

Transcript:

The pilgrimage takes place every year at Pentecost celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter, also called 'Whitsunday' especially in the United Kingdom. Tens of thousands of pilgrims come to Şumuleu Ciuc (Csíksomlyó) and walk up the hill to celebrate together.

The history of the pilgrimage in Csíksomlyó dates back to the 15th century. When members of the Franciscan Order settled in Csíksomlyó in the 1440s, their first task was to build a monastery and a church. With the Franciscans' settling in the community, respect for Virgin Mary also became rooted in the people of Csíksomlyó. There was a tradition to pay respects to Virgin Mary and even people from the neighbouring towns came to worship. In 1444, Pope Eugenius IV encouraged people to continue to practice the ritual, and to offer indulgences to those who helped build the church. The tradition became even stronger when the Gothic church got the statue of Mary in the early 1500s.

A legend says that in 1567 János Zsigmond, Prince of Transylvania, wanted to oblige the Catholic Szekler people to accept and practice the Unitarian religion. People did not want to accept this so they gathered in Csíksomlyó on Pentecost Saturday, and they prayed to the Virgin Mary for help and protection of their religion before they went to battle. The battle ended with the victory of the Catholics, and after their return, they gave thanks to God and the Virgin Mary for their help in Csíksomlyó. The Szeklers promised that in honour of the event they would make a pilgrimage to this holy place to pay their respects on Pentecost Saturday every year. The great pilgrimage continues to this day.

Sources:

<https://hungarytoday.hu/the-csiksomlyo-pilgrimage-the-hungarian-el-camino-turns-451-this-year/>