In the still of the spring night and bathed in the glow of hundreds of thousands of candles, Eugene Menguito stands amidst a sea of people, brightly coloured banners and national flags. Metres away, the statue of Our Lady of the Rosary makes her way through the crowd, travelling through the square on a bed of white roses. Devotees sing Ave Maria with so much fervour the song rings out across the town. It is a sight and sound the Menguitos will never forget.

“We could feel our hearts pounding like we could feel the closeness of Heaven,” says Eugene. Hours later, he wakes at dawn to capture an early-morning photo of the day’s first rays bouncing off the stone and steeples.

“The location of our accommodation in so many of the cities we visited was literally at the doorstep of the churches or shrines,” he explains. “Everything was walking distance away. So to be able to get up early and capture the sunrise photo of the shrine was incredible.”

The tranquil silence of the early morning air and empty streets brought the spirit of Fatima alive in a unique way. This, and the candlelit rosary from the previous evening, are magical moments that have been three years in the making.

Eugene and his wife Regina, their siblings Rowena and Jeff Barcelon, and Raymundo and Bernadette Torres, all live in three different cities spanning the east coast of Australia. They first raised the idea of taking a holiday together in 2016 and the Marian pilgrimage offered the perfect trifecta; a family getaway that took them out of the busy-ness of everyday life; the opportunity to explore Europe; and a journey discovering the many blessings of Mary and the saints.

“Before going on this pilgrimage, I never knew so many saints existed; I never knew their stories,” says Bernadette, admitting that it was visiting the saints that struck her most during the trip. The pilgrimage allowed them all to discover more about the richness of Europe’s saints and their lives of holiness, prayer, and courage. “Learning about them, visiting places like Loyola, Avila and Paray-le-Monial, places where really significant events happened, then seeing the dedication of the people who preserve all these places – I was really blown away.”

We couldn’t help but feel all the saints and Mary so close to us.

For Eugene, the highlight was seeing the childhood home of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, who he had grown up asking for intercession. “When we saw Lisieux on the itinerary, we committed to going on this trip.”

Inside St Thérèse’s childhood house, Les Buissonnets, the pilgrims see perfectly preserved clothing, books and toys, the oak-panelled dining room where her family shared meals, and the backyard where she would have played before joining the Carmelites. “Now that we’ve been there, witnessed her home and upbringings, we’re brought even closer to her, to Mama Mary and Jesus,” says Eugene. “Not a day passes without St Thérèse included. This makes it all so real.”

We could feel our hearts pounding like we could feel the closeness of Heaven.
“Experiencing Mass, drinking and dipping in the spring water, then visiting Saint Bernadette’s birthplace, and travelling to the Convent of St Gildard in Nevers where you see her incorrupt body...all of these are experiences we will carry with us for the rest of our lives,” Eugene says. He recalls the candles burning at different prayer points in the sanctuary, and the bright flowers and handwritten prayer intentions on the floor of the cave where the spring still flows; “We couldn’t help but feel all the saints and Mary so close to us.”

“Before going on this pilgrimage, I never knew so many saints existed; I never knew their stories. It is as though we have a responsibility to spread the good message and bring others to Jesus, just as Mary and the saints did.

Lisieux was just one of many stops and saints along the trip that reveal a new dimension to the Catholic faith the couples were introduced to as children. During the bus ride to Lourdes, they watch a movie about Saint Bernadette Soubirous, the poor peasant girl who, after seeing the Virgin Mary, discovered the spring of healing water that has flown through the Pyrenees Mountains for over 150 years.

With an afternoon free to explore the town, they make their way along the Upper way of the Cross of the Espéluques, where 115 life-sized copper figures illustrate the Lord’s passion in vivid detail, then stop at the Grotto of the Massabielle, where Our Lady first appeared and instructed Bernadette to “Go and drink from the spring.”
TOUR 3

You are invited to participate in the world’s most requested Marian journey as we explore the villages of some of the Church’s most renowned graces and saints. From the Anniversary celebrations in Fatima, through Avila, Santo Domingo de Silos, Loyola, Lourdes and Montserrat, this will truly be a pilgrimage of a lifetime.

From the Anniversary celebrations in Fatima, through Avila, Santo Domingo de Silos, Loyola, Lourdes and Montserrat, this will truly be a pilgrimage of a lifetime. You join pilgrims from the world over as we explore the sacred towns dedicated to the Mother of God.

Day 1: ARRIVE LISBON
Welcome to Lisbon. Join with fellow pilgrims this evening for a Welcome Dinner.
Lisbon overnight (D)

Day 2: LISBON TO FATIMA
Theme: St Anthony of Padua
This morning we will meet with our local guide and enjoy a tour of Lisbon city. Our first stop is St Anthony’s Basilica where we celebrate our group Mass. Despite what might be assumed from his name, St Anthony was born and grew up in Lisbon and today remains the patron saint of lost articles.
Visit the World Heritage listed Jeronimo’s Monastery dating back to the 16th century with its stunning combination of flamboyant Gothic, Moorish and early Renaissance influences; see nearby Belem Tower and the Monument to the Discoveries. See Europe’s longest suspension bridge and view the inspiring Statue of Christ the King pointing the way north to Fatima.
En route to Fatima we will visit the Holy Miracle Church of St Stephen at Santarem containing the oldest recorded Eucharistic miracle.
Finally we arrive at Fatima where in 1917 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three children as ‘a lady in white’.
Mass Setting: St Anthony’s Basilica. Fatima overnight (BD)

Day 3: FATIMA
Theme: St Francisco & St Jacinta of Fatima
This morning we will walk and pray the Stations of the Cross along the beautiful Way of the Cross (the Sacred Way) culminating in the Chapel of Calvary which overlooks all of Fatima. Continue to Valinhos, the site of Our Lady’s appearance to three peasant children Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. Proceed on to the little village of Aljustrel to visit the homes where the children lived. Finally we enter the original Parish church and see the Baptismal font where the children were baptised.
Back in Fatima tonight, the Anniversary Vigil ceremonies begin with an International Rosary followed by a candlelight procession and concelebrated Mass on the steps of the Rosary Basilica. From midnight to dawn an optional all night vigil is held for the enrichment of pilgrims.
Mass Setting: Apparition Chapel. Fatima overnight (BD)

Day 4: FATIMA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
Theme: Our Lady of Fatima
We awake to the sound of pilgrims from all over the world en route to the morning’s Anniversary celebrations. Commence with a Rosary followed by the procession of Our Lady’s statue to the altar on the steps of the Basilica. Celebrate the International Anniversary Mass followed by the Blessing of the Sick and Consecration. The ceremonies will close around midday with the touching ‘Adios’ spectacle.
We will then enjoy a tour of the Square (the largest in Christendom) including the site of the Apparitions, Rosary Basilica with the Tombs of the visionaries, the Museum, Blessed Sacrament Chapel and other main sites. Afternoon at leisure in Fatima.
Mass Setting: International Anniversary Mass. Fatima overnight (BD)

Day 5: FATIMA TO AVILA
Theme: St John of the Cross
After breakfast we farewell Fatima and journey inland through Portugal before crossing the

PILGRIM HIGHLIGHTS

+ Savour a 3 Night stay in each of the great Marian Centres of Fatima and Lourdes.
+ Be among the sea of pilgrims waving their white handkerchiefs in honour of Our Lady during the momentous Anniversary celebrations in Fatima.
+ Experience an absorbing 2 Night stay inside the medieval walled city of Avila and be touched by the tangible grace of St Teresa.
+ Explore the sacred towns dedicated to St Teresa, St John of the Cross, St Dominic and St Ignatius of Loyola.
+ Be mesmerised by the Benedictine Monks of Santo Domingo de Silos as they chant their Gregorian Mass during our overnight stay.
+ Come to Lourdes, the ‘City of Mary’ and take time down by the Holy Grotto to pray and find your healing as you drink from the sacred springs.
+ Join pilgrims from the world over as we raise our candles high at the evening Torchlight Processions in Lourdes and Fatima.
+ Hear the sweet sounds of the Montserrat Boys Choir during our overnight stay in the Clifftop Monastery dedicated to the Mother of God.

SYMBOLS
- Mass Setting: Preferred site (B) = Breakfast (L) = Lunch (D) = Dinner (T) = Time Out - Planned site for extended opportunity for prayer & reflection

PREVIOUSLY: VISITATIONS OF MARY

13 DAYS
$4,590
1 MEALS
$6,680

“This trip has intensified our spiritual connection with Mary. The time provided each day gave us opportunities for personal reflection.”
— Jocelyn & Jinny Lee
DAY 6: AVILA
Theme: St Teresa of Avila
We begin our day with a visit to the Convent of Saint Teresa built over the saint's birthplace of Saint Teresa of Avila. We then visit Avila's Cathedral, including the Casa Santa, including the Holy House of St Ignatius. On our tour we will come to the Crypt where a well marks the spot where Dominic was born around 1170. Enter the Church of San Sebastian where Dominic was baptised. The original twelfth century apse is still preserved, even though the church has undergone numerous reconstructions.

Journey north to the quaint village of Santo Domingo de Silos, home to the great Benedictine Abbey famous for its beautiful Romanesque cloister and for spreading the finest tradition of Gregorian chant throughout the world.

After dinner we will proceed up to the Abbey for evening prayer.

Mass Setting: Vera Cruz Church, Santo Domingo de Silos overnight (BD)

DAY 7: VIA SEGOVIA & CALERUEGA TO SANTO DOMINGO DE SILOS
Theme: St Dominic
This morning we depart Avila, travelling east to Santo Domingo de Silos, the little village where St Teresa accompanied St Teresa in her spiritual walk. Lived and who are enshrined and displayed in the Carmelite Convent. Here too we enter the convent for the first time. The mortal remains of Bl Jane of Aza and Felix Guzman and birthplace of their sons, St Dominic, Bl Mannes and Anthony. On our tour we will come to the Crypt where a well marks the spot where Dominic was born around 1170. Enter the Church of San Sebastian where Dominic was baptised. The original twelfth century apse is still preserved, even though the church has undergone numerous reconstructions.

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Mass Setting: Vera Cruz Church, Santo Domingo de Silos overnight (BD)

“Pilgrimage through Portugal, Spain and France has been the most uplifting faith renewal I have ever had.” — David Hooper

DAY 8: SANTO DOMINGO DE SILOS TO LOURDES
Theme: St Ignatius of Loyola
This morning we will attend the chanted High Mass at the Abbey before visiting the adjacent Monastery and Museum.

We then rejoin our coach and set off on our travel day, journeying north to Loyola where St Ignatius was born and where he later found his conversion. In Loyola pilgrims will have the opportunity to visit the impressive Sanctuary of St Ignatius, including the Casa Santa (Holy House) – 13th century tower house – where he was born and spent many of his early years. Later we travel through the scenic foothills of the Pyrenees, crossing into Southern France before continuing on to Lourdes. It was in this small town that Our Lady first appeared to St Bernadette in 1858.

Mass Setting: Benedictine Abbey, Lourdes overnight (BD)

DAY 9: LOURDES
Theme: St Bernadette of Lourdes
We celebrate an International Mass this morning with pilgrims worldwide in the immense Underground Basilica of Pius X (schedule permitting) followed by a visit to the little village of Barthes, the farm where St Bernadette was nursed and later returned in adolescence to help her foster mother. We will visit the Sheepfold and the Parish Church where she spent so many hours in prayer.

We will return to Lourdes to enjoy a peaceful afternoon at rest or wander at your own pace. Optional Blessed Sacrament Procession and evening candlelight procession.

Mass Setting: International Mass at Lourdes. Lourdes overnight (BD)

DAY 10: LOURDES
Theme: Our Lady of Lourdes
This morning we will celebrate a group Mass at the Grotto, before meeting our guide for a walking tour of Lourdes including the Sanctuary area: Upper & Lower Basilicas, the Grotto, and the Baths where hundreds of miraculous cures have taken place. We continue our visit of the main sites associated with St Bernadette including the Boly Mill where she was born in 1844, the original parish church and the Cachot (prison) where the family was forced to live due to misfortune during the time of the apparitions.

Free time this afternoon for a visit and prayers for the sick at the miraculous Baths where the water has continued to flow since 1858. Pilgrims may choose to submerge themselves in the healing waters, or collect the Lourdes water has continued to flow since 1858.

We will return to Lourdes to enjoy a peaceful evening at rest or wander at your own pace. Optional Blessed Sacrament Procession and evening candlelight procession.

Mass Setting: International Mass at Lourdes. Lourdes overnight (BD)

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Free time this afternoon for a visit and prayers for the sick at the miraculous Baths where the water has continued to flow since 1858. Pilgrims may choose to submerge themselves in the healing waters, or collect the Lourdes
Montserrat

water at the taps. Optional afternoon Blessed Sacrament Procession and Blessing of the Sick before a final evening candlelight procession after dinner.

Mass Setting: Lourdes Grotto.
Lourdes overnight (BD)

DAY 11: LOURDES TO MONTSERRAT (VIA MANRESA)
Theme: Our Lady of Montserrat

We farewell Lourdes early this morning as we again journey through the Pyrenees, crossing the border back in to northern Spain. Continue on to the town of Manresa for Mass in the cave where St Ignatius came on retreat for 11 months between 1522 and 1523.

We then arrive into stunning Montserrat. The renowned 11th century sanctuary of Our Lady of the Holy Cave seeing a bright light which led them to the privileged to hear the heavenly sounds of the privileged to hear the heavenly sounds of the Montserrat Boys Choir (The Escolania), one of the oldest and most renowned in Europe. We will then have a private guided tour of the museums.

In the afternoon we will travel to Barcelona, a city synonymous with art, culture and faith. Visit Antonio Gaudí’s inspiring La Sagrada Familia Basilica, the most visited landmark in Barcelona and famous due to the fact that after more than 100 years since the foundation stone was laid it is still under final construction.

Mass Setting: Montserrat Basilica.

DAY 13: DEPART SPAIN

Your pilgrimage concludes after breakfast this morning or continue on to Graces of France extension. (B)

BOOK NOW

1800 819 156
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“I felt my spirit lifted. I felt her presence in Lourdes and Fatima. My faith grew stronger and Mary will always be present in my life.”
— Sofaia Ulingaholo

TOUR DETAILS

2020 DATES & PRICES

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2021 DATES & PRICES*

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*indicative prices

PREPAID TIPPING
SINGLE ROOM: $1,250 Supplement
PREPAID TIPPING $14 per person per day
AIR & TOUR PRICES FROM: $6,680 per person. See harvestjourneys.com for full details.

INCLUSIONS

Full list of INCLUSIONS see page 46

Priest travels free

PARISH PLAN
See page 10/11 for more details

DAY 12: MONTSERRAT & BARCELONA
Theme: Montserrat Boys Choir

Our spectacular day of pilgrimage begins with a visit and Mass in the Basilica, the construction of which began in the 16th century, and a viewing of the beautiful Holy Image of Our Lady of Montserrat, known affectionately as the “Black Madonona.”

We will then board the Santa Cova funicular railway and after a short ride, enjoy a walk down the sacred path to the Chapel where the image of Our Lady of Montserrat was found by young shepherds in the 13th century after seeing a bright light which led them to the grotto. We take time here at the Holy Cave for prayer and reflection before taking the funicular railway back up to the Sanctuary. Before lunch, we will take our place among the privileged to hear the heavenly sounds of the Montserrat Boys Choir (The Escolania), one of the oldest and most renowned in Europe.

BOOK NOW

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PRICES

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