



World Apostolate of Fatima
England & Wales

An approved Public Association of the Faithful erected by the Pontifical Council for the Laity



WAF England and Wales Christmas 2016 Newsletter



Bishop Robert Byrne incensing National Statue at St Francis of Assisi parish, Birmingham

Dear Friends,

In this newsletter we will be particularly asking for your prayers, and action, for a number of intentions as we draw near the Centenary Year of the Fatima apparitions in 2017. These intentions are as follows:

- Visitation programme of the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima
- Donations for Centenary Year Appeal
- Publicity Campaign for Centenary Year activities
- Appeal for help for WAF England and Wales
- Prayers for Oliver Abasolo, WAF Southwark Diocesan representative
- Five First Saturdays devotions in January
- Enthronement of the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham in Westminster cathedral

The first thing to say, though, is thank you for your prayers for our Committee meeting in Birmingham at the beginning of the month—it went very smoothly and we accomplished a great deal in a relatively short time. So thank you!

As you are aware the purpose of the meeting was to plan the Visitation programme of the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, and Relics of Bl. Jacinta and Francisco, which will be going to many of the cathedrals in England and Wales next year.

This programme will begin with the crowning of Our Lady by Cardinal Nichols at a Mass in Westminster cathedral on Saturday 18th February 2017, when His Eminence will renew the consecration of England to the Immaculate Heart of Mary that was made by Cardinal Griffin at Walsingham on 16th July 1948.

Please pray that the bishops will join with the Cardinal in making this consecration, as we have requested, so that it may have the maximum effect.

We hope and believe that through the intercession of Mary's Immaculate Heart, these Visitations will bring down upon the Church in our country much needed graces of renewal and strengthening of people's life of faith.

Organising and implementing this programme is going to be very expensive—in the order of tens of thousands of pounds—and so we have embarked on a fund-raising campaign to pay for this and are having a special Fatima Centenary year appeal.

Donations by cheque or directly for our Centenary Year Appeal can be made via contact with our treasurer, Mike Daley, via this link:

<http://www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/contact.html>

Please quote ref: WAFDec16

Please feel free to forward this message to any of your friends who you think might also like to donate. All donors will be remembered in the monthly Masses offered from May to October 2017 at the Chapel of the Apparitions in Fatima.

We are also organising a publicity campaign involving articles in the Catholic Press and diocesan papers, and also on Social media such as Facebook, Twitter etc. Please pray that this will be successful, too.

Given all the work that has to be done for the Centenary Year, and more generally in promoting the Fatima message, we are also appealing for people to come forward to help us in any way they can – with promotion, with organising, and so on. We could particularly do with help regarding Social Media.

We would also ask for prayers for Oliver Abasolo, our Southwark Diocesan representative, and Custodian of the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady. He has had to go back to the Philippines to look after his mother who is unwell.

And in fact, for all those intentions you can join the Christmas Novena which runs from 16th December to Christmas Eve.

There is an on-line Christmas novena here:

<https://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/christmas.htm>

and another one here:

<http://www.praymorenovenas.com/christmas-novena/>

A few other things to mention: this is to give advance notice about the next Five First Saturdays day, which falls on 7th January 2017. You can see details of churches around the country where the Five First Saturdays devotion is kept, here:

www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/localffs.html

Finally, via the YouTube link below you can see the enthronement of the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham in the chapel of St George and the English Martyrs, in Westminster cathedral, which took place on 8th December 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7KpgsjLmqc>

The Church is moving towards Our Lady, and in 2017 Our Lady of Fatima is making her Visitation to the Church. Please help to foster this momentum.

God bless you and thank you in advance for whatever you can contribute towards our Centenary Year appeal.

Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas,

Donal

on behalf of WAF England and Wales Committee

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