



## NEWS AND COMMENT CHRISTMAS 2014

*"We would be mistaken to think that the prophetic mission of Fatima is complete."*  
Pope Benedict XVI, Fatima, 13 May 2010

Dear Friends,

This is the Christmas 2014 WAF England and Wales newsletter. You are receiving it either because you subscribed, or you were involved in some way in a Fatima Presentation during the last few years.

Advent and Christmas Blessings,  
The WAF England and Wales Committee

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### **Contents**

WAF International President meets Pope Francis  
Approval of WAF England & Wales by Rt Rev Mark O'Toole  
WAF England and Wales National Pilgrimage to Fatima  
Preparations for the Centenary of Fatima in 2017  
Five First Saturdays Devotions in Crosby, Liverpool  
Rosary Pledge Campaign  
Francisco and Jacinta Relics  
Promoting Fatima - Presentations and Fatima Days

### **WAF International President meets Pope Francis**

The big news internationally is that the World Apostolate of Fatima, as a public international association of the faithful, was invited to be present at the Third World Congress of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities, organized by the Pontifical Council for the Laity, which was held in Rome from November 20 to 22, 2014. It was attended by 300 participants from 40 different countries, representing about 100 ecclesial movements and new communities.

The WAF was given its own booth to display Fatima literature, and its two delegates, Prof. Américo Pablo López-Ortiz, WAF International President and Nuno Prazeres, Director of the International Secretariat, had the great honor and privilege to be among the small group that greeted and spoke to the Holy Father at the end of his audience.

Prof. Américo handed personally to Pope Francis a petition letter of 8 pages, in Spanish, on behalf of the World Apostolate of Fatima International, to establish the First Saturday's Devotion in the Universal Church, and spoke to him about "the forgotten part of the Message of Fatima", that is the First Saturday's Devotion. The Holy Father was delighted with this presentation on the Message of Fatima and showed personal signs of affection and joy to Prof. Américo as this subject is close to his heart.

Briefly, it was summarized to the Holy Father that the universal practice of the First Saturday's Devotion is a condition associated with: 1) world peace; 2) the conversion of many sinners; 3) the grace of final perseverance for those practicing it, and 4) the unity and strength of the Universal Church against inner dissensions opposing the Magisterium of the Successor of Peter: in a word, the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary promised at Fatima.

The special grace of unity and strength of the Universal Church is a special assistance from Our Lady of Fatima to the Petrine ministry of the Pope (i.e. that he is the successor of St Peter), and is mentioned in the correspondence between Sister Lucia and Pope Saint John Paul II. As we are approaching the centennial of the Fatima Apparitions in the year 2017, this should be the greatest gift of the Universal Church to Our Lady of Fatima — the universal establishment of the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Communion of Reparation of the First Saturdays!

Pope Francis was overjoyed by this message and certainly appreciated vividly the assistance promised to his Petrine ministry by Our Lady of Fatima in our days. This personal meeting was the longest one of the audiences. Now comes our part: much prayer, penance and apostolic efforts need to be offered to bring about the establishment of the First Saturday's Devotion in our respective local churches and in the Universal Church, as a sign of the definitive triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary promised at Fatima.

With this in mind, we are all called to be joyful missionaries of the Gospel of Christ, offering the world the precious message that Our Lady gave us in Fatima.

You can see more details of this meeting at:

<http://www.worldfatima.com/en>

### **Approval of the WAF in England & Wales by Rt Rev Mark O'Toole, Bishop of Plymouth**

The big news on the domestic front is that our National President, Timothy Tindal-Robertson, who lives in the diocese of Plymouth, recently had a meeting with his bishop, Rt. Rev. Mark O'Toole, to inform him about the WAF and request his approval for the work that we undertake in the Church in this country.

Following this meeting, in a letter dated 31 October 2014, the bishop wrote to Timothy and said,

"I am particularly pleased to be able to affirm the work that you are doing to promote the regular saying of the Rosary, particularly in family life. I hope that this work will continue to grow in these years, especially as we approach the Centenary of the Apparitions at Fatima in 2017 ... and I will continue to pray for the success of the World Apostolate of Fatima in this country. Thank you for all that you do".

A PDF of the letter can be seen here:

<http://www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/pdfs/bishop-letter.pdf>

### **WAF England and Wales National Pilgrimage to Fatima**

There will be another National Pilgrimage to Fatima organised by the World Apostolate of Fatima England and Wales, from 9-16 July 2015.

Spiritual Director: Fr Gerard Kelly, Leader: Mike Daley

The price is expected to be £599 per person sharing and will include:

Return Flight London Heathrow  
Half-Board in Domus Pacis  
Taxes & Standard Insurance  
Coach Tours in Fatima, and to Nazare Shrines & Beach

Fatima is one of the most important Marian pilgrimage centres in the world, and its message has assumed even more prominence since the beatification of Francisco and Jacinta in May 2000.

The week consists of a full programme of events centred in Fatima.

Intending Pilgrims can contact Mike Daley, the National Pilgrimage leader, directly at:

[mike.daley@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk](mailto:mike.daley@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk)

## **Preparations for the Centenary of the Fatima Apparitions in 2017**

It is very important that we make the best preparation possible for the Centenary of the Fatima Apparitions in 2017, and to that end we are developing a number of initiatives.

Firstly, in connection with Timothy's meeting with Bishop O'Toole, a plan has been agreed in principle for a small Pilgrim Virgin statue of Our Lady of Fatima to circulate round all the 5 deaneries of Plymouth diocese from May 2016 to May 2017. The details of this plan are unlikely to be worked out until later in 2015. Meanwhile, we are completing the content for those sections on our website dealing with the Rosary and the Five First Saturdays devotion.

Then early in the New Year we will start working out how best to introduce the Rosary into the life of the Church, in parishes, schools and families, and submit our proposals to Bishop O'Toole for his approval. Once that has been achieved, we will then start implementing the programme that has been agreed, and at the same time approach the bishops of several other dioceses whom we believe are likely to view this initiative favourably.

Our representative for Southwark Archdiocese, Oliver is planning to take the National Pilgrim Virgin statue around various Cathedrals from 2016 to 2017, and let us remember that the start of 2016 is only just over a year away.

## **Five First Saturdays Devotions in Crosby, Liverpool**

This is a report from Noelle Duffy, a parishioner of St Helen's church in Crosby, Liverpool, on how the Five First Saturday's devotion has started in her parish.

"After seeing Donal's excellent Presentation about Fatima in the Summer of 2013, at St Helen's church in Crosby, Liverpool, I realised that the church could hold the Five First Saturday Fatima Devotions, because Mass is celebrated each Saturday at 12 noon, following Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 11 am and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available from 11.20 onwards.

"The first of the Five First Saturdays Fatima Devotions at St. Helen's began in March, 2014. We had a break during August, because so many people are away over the holiday period, and started again in September. Although the numbers attending aren't very high at the moment, we're happy and privileged to respond in our own small way to the requests of Our Lady at Fatima."

We are hoping to put information about the Five First Saturdays devotion on our website shortly – if you happen to know a parish where this already takes place, please let us know, as we intend to have a list of churches where the devotion is held on the First Saturdays.

## **Rosary Pledge Campaign**

You can see information about our new at Rosary Pledge Campaign here:

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

This campaign is designed to encourage as many people as possible to help the work of the WAF England and Wales by praying that there will be a greater acceptance of Our Lady's message given at Fatima, particularly concerning praying the Rosary every day, and especially the family Rosary.

As a pledge of their commitment, people are invited to sign a promise to Our Lady to fulfil her request to pray the Rosary every day, on a certificate which can be downloaded here:

<http://www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/pdfs/rosary-pledge-certificate.pdf>

The idea is that family members can add their names to this certificate and display it prominently as a reminder to pray that Rosary every day!

### **Francisco and Jacinta relics**

We are very pleased that we now have received relics of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco from the Postulation Centre for their Causes for Canonisation. The relics have been taken from their original coffins and will accompany the National Pilgrim Virgin statue on its travels around the country.

At a visit of the statue, cards will be available with a prayer for the canonisation of the two shepherd children. This is the first time people will be able to pray in front of Our Lady's National Pilgrim Virgin statue for England and Wales, which was given to our country by Pope Paul VI on his visit to Fatima on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1967, and also in the presence of these relics.

Blessed Francisco & Jacinta are the first children in the history of the Church who were raised to heroic virtue by living Our Lady's message in the ordinary course of their lives in their families. All previous child saints became saints by shedding their blood in martyrdom.

We urge people to pray for the intercession of BI Francisco and Jacinta, and especially that God will grant a further miracle of healing through their intercession. When such a miracle takes place, they will then become the first non-martyr child saints in the history of the Church.

### **Promoting Fatima - Presentations and Fatima Days**

WAF England & Wales is pressing forward with promoting the Fatima message, and offers Fatima Presentations and Fatima Days around the country. These comprise an introductory talk and DVD on the message of Fatima, and a PowerPoint presentation explaining how the Rosary and the Five First Saturdays devotion can revitalise personal faith and authentic spirituality in the life of the parish or group.

You can contact us if you think there might be an opportunity for a Fatima Presentation in your

parish or area.

These presentations generally last between one and half hours and two hours. There are also books, booklets and DVDs available for sale. Please see:

<http://www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/pdfs/waf-presentations-flyer.pdf>

For more details please visit:

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

### **WAF England & Wales Website**

More material is being added to our new website, which can be seen here:

[www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/](http://www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/)

There is information there about all aspects of Fatima and the work of World Apostolate of Fatima. Please take a look at the site and recommend it to your friends.

The latest material on the site is related to the Rosary and its importance. You can see general information about the Rosary, including about praying and meditating it, here:

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

There is also a links page on the site here:

[www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/links.html](http://www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/links.html)

If you have a relevant Catholic site, and would like to exchange links, please get in touch.

### **International News – WAF Secretariat**

There is a lot of news available about Fatima worldwide and the activities of the International Secretariat here:

<http://www.worldfatima.com/en>

### **Spreading the word and getting involved!**

We hope you will agree that we really need to reach as many people as possible with information about Fatima, so please feel to forward this newsletter to your friends. This is very important. If each person who receives this email forwards it to just a few other people they think might be interested in the Fatima message, then that would be very helpful.

As well as that, we also need to find more people prepared to help us to spread the message

of Fatima. Could you have some Fatima leaflets and, with your parish priest's permission, leave them at the back of your church?

Or could you promote Fatima in some other way, such as telling people about the National Pilgrimage, or the Fatima Presentations, or our plans for the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue? Or perhaps you could get involved in promoting the Rosary in your parish or neighbourhood?

If you can help in any way, please contact us via:

[info@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk](mailto:info@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk)

With prayers & best wishes from the WAF England and Wales Committee:

Fr Gerard Kelly, Spiritual Director.

Timothy Tindal-Robertson, National President, Plymouth representative.

Mike Daley, Treasurer and Clifton Representative.

Donal Foley, Secretary and Nottingham Representative.

Brigid McKenna, Birmingham Representative.

Oliver Abasolo, Southwark Representative.