

THE IMAGE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM



The statue or image, helps pilgrims remember Mary and why she is special to them in their Christian faith.

Many Christians believe that Mary is in heaven with Jesus and they ask her to pray for them. The original statue was destroyed with the priory by King Henry VIII and the one currently in the Holy House is based on a 500 year old seal used on documents from the medieval priory.

- Mary is pointing them towards Jesus with her hand to lead pilgrims to Him. She is saying that He is the important one.
- She is crowned Queen of Heaven - this reminds them that she is special to God. He chose her to give birth to His Son Jesus.
- Pilgrims look at the statue to help them remember these things before they say their prayers.

Churches use different colours for different times of the year and the statue of Our Lady is decorated with a mantle (like a sleeveless cloak or shawl) depending on the churches calendar:

- Advent - blue
- Christmas - best white
- January to Lent - cloth of gold
- Lent - no mantle
- Easter -best white
- Pentecost Sunday and following week - red
- Trinity Sunday to the Assumption -green
- Assumption and following week - best white
- From then until October - green
- October - white with roses
- November - cloth of gold



Find out what these events in the churches year are all about.

Why do you think these colours are used? Why is there no mantle in Lent?

Are there any other things in a church that also use a particular colour at a particular time of year?

Choose a time of year and design your own mantle for Our Lady to wear. Remember to use the right colour! Think about what that season is all about to help you.



MANTLE DESIGN

