

Visits of the Popes to Fatima



Living Fatima at WYD

Studies Department of the Shrine of Fatima

VISIT OF PAUL VI

1967-05-13

Paul VI, in the context of the celebrations of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Apparitions of Fatima, is the first Pope to go on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima; here he meets the seer Lucia de Jesus, who had come from Carmel to take part in the celebration. On the same day, the Apostolic Exhortation “Signum Magnum” is published, consecrated to the cult of the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church and model of all virtues.

1ST VISIT OF JOHN PAUL II

1982-05-12 to 1982-05-15

Pope John Paul II makes his first pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima. The main purpose of the pontiff’s journey was to thank the Virgin Mary for her protection during the serious attack he had suffered a year earlier in St Peter’s Square at the Vatican. At the Eucharist on 13 May, he renews the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. On the same day, he met Lucia de Jesus in private at the Retreat House of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

2ND VISIT OF JOHN PAUL II

1991-05-12 to 1991-05-13

John Paul II is on pilgrimage for the second time to the Shrine of Fatima, ten years after he was the target of an assassination attempt in St Peter’s Square at the Vatican. As part of this pilgrimage, the Pope addressed the Virgin with these words clearly related to the geopolitical moment that Europe was experiencing after 1989: “Thank you, Heavenly Shepherdess, for having guided the peoples to freedom with maternal affection!”

3RD VISIT OF JOHN PAUL II

2000-05-12 to 2000-05-13

Pope John Paul II makes his third pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima. At the Mass he presides over on 13 May, in the presence of the seer Lucia de Jesus, he beatifies Francisco and Jacinta Marto. At the end of the celebration, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican Secretary of State, reveals the content of the third part of the Secret of Fatima.

VISIT OF BENEDICT XVI

2010-05-12 to 2010-05-13

Pope Benedict XVI makes a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima and presents a Golden Rose to the Shrine. His words regarding the 100th anniversary of the Apparitions of Fatima, which would be celebrated seven years later, lead the Shrine of Fatima to launch an itinerary to commemorate the centenary of the Apparitions of Cova da Iria.

1ST VISIT OF FRANCIS

2017-05-12 to 2017-05-13

Pope Francis comes as a pilgrim to the Shrine of Fatima to preside over the celebrations of the Centenary of the Apparitions. Upon his arrival in Cova da Iria, he offers the third Golden Rose to the Shrine. At the Eucharist celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first apparition in Cova da Iria, he canonises Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

2ND VISIT OF FRANCISCO

2023-08-05

Pope Francis makes a second pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima, as part of World Youth Day in Lisbon, where he meets young people with disabilities.

NOTE

Popes John XXIII, John Paul I and Benedict XVI were also at Fatima, but before their election to the chair of St Peter:

JOHN XXIII

1956-05-12 to 1956-05-13 | Cardinal Angelo Roncalli, Patriarch of Venice and future Pope John XXIII, presides over the May pilgrimage at the Shrine of Fatima.

JOHN PAUL I

1977-07-10 to 1977-07-11 | Albino Lucciani, Cardinal Patriarch of Venice and future Pope John Paul I, goes on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fatima and visits Lucia de Jesus in the Carmel of Coimbra.

BENEDICT XVI

1996-10-12 to 1996-10-13 | Joseph Ratzinger, Cardinal and future Pope Benedict XVI, presides over the anniversary pilgrimage to Fatima. He will return to Fatima as Pope in May 2010.