

# Our Lady of La Salette

Celebrated on the 19<sup>th</sup> of  
September





The background image shows a picturesque mountain village. In the foreground, a large, light-colored circular overlay contains text. To the right of the circle, a two-story stone building with a grey roof and a red door stands on a grassy slope. Behind it, several other houses with dark roofs are nestled among trees with autumn foliage. In the distance, a church with a tall, white steeple is visible on a hillside. The surrounding landscape consists of rolling hills and valleys covered in sparse vegetation and trees.

# La Salette

- La Salette is a small village in France, in the mountains.
- Have you ever been to France?
- Have you ever been to the mountains?
- Something really special and important happened there in 1846 which is why we still celebrate it today.

There were 2 children who played an important part on this special day. Mélanie Calvat who was a 15 year old girl and Maximin Giraud (Maxeeman Giro), an 11 year old boy.

When Mélanie first met Maximin she didn't really like him. She preferred to be alone and didn't want him to help her. But, after a little while she realised that he was a really nice boy and a really good friend.

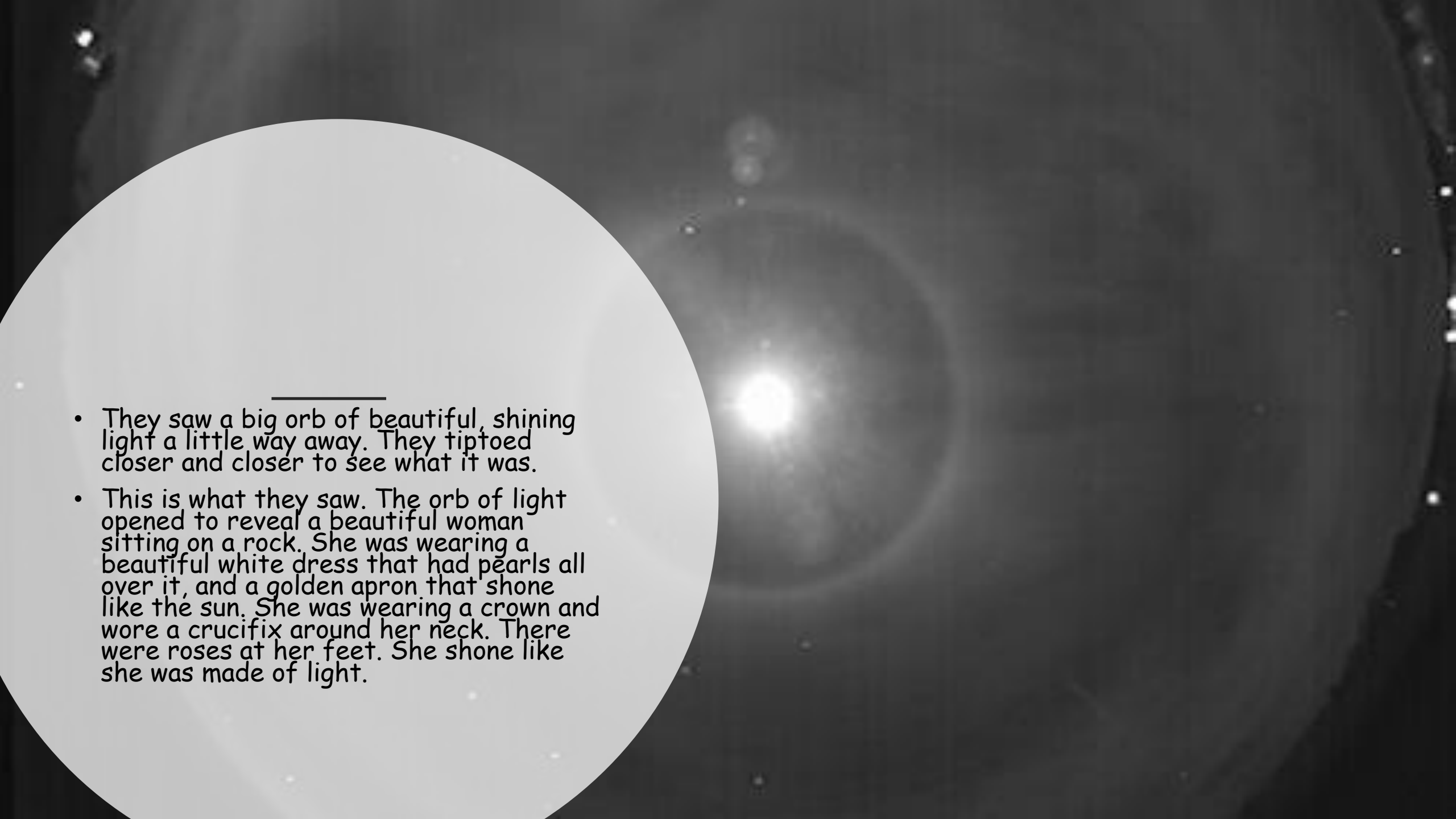




Back then, children would not always get to go to school or play games like you do. Lots of children had to work. These 2 children took care of cows. Their master, or boss, owned the cows and sold their milk, but it was Mélanie and Maximin's jobs to look after the cows and make sure they were safe.



- On 19<sup>th</sup> September, Mélanie and Maximin had just finished their lunch and were very sleepy. They decided to take a nap in the grass.
- But then, something happened! They woke up and they saw something!

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- They saw a big orb of beautiful, shining light a little way away. They tiptoed closer and closer to see what it was.
  - This is what they saw. The orb of light opened to reveal a beautiful woman sitting on a rock. She was wearing a beautiful white dress that had pearls all over it, and a golden apron that shone like the sun. She was wearing a crown and wore a crucifix around her neck. There were roses at her feet. She shone like she was made of light.



The woman was very sad; she had her head in her hands and was crying very hard.

The woman stood up and called the children over to her. They were not afraid because the woman spoke gently and was very kind. They knew that she came from heaven and did not want to hurt them.



The woman was actually an apparition (meaning when something appears suddenly out of thin air, almost like magic). She was an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

She had a very important message for the children. She was sad because people on Earth were not obeying the words of God.





She told Mélanie and Maximin that people need to go to church on Sundays, but that lots of people weren't going because they were working or doing other things instead.

She also told them that people were using the Lord's name in vain and saying bad words about God.

Mary told Mélanie and Maximin that they had to spread the word and tell all the people to follow the words of God. She then got up and began to walk away, except that her feet didn't touch the ground, she was floating above the ground. She looked at the children one last time before rising back up to heaven.







Mélanie and Maximin told the priests about what they saw and they spread the message about obeying the words of God. After that, people began going to mass on Sundays and they stopped saying bad words about God.

Because this happened on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, we still recognise it and celebrate it to this day by going to mass, just as Mary wanted us to do.

Because Mary appeared in La Salette, which is the town in France, we refer to her as "Our Lady of La Salette" when talking about this special day when she came down from heaven.



We remember, Our Lady of La Salette, true mother of Sorrows, the tears you shed for us on Calvary. We remember also the care you have taken to keep us faithful to Christ, your Son. Having done so much for your children, you will not now abandon us. We come to you pleading, with our unfaithfulness and ungratefulness. Virgin of Reconciliation, do not reject our prayers, but help us, give us the grace to love Jesus above all else. May we find comfort in you by living a holy life and so come to share the eternal life Christ gained by His cross.

Amen.

