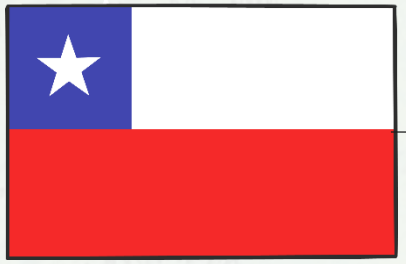
France

Belgium

Croatia

Austria

Portugal



Chile

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Symbols of the Assumption of Mary

In Italy, the celebrations include night-time bonfires and fireworks. People also throw coins from the windows to the street below to symbolise fortune and prosperity.



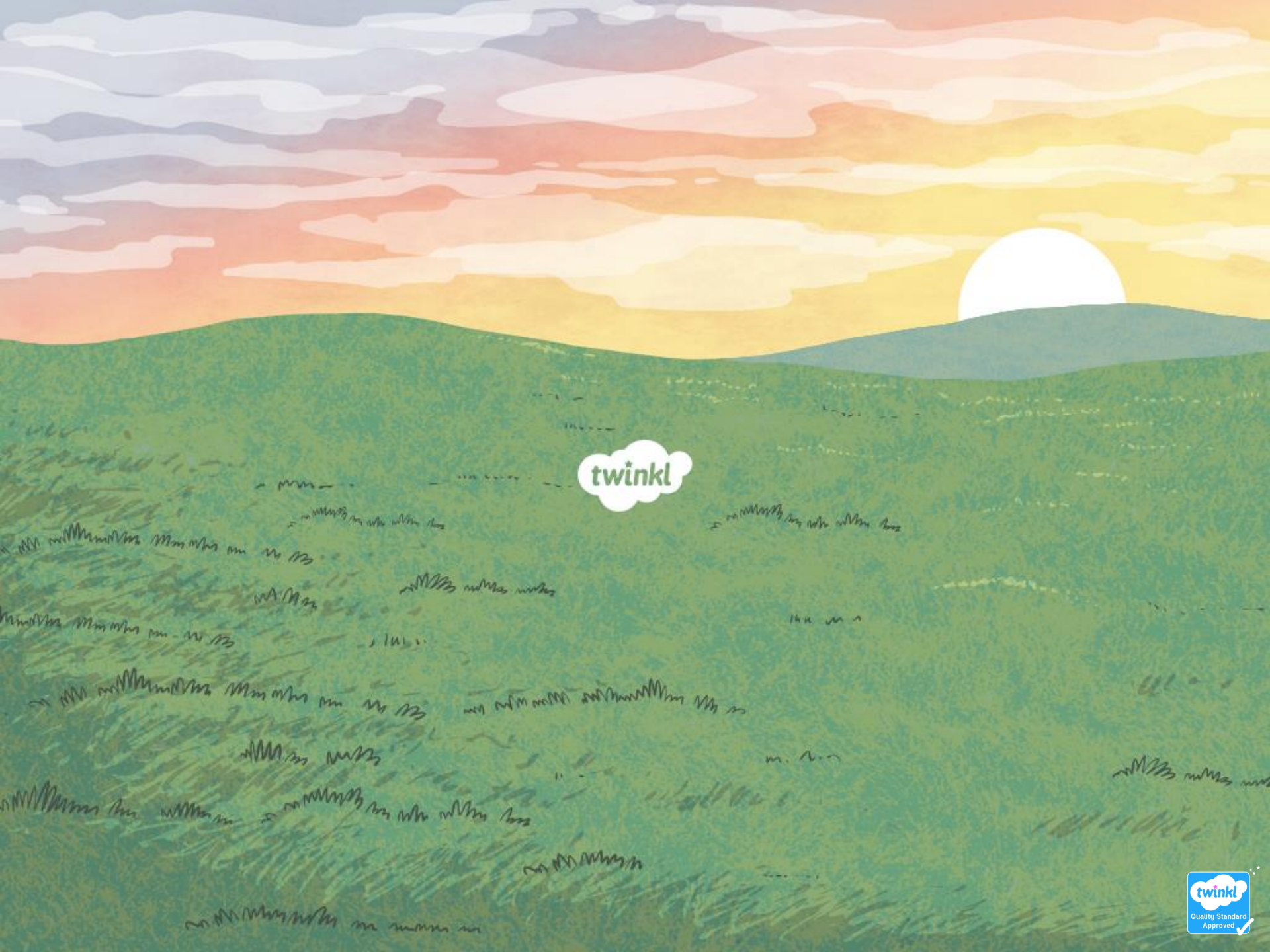


The colour blue is often associated with the Virgin Mary as it symbolises truth, clarity and heaven (the colour of the sky).

The lily is also a symbol of the Virgin Mary because it represents purity and simplicity.



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