

FESTIVITIES PROGRAMME 2023.

25th AUGUST

23:00 h. PASODOBLES (double step) CONCERT

In Plaza de Santiago, by our honoured Municipal Music Band of Villena.

27th AUGUST

9:45 h. MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO FALLEN FESTIVE PEOPLE

In Plaza de Santiago with arquebus gunfire.

10:00 h. ANNOUNCEMENT FESTIVITIES PARADE

The parade will exit from Plaza de Santiago, and will be accompanied by arquebus gunfire.

11:00 h. HOLY MASS

In the Sanctuary of Our Lady M^a de las Virtudes. Afterwards, the Sacred Image will be carried inside the church by all the women who wish to do so.

18:00 h. PILGRIMAGE OF OUR PATRON SAINT

After the celebration of the Holy Mass, departure in PILGRIMAGE, accompanying the Holy Virgin, María de las Virtudes towards Villena. When the Holy Image arrives at the Plaza María Auxiliadora, it will be greeted with fireworks and arquebus gunfire. It will then make its way to the Church of Santiago, where, on its arrival, it will be greeted by an arquebus salute while the flags are being rolled.

4TH SEPTEMBER

19:00 h. CONCERT

By Municipal Music Band of Villena in Chapí Theatre.

22:00 h. FESTIVE CONFRATERNITY DINNER

At the headquarters of the comparsas.

1:00 FIREWORKS DISPLAY

From the Atalaya Castle. After the fireworks display, the open-air dances will begin in the usual places.

5th SEPTEMBER

12:00 h. PROCLAMATION OF FESTIVITIES

From the balcony of the Villena Town Hall. Then, our Municipal Band and all the music bands will perform the Hymn-Pasodoble "**VILLENA FESTERA**".

After this act, the **FIESTA DEL PASODOBLE** will begin, with the Municipal Band of Music of Villena, followed by the music bands of all the comparsas and the Sdad. Musical Society Ruperto Chapí.

16:00 h. ENTRADA PARADE

The parade will start with the honoured Municipal Band of Villena in Calle Nueva, intersection with Avda. de Elche. All the comparsas will take part. In first place the Moorish side followed by the Christian side.

6th SEPTEMBER

7:00 h. DIANA PARADE

By all the comparsas from Plaza de Santiago.

9:15 h. TRANSFER OF THE VIRGIN'S CROWN.

Led by the Comparsa de Andaluces from MUVI to the Church of Santiago.

9:30 h. FLAG-ROLLING BY CHILDREN'S ALFÉRECES

In the Plaza de Santiago. To the sounds of the pasodoble "La Morenica" by the children's alféreces.

10:00 h. SOLEMN MASS FOR THE CENTENARY OF THE CORONATION,

In the "Puerta Almansa", in commemoration of the Centenary of the Coronation of our Patron Saint.

During the course of the Mass, there will be a representation of the Conversion of the Moor to Christianity by the Children's Ambassadors.

After the Holy Mass, the Sacred Image of the Virgen de las Virtudes will return to the Archdeaconry Church of Santiago.

12:15 h approximately GUERRILLA WARFARE AND AMBASSADORSHIP FROM THE MOOR TO THE CHRISTIAN.

The arquebusiers of the comparsas will set off from the Plaza de Santiago, to the vicinity of the Castle. Once there, the Moor's embassy to the Christian will take place.

18:00 h. Representation of EL CONTRABANDO

By Comparsa de Andaluces, preceded by a burst of arquebuses, from the vicinity of the Plaza María Auxiliadora.

21:00 h. GRAN CABALGATA PARADE

The parade will start at Avda. Constitución, intersection with Coronel Selva and San Isidro streets. All the Comparsas will take part, preceded by the Laureate Municipal Band of Villena. The Christian Bando will start the parade followed by the Moorish Bando.

Once the parade is over, the open-air dances will begin in the usual places.

7th SEPTEMBER

7:00 h. DIANA PARADE

By all the comparsas from Plaza de Santiago.

11:00 h. SOLEMN MASS DEDICATED TO THE UNWELL

In Santiago church.

12:00 h. OFRENDA PARADE

From the intersection of Coronel Selva and San Isidro streets. All the comparsas will participate.

19:00 h. ESPERANZA PARADE

The parade will start in Avda. Constitución at the Plaza de M^a Auxiliadora, with the participation of the children's members of the comparsas.

23:00 h. RETRETA PARADE

By all the Comparsas and their respective marching bands. From Nueva Street intersection with Avda. de Elche.

00:00 h. CONCERT IN HONOUR OF OUR SRA. MARY OF THE VIRTUES

Performed by the Ambrosio Cotes Choir of Villena in the Archdeaconry Church of Santiago.

01:00 h. ALBORADA IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY MARY OF THE VIRTUES. MARY OF THE VIRTUES.

In Plaza de Santiago. The pasodoble "La Morenica" will be played as the Holy Image makes its appearance at the side door of the church and the ensigns will roll their flags.

01:30 FIREWORKS DISPLAY

From the Atalaya Castle. After the fireworks display, the open-air dances will begin in the usual places.

8th SEPTEMBER

FESTIVITY OF OUR LADY MARY OF THE VIRTUES.

7:00 h. DIANA PARADE

By all the comparsas from Plaza de Santiago.

10:30 h. SOLEMN MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR PATRON SAINT

In the Archdeaconry Church of Santiago.

12:15 h. GUERRILLA WARFARE AND EMBASSY OF THE CHRISTIAN TO THE MOOR.

The arquebusiers of comparsas will start from Plaza de Santiago. On arrival at the Atalaya Castle, the Embassy of the Christian to the Moor will take place.

18:00 h. CONVERSION OF THE MOOR TO CHRISTIANITY

In the Main Altar of the Archdeaconry Church of Santiago Apóstol.

Followed by: **SOLEMN PROCESSION**

From the Plaza de Santiago. With the Sacred Image of Our Lady of Virtues, which will be preceded by all the Comparsas.

Once the procession of the Virgin has finished in the Plaza de Santiago, the ensigns of all the comparsas will fire arquebuses and the flags will be rolled by the "alféreces" of all the comparsas.

Afterwards, the verbenas (street parties) will begin in the usual places.

9th SEPTEMBER

7:30 h. Beginning of the FAREWELL PILGRIMAGE of the Sacred Image of Our Lady Mary of Virtues from the Plaza de Santiago, which will be preceded by the arquebusiers of all the "comparsas

9:00 h. The Holy Image will go out to the level crossing on the Yecla road, where our Morenica will be seen off and will begin her pilgrimage to the Sanctuary.

On arrival, they will be greeted with arquebusier fire and a HOLY MASS will be celebrated, during which the Conversion of the Moor to Christianity will be repeated.

**17:00 h. ENTRADA DE NUEVOS CAPITANES, ALFÉRECES Y MADRINAS
PARADE**

From Avda. Constitución, intersection with Coronel Selva and San Isidro streets.

Once the parade is over, in the Plaza de Santiago, the names of the **NEW FESTIVITIES OFFICERS** will be announced from the balconies of the Casa del Festero. In the same way, from the balcony of the Town Hall, the **NEW REGIDORAS** for next year will be announced.

Then, from the Casa del Festero, will be read the **MINUTES OF AWARDS** that will put an end to the Fiestas de Moros y Cristianos 2023 in honour of Our Lady La Virgen de las Virtudes.