

## **PILGRIMAGE TO SANTA MARIA DE AGUIAR**

According to the legend, the victory of the Portuguese in the battle of Castelo Rodrigo against the Spanish was awarded to Santa Maria de Aguiar, since she received in her cloak the bullets shot by the Spaniards, preventing the Portuguese from being hit.

The celebration in her honor is the most important pilgrimage of Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo Municipality.

It is a religious celebration that takes place every year on 15th August.

It is also associated with a picnic tradition.

After the mass and the procession, families and friends get together in the forest of very old oaks, chestnuts and cork trees and, in a warm gathering, they share their food with lots of bread, olives, ham and good wine.

The children play and enjoy the cookies made from egg whites and sugar.

The day ends with dancing and singing.