

# Saint Joan of Arc

By Lorena



Joan was born to French peasants on January 6, 1412, and died May 30, 1431. She lived during the last part of the Hundred Years' War (1337-1453), in which England attempted to take control of France.

Joan told the future king of France, that she had been inspired by divine visions to lead the French army in driving the English off French soil; she also promised that she would see him crowned king.

Joan arrived dressed in white armor and carrying a banner of her own design. Joan stated "It is the King of Heaven who sends me," Fire flashed in her eyes, and the force in her voice silenced their laughter at once. "If you will follow my banner, God will help you break the siege of Orléans, and the dauphin will be crowned king of France within the year , all the men must go to Confession today! Then Mass, every day. The cursing and profaning of God must stop! Only by relying on God will the men have courage," Joan said, "and only with courage will there be victory." With that, she rode into the camp.

St Joan of Arc died a martyr and was burned alive at the stake in 1431. She bravely forgave her accusers and asked for a cross before she died. She was just 19 years old.

Twenty-five years later, Pope Callixtus III said that Joan was not guilty of any wrongdoing. Then nearly 500 years later, in 1920, Joan was **made a Saint** of the Catholic Church, and forever remains a national heroine of France.

I chose St Joan of Arc because she was brave and courageous. She had a great faith in God even when things looked impossible. She inspires me to have faith and never give up because with God you can achieve anything !