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NEWS FROM FRANCE:

To the pilgrim centre at Lourdes, many thousand of French and Foreign catholics flock to celebrate the Assumption of the Virgin. Here, where the shepherdess Bernadette saw her vision of the Virgin Mary nearly a century ago, a huge underground basilica is being constructed which will be able to hold 20,000 worshippers. A great torchlight procession marks the end of one of the holiest days in the Catholic calendar.

Pot-holers of Provence set out to explore the tunnels which honeycomb the great Massif de la Cousse. Though they are burrowing deep into the living rock, they are actually 4,700 feet above sea level - higher than Ben Nevis. They're out to solve a mystery; for there's fresh water in here - and when they reach 150 feet from the surface, there's ice as well. So they're looking for an underground river in a strange and silent world.