



## **BOARD 6**

### **CHAPEL OF SAINT GENS**

This chapel, set in its green field, was built around 1822.

Its owner, abbé Charles-Joseph Bernard, who was the parish priest in Les Taillades from 1868 to 1875, donated it to the municipality, as confirmed in a town council meeting on 22 June 1879.

A page in the archives tells us that the said Charles-Joseph BERNARD, priest in Villes (sur Auzon), donated to the Fabrique (a charity) "some twenty-eight ares of arable land situated in the Badarel area of Les Taillades, on which the donor has erected a chapel in honour of Saint Gens (...) considering this chapel likely to be very useful as a processional site (...) and an asset on many occasions as a place where the dead could lie prior to the religious ceremony ...".

After six months of discussion, the Council accepted the gift on condition that the Fabrique did not request any financial assistance.

The Chapel was blessed on 14 September 1879. Various furnishings and equipment were subsequently added, in particular a bell, at the request of the "population which had long wanted to see a bell tower and a bell atop the Chapel of Saint Gens, to confer greater solemnity on the festivities held there in honour of the saint".

Since the separation of Church and State there has been no resident parish priest. The Chapel is no longer used for services, only the parish church being authorised now for religious ceremonies.

The Chapel currently houses a permanent exhibition of quarriers' and stonemasons' tools.

### ***Who was Saint Gens?***

*Gens Bournareau was born in 1104 in Monteux, a small town in the Comtat Venaissin four km from Carpentras, to a modest farming family. Very pious*

*from his childhood on, he wanted to avoid the pagan practices in which the town's inhabitants customarily engaged to call for rain.*

*He is said to have sought solitude in the valley which would later be known as the Valsainte, near Le Beaucet.*

*His first miracle occurred when he was clearing his land. After one of his draft animals had been killed by a wolf, he hitched the wolf to the same yoke as his cow.*

*In that same spot, too, he is said to have caused a miraculous spring to surge from the ground, to be used to combat fevers. This second miracle would be followed by many others.*

*He was often begged to call down rain. He died peacefully in that same valley on 16 May 1127 at the age of 23.*

*Since that date, the inhabitants of Monteux and Le Beaucet enthusiastically hold festivities in his honour on 16 May in Monteux and the first Sunday in September in Le Beaucet. A processional pilgrimage is organised, attended by a crowd of the faithful.*



---

<https://www.lestaillades.fr/decouvrir/visiter/>

