



The Assumption of Mary

August 2011



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of ARCA-Amics del Patrimoni
and the Puríssima Concepció Monastery
(capuchin nuns)
Palma**

Maria Virgo coelos ascendit

The Golden Legend explains that the Virgin Mary received the visit of Saint Michael's archangel, three days after her death to announce her imminent transfer. The only demand that Mary dared to formulate was the presence of the apostles during the vigil of her deathbed.

Finally, the disciples, that they have dispersed to preach Christ message, they appeared miraculously to the farewell ceremony. To that point it was produced the elevation to heaven of the body and the soul of Jesus' mother that it is remembered, exactly the 15th of August. This belief, based on a legend which it is documented in the sixth century, it wasn't proclaimed as a faith dogma by the Catholic Church as late as the 1st November 1950, through the publication of the bull *Munificentissimus Deus* by the pope Pius XII. Theoreticians so ancient as Saint Thomas de Aquino had written inflamed words to support the cause.

In spite of the temporal distance between the first documents that mention the celebration and the papal resolution, the devotion to the Assumption of Mary has generated, throughout the history,

lots of liturgical expressions and artistic and popular demonstrations that they want supply the numerous queries that the real facts offer; like it is demonstrated, for instance, the disagreement that it is in the position of the place of the fact, already was in Ephesus or in Jerusalem. Anyhow, the installation of the deathbeds of the Virgin —in Majorca, *Mare de Déu d'Agost* or *Mare de Déu Morta*— and the residuals rituals that they are still celebrated in the island, they are the legate of a much more extensive protocol of actions that it started with the street processions in the middle of the fifteenth century, first, around the Cathedral, and later, in all Majorcan churches.

The gothic image of the Assumption of Mary of the first Diocese church is also the model that the rest of the Marian sculptures follow. They were the later different stylistic tendencies that introduced little variations without contradict the deep significance of the image. On the other hand, the Baroque's spirit hurried to make monumental the demonstrations from the big scenic devices: platforms, palliums, guardian angels... The ritual or the *consueta* of the Cathedral in 1511 evidences the presence of seculars

or priests dressed up as apostles, protagonists that still survive in Valldemossa.

The Transfer of Mary represents, as a conclusion, the glorification of her body in a similar process as the resurrection of her son. This Marian veneration caused similar simulacrum to the Feast of Elche, with a lyric and dramatic condition, dignified as World Heritage by the Unesco. The prestige that this consideration awakes should serve as a definitive impulse for the protection and for the recuperation of the heritage elements that, in Majorca, they have covered up during several centuries the dignity of the memory of the Assumption of Mary.

Suggested Reading: AMADES, J. *Costumari català*, Barcelona, 1953 / LLABRÉS, J.; PASCUAL, A. «Els llits de la Mare de Déu d'Agost a Mallorca, una expressió d'art i devoció», dins *Estudi del moble*, 6, Barcelona, 2007 / LLABRÉS, J.; PASCUAL, A. *L'àlbum de la Dormició de Jeroni Juan Tous*, Palma, 2008 / LLOMPART, G. «La Mare de Déu morta a Mallorca, entre el folklore i la litúrgia», dins *Món i Misteri de la Festa d'Elx*, València, 1986, 93-100 / MUNAR OLIVER, G. *Devoción de Mallorca a la Asunción*, Palma, 1950 / RÉAU, L. *Iconografía del arte cristiano*, tom 1, vol. 2, Barcelona, 1996.

**An exhibition of the beds
of the Dormition of Mary**

Palma

Immaculada Concepció Church (Sant Magí)

9, Espartero Street

Every day, 6:30 to 8 pm

Socors Church

30, Mateu Enric Lladó Street

12th to 20th August

Weekdays, 10 to 12 am

**Monday 15th August, 8:30 to 9:30 am, 11 am to 1 pm
and 7:30 to 8:30 pm**

12th to 15th August, Midday, Gregorian Chant Angelus

The reclining image of the Verge del Socors (Virgin of Help) is a polychrome gold-plated statue from the 17th century on display year-round in the chapel of the Augustinian Santa Catalina Tomàs.

Sant Francesc Church

7, Sant Francesc Square

10th to 22th August

Weekdays, 8 to 12:30 am and 3:30 to 8 pm

Saturday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, 3:30 to 6 pm and 7 to 8 pm

Sundays, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and to 7:30 to 9 pm

The Franciscan convent houses an interesting collection of reclining Mary sculptures from different periods. One of the convent beds is the work of Jaume Llull (1650-1707).

Sant Jaume Church

12, Sant Jaume Street

13th to 22th August

Monday to Friday, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm and 5:30 to 8:30 pm

Saturday, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm and 5:30 to 9:30 pm

Sundays, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and 7 to 9:30 pm

The sculptor Adrià Ferran (c. 1815) designed a highly spectacular set for the parish. The canopy that crowned the bed hung from the church vault. Only part of the original assembly can not be seen.

Sant Miquel Church

2, Arabí Street

13th to 20th August, 8 am to 1:30 pm and 4:30 to 8 pm

Sant Nicolau Church

1, Orfila Street

13th to 22th August, 8 am to 1:30 pm and 6 to 7 pm

The Assumption display in Sant Nicolau shows the continuation of the iconography model. Here, the bed is older than the Virgin, although the image follows traditional lines.

Santa Creu Church

4, Sant Llorenç Street

15th to 21th August, 7 to 8:30 pm

According to documents, the figure of the Virgin was finished on the vigil of the Assumption in 1562. Carriers of the tabernacle in the procession received double payment.

Santa Eulàlia Church

2, Santa Eulàlia Square

Monday to Friday, 9:30 to 11:30 am and 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Saturdays, 11 am to 1 pm and 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Sundays, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, 6:30 to 7:30 pm and 9 to 10 pm

Saturday 13th August, Midday, and Monday 22th August, 10:20 am, procession

This is one of the most important pallium examples on the island. The Virgin's belt reads: "Maria virgo exaltata est super choros angelorum ad celestia regna. Alleluia."

Concepció Monastery

7-B, Concepció Street

Every day, 6 pm to 7 pm.

Sunday, 14th August, cloister procession at 7 pm

In 1685 the sculptor Miquel Barceló was commissioned to produce a bed for the Virgin following the pattern of that in the Cathedral of Majorca. The carving of Mary is, however, from before.

Sant Jeroni Monastery

1-A, Porta de Mar Street

15th to 21st August

Sunday 15th August, 10 to 11 am

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 8 to 9 am

Both the reclining image with half-open eyes and the case where it is held are documented in 1589. The work has been apportioned to the sculptor Gaspar Gener.

Santa Clara Monastery

2, Fonollar Street

Every day, 6 am to 7 pm

The rococo tumulus at the Poor Clares monastery stands out, probably worked in the second half of the 18th century. It follows the crowned bed mould.

Cathedral of Majorca

Almoina Square

15th to 23th August

Monday to Friday, 10 am to 6:15 pm

Saturday, 10 am to 2:15 pm

Sunday, 8 am to 1:30 pm and 6:30 to 8 pm

The anonymous reclining Virgin figure dates from the 15th century from the origins of the liturgical celebration in Majorca. The bed has a pallium, is guarded by four life-size angels and follows a Baroque period model.

An exhibition of the beds
of the Dormition of Mary

Part forana

ALARÓ

Sant Bartomeu Church 10, Rectoria Street

6th to 27th August

Weekdays, 7:30 to 8:30 pm

Sundays, 9:30 to 11:30 am

ALGAIDA

Sant Pere and Sant Pau Church 1, Rei Street

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th August, 7 to 8:30 pm

The reclining Virgin in Algaida church is a Baroque-style wooden carving strictly in line with the iconography canon.

L'ARRACÓ

Sant Crist Church 11, Weyler Square

15th to 21th August, 6 to 8 pm

Monday 15th August, 9:30 a 11 am and 6 to 8 pm

ARTÀ

Transfiguració del Senyor Church

6, Torreta Street

Saturday 14th August, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Monday 15th August, 10 am to 12 pm and 3 to 6 pm

The set for the Assumption of Mary in the parish of Artà was a more discreet version of that created by Adrià Ferran for Sant Jaume (Palma) and who knows if he himself created this one. The similarity between them is clear.

BINISSALEM

Santa Maria de Robines Church

22, Església Square

12th to 21th August, 6:30 to 8 pm

Sunday 14th August, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and 6:30 to 8 pm

The information that the Assumption held here in the parish of Binissalem comes from the confiscation of the Sant Domingo convent (Palma) is taken as true. It is a work by Gabriel Mòger II from the first half of the 16th century.

CALVIÀ

Sant Joan Baptista Church 1, Serral Street

13th to 21th August

Weekdays, 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Sundays, de 10:30 am to 12:30 am and 7.30 to 8.30 pm

CAMPANET

Sant Miquel Church 4, Llorenç Ribes Street

13th to 21th August

Weekdays and Saturday, 7 to 8:30 pm

Sundays, 10.30 am to 1 pm and 6 to 8:30 pm

CAMPOS

Sant Julià Church 17, Bisbe Tallades Street

9th to 23nd August

Weekdays, 8 to 9 pm

Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm

Sunday, 10 to 11 am and 8 to 9 pm

Documented wooden carving by the Aragonese sculptor Juan de Salas, dating from 1529. The Virgin's bed is by Tomàs Vila and dates to 1930.

COSTITX

Santa Maria Church 27, Jardí Square

Saturdays, 7 to 8 pm

Sundays, 11:30 am to 12.30 pm

Monday 15th August, 7 to 8pm

FELANITX

Sant Miquel Church

6, Font de Santa Margalida Square

Weekdays, 7:15 to 8:30 pm

Sundays, 9 am to 1 pm and 7:15 to 8:30 pm

FORNALUTX

Nativitat de la Verge Maria Church

2, Església Street

Wednesdays, 6 to 7:30 pm

Sundays, 9 to 10:30 am

INCA

Santa Maria la Major Church

36, Orient Square

Sunday 14th August, 8:30 to 9:30 pm

Monday, 15th August, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

INCA

Sant Domingo Church

23, Germanies Street

Saturday 14th August, 9:30 to 10:30 am

Monday 15th August, 6:30 to 7:30 pm

LLUBÍ

Sant Feliu Church 12, Església Square

Sundays, 9:30 to 10.30 am and 8:30 pm a 9:30 pm

Monday 15th August, 9:30 to 10:30 am

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MANACOR

Nostra Senyora dels Dolors Church

1, Enginyer Barceló Street

13th to 17th August, 10 am to 12:45 pm and 5:30 to 8:30 pm

MONTUÏRI

Sant Bartomeu Church

14-15, Major Square

14th, 15th, 17th and 19th August, 7.30 to 8.30 pm

Monday, 15th August, 7 pm, dance of *Gentil Senyora* by the *cossiers*

MURO

Sant Joan Baptista Church

1, Ramon de Torrella Street

12th to 24th August,
Weekdays, 7:30 to 9 pm

Sundays, 8 am to 1 pm and 7 to 9 pm

The Assumption in the parish of Muro has its own chapel. The present altarpiece includes a case for the Passage of the Virgin and is the work of Francisco Herrera i Ferragut from around 1771.

PETRA

Sant Pere Church

2, Rectoria Street

Sunday 14th August, 9 to 10 am and 7 to 8 pm

Monday 15th August, 7 to 8 pm

LA POBLA

Sant Antoni Abat Church

1, Església Square

Every day, 5 to 9 pm and Sundays also 11 am to 13 pm

Monday 22nd, Funeral procession

PORRERES

Nostra Senyora de la Consolació Church

1, Església Square

Every day, 8 to 9 pm

PUIGPUNYENT

Assumpció de Maria Church

Lleó XIII Square

Saturday 13th August, 7:30 to 8:30 pm

Sunday 14th and Monday 15th August, 11 am to 13 pm

The Coronation of the Virgin ends the Assumption cycle. The crowns on the figures tend to be added later and are silver. In a few cases, such as Puigpunyent, the crown is wooden.

SANT JOAN

Sant Joan Baptista Church

9, Palma Street

Sunday 14th August and Monday 15th August, 10 to 11 am and de 8 to 9 pm

SANTA MARIA DEL CAMÍ

Santa Maria del Camí Church

1, Joan Vic Street

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 7:30 to 8:30 pm

Sunday, 9.30 to 10:30 am and 7:30 to 8:30 pm

14th and 15th August, procession at 8 pm

A wooden sculpture apportioned to the sculptor Gaspar II Gener (1565-1611). It has a bright blue cloak with stars, clearly a symbol of Mary.

SANTANYÍ

Sant Andreu Church

31, Major Square

14th to 21st August

Monday to Friday, 7:30 to 8:30 pm

Wednesday, 7:30 to 8:30 pm and 10 am to 1 pm

Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm and 8:30 to 9:30 pm

Sunday, 8:30 to 9:30 am and 11:30 am to Midday

Saturday the 13th of August at 8 pm. Commentary and image projection of the Dormition of Mary at the Roser church by Andreu Ponç Fullana

SENCELLES

Sant Pere Church

2, Espanya Square

Saturday 13th August, 8:30 to 9:30 pm

Sunday 14th and Monday 15th August, 10:30 to 11:30 am

SINEU

Santa Maria Church

1, Sant Marc Square

Sundays, 7 to 8 pm

Monday 15th August, 8 to 9 pm

Wednesday 17th August, 9:30 am to 1 pm

SÓLLER

Sant Bartomeu Church

1, Gran Via

Every day, 11 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm

The reclining Virgin in the parish of Sóller probably dates from the beginning of the 18th century and is a clear example of a more expressive intention with regards to previous works seen in the gesture and the folds of the clothing.

VALLDEMOSSA

Sant Bartomeu Church

1, Rectoria Street

14th to 20th August

Monday to Thursday, 9 to 10:30 am

Friday to Sunday, 7 to 8:30 pm

Monday 14th and Saturday 20th August, Les Crestes procession at 8 pm

A documented work by the sculptor Juan de Salas from 1530. The image presides over the procession of Les Crestes where it is carried by four apostles of the twelve there must have been in the past.

ARCA - Fundació Amics del Patrimoni

Wednesday 10th August, 8 pm

Inauguration of the modern intervention to *La Virgen que sueña*, of Milton Becerra, with the image coming from Santa Caterina de Sena church, (Palma), in the Sagrats Cors church (9, Sant Gaietà Street, Palma). It will be opened from the 11th to the 20th of August, from 11 am to 1 pm and from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Tuesday, 16th August, 5:30 pm

Itinerary embARCA't *Llits de la Mare de Déu Morta*, directed by Margalida Pujol. Start at ARCA'S office (1A, Pau Street, Palma). Limited vacancies. Previous inscription at 971 719 531 or by e-mail arcainforma@arcapatrimoni.net. 3 € for members and 5 € for no members.

Thursday, 18th August, 8:30 pm

Celebration of *The Splendour of the Mediterranean* in honor of women and femininity. Five medals will be awarded to standout women of the Balearic Islands. The Gold Medal from the Fundació Amics del Patrimoni will be awarded and the second volume of the book of the *Mare de Déu d'Agost* will be presented in the Sagrats Cors church (9, Sant Gaietà Street, Palma).

Puríssima Concepció Monastery (capuchin nuns)

Thursday 11th August, 7:30 pm

Inauguration of the exposition *Mostra de la Mare de Déu d'Agost*, commissioned by Jaume Llabrés and Aina Pascual. Opened from the 12th to the 23th of August from 6 pm to 9 pm in the monastery showrooms (14, Caputxines Street, Palma). Free entrance.

12th to 23th August

Exposition of the Mary deathbed.

Church of the Puríssima Concepció Monastery. (1-A, Jaquotot Street , Palma). From 5 pm to 8 pm.

The sculpture ensemble of the Assumption of Mary of Sant Jaume church (Palma) is a master piece of Adrià Ferran (Vilafranca del Penedès 1774 - Barcelona c. 1842).



The Assumption of Mary

www.assumpciodelamarededeu.net

If not otherwise stated, the public exhibition dates are Sunday 14th to Monday 22nd August. Most visiting hours coincide with mass; silence is therefore requested in respect of the celebration.

This web only takes up the timetables of the parish churches and the convents that they have communicated.

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