

# Information



**Jerusalem** is a special place for Christians as it is where Jesus did lots of his preaching as an adult. Christians also believe Jesus was crucified and resurrected by God here. Many Christians call Jerusalem 'The Holy Land' and will make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

**Bethlehem** is also visited by Christians. It is where Jesus was born and is therefore a special place for Christians.

**Nazareth** is a special place for Christians as it is where Jesus spent much of his life, it was his hometown. People refer to Jesus as 'Jesus of Nazareth' for this reason. Again, many Christians like to visit here.

**Lourdes** is a special place for Christians. It is the most visited pilgrimage shrine in Christian world. Catholic Christians believe that between February and July 1858, a 14 year old girl called Bernadette Soubirous saw unexpected appearances of a white robed lady 18 times near the town of Lourdes. In these appearances Bernadette was told to instruct the village priest to build a chapel in the grotto which many people would soon visit. On the day of the 16th appearance the lady revealed herself as the Blessed Virgin Mary. Bernadette was so excited she began to dig into the earth until a small puddle of water appeared. Over the next few days the puddle enlarged and eventually became a sacred spring for which Lourdes is now famous. This spring has an international reputation for having therapeutic powers, meaning it heals people.

**Rome**, also known as the 'Eternal City', is a sacred place for Christians. It is the centre of Catholic Christianity and has been since the 1st century AD. It is where the Pope (the head of the Catholic church) lives.

**Canterbury** is where the first Christian Church was built in England. Many Anglican Christians make a pilgrimage to Canterbury for this reason, and because it is where the Archbishop (the senior bishop of the Church of England) is based.

