



TOURISME & LOISIRS

- the « *Magnificat* » which expresses the enthusiasm of Mary when she accepted to be chosen as the earthly mother of our Lord. This theme has inspired some remarkable musical compositions.
- the many *Christian names* given to girls but also added to boys' names.
- '*Hail Mary*', the prayer made universally famous by the works of Gounod or Schubert.

When addressed, Mary should first be hailed, which is the meaning of Ave Maria.

Mary may then be asked to intercede for us with Our Lord in memory of her earthly life when her son first appeared in public at the Cana Wedding feast (changing water into wine).

She will thus be thanked for the happy events in our lives. And she often helps us when we ask Her to share our sufferings in so far as she endured the ordeal and death of Jesus, her son.



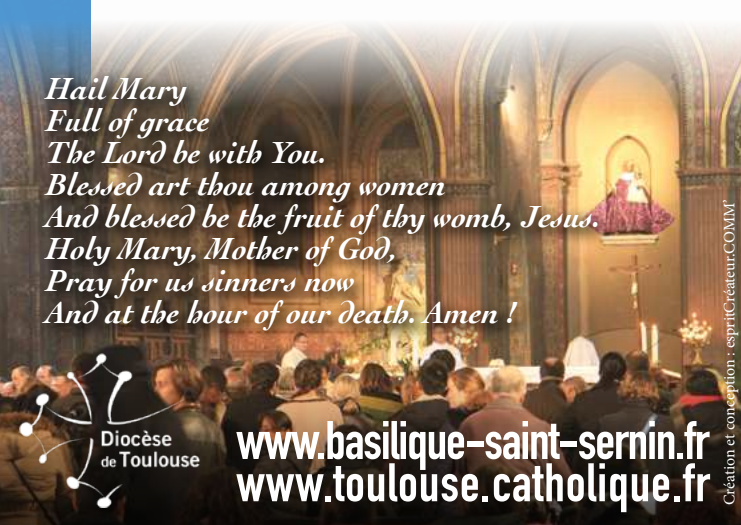
*Give Leisure  
some Soul...*



# Notre-Dame du Taur

In the Heart of Toulouse  
a Setting Worthy of the Virgin  
of the Rampart

*Hail Mary  
Full of grace  
The Lord be with You.  
Blessed art thou among women  
And blessed be the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners now  
And at the hour of our death. Amen !*



[www.basilique-saint-sernin.fr](http://www.basilique-saint-sernin.fr)  
[www.toulouse.catholique.fr](http://www.toulouse.catholique.fr)

Diocèse  
de Toulouse

Création et conception : espritCréateur.COMM



Every church expresses the faith of a local Christian community who built it and animate it for it is for them the visible sign of the presence of Jesus Christ.

This church as it is nowadays was (re)built between the XIV<sup>th</sup> and XVI<sup>th</sup> centuries. Roman Catholic churches are often dedicated to a particular saint, who becomes their patron saint.

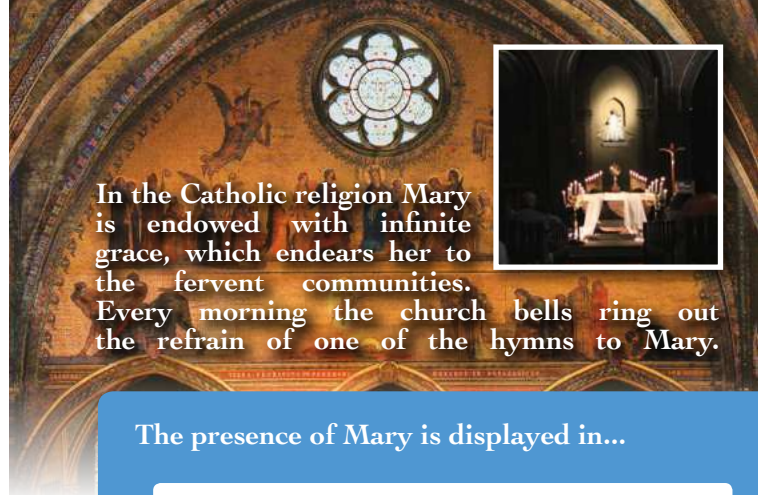
This church has been known as Notre-Dame du Taur since 1783 : Notre Dame (Our Lady) refers to the Virgin Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus; the word Taur (also the name of the street) is the abbreviation of "taureau"(bull), the animal responsible for the death of the martyr Saint Saturnin (known as Sernin) who was buried on this very spot around 250 A.D.

The statue of the Virgin Mary seems to welcome every single person who enters the nave even though it is situated at the back of the choir.

The statue of Mary is dressed in differently coloured robes according to the liturgical seasons, a widespread but not exclusive local custom.

This statue comes from an oratory in the Taur parish, which commemorated the banishment of a group of followers of the Reformed Church beyond the city walls in 1562 in the times of Catholic – Protestant hostilities.

Mary, not considered a saint in the Protestant religion, was called Our Lady of Deliverance and honoured by the parishioners of the Taur district in an annual procession.



In the Catholic religion Mary is endowed with infinite grace, which endears her to the fervent communities. Every morning the church bells ring out the refrain of one of the hymns to Mary.



The presence of Mary is displayed in...

- The various feast days of the liturgical calendar among which the main ones are :

Mary, Mother of God, January 1<sup>st</sup>

The Annunciation, March 25<sup>th</sup>  
which recalls the day when the Angel Gabriel asked her to be the mother of Jesus.

The Assumption, August 15<sup>th</sup>  
which recalls her reception into Heaven.

The Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>  
which recalls that Mary is free from sin.



- The pilgrimages to the sites of her apparitions such as Lourdes (175 km from Toulouse), Fatima (Portugal) or Czestochowa (Poland).

- Many churches are dedicated to her, the most famous being Notre-Dame de Paris. Three churches in Toulouse city centre are dedicated to Mary: Notre-Dame la Daurade, Notre-Dame la Dalbade and Notre-Dame du Taur, anchored in popular Toulouse tradition.