

## *Mary at the Sweat Lodge*



Mary most often appears in natural settings among trees and springs. Sometimes, as in this photo, her image is imprinted on a tree. This picture was taken in England earlier this year. The structure in the background is a sweat lodge whose covering has been removed for the winter.

Two thirds up the large tree in the foreground is a little patch of snow. This is the top of Mary's head, and just below it her long hair can be seen falling over her shoulders. There is a little patch of snow on her forehead like a jewel, and just underneath it her eyebrows and eyes can be clearly seen, looking down in her usual compassionate posture. Her head is slightly bent and her arms are bent inwards towards her waist. Some have seen that she is holding two children by the hand. I haven't seen that. What I see is a large, pointed animal head, which could be a mouse. I don't think it matters that people see different things as it's most likely that both images are present. Mary's hands in my case become the mouse's ears.

The mouse (if that is what it is) is standing in a respectful posture with its hands together as if in prayer. It seems to be holding something in its hands - an offering perhaps? Mary's robe reaches to the ground and seems to have some decorative stitching.

In the surrounding trees and bushes there are probably many more faces and forms, both animal and human, for people to find if they care to look. I can see the profile of a man's face to the left of Mary's waist area. It is large, about the size of the mouse's head, and is looking to the left. It is easy to spot because it is etched on the snow.

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