

Fatima Centenary Year 2017

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World Apostolate of Fatima
England & Wales

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WAF England and Wales Newsletter, May 2017 First Saturdays

Dear Friends,

This is the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) England and Wales newsletter for May 2017.

Here are some important recent words of Pope Francis, spoken on 5 April:

“Let us accept these Messages (the Divine Mercy and Fatima) so that they fill our hearts”

He was speaking about the importance of the legacy of Pope St John Paul II, and these words are an encouragement to us all to do as much as we can to promote the Fatima message in this centenary year.

The World Apostolate of Fatima England and Wales Centenary programme of Visitations, from May to October 2017, to cathedrals, abbeys and churches, by the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, and Relics of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco Marto, began with the extremely successful ceremony at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 18th February.

At this event, Cardinal Vincent Nichols said Mass, preached, and crowned the

statue of Our Lady of Fatima. In his homily, His Eminence said: “I pray that the pilgrimage of this statue of Our Lady of Fatima, on its journey round the cathedrals of England and Wales, will be a time of grace for many, as they honour Our Lady of Fatima in this centenary year.”

The Cardinal also went on pilgrimage to Fatima recently, and while there, in a homily he highlighted some lessons from the lives of Francisco and Jacinta, namely: God chooses us for the gift of faith because of “the simplicity and openness of our hearts” which leads us into “a pathway of suffering” in which our response “is to be that of prayer, penance and self-offering.”

He also said that “in our lives too there is to be a longing for heaven” quietly confident that “we are never forsaken, Mary is with us always, guiding us home;” and our pathway of prayer is to be “united with the Immaculate Heart of Mary because she is nearest to the Sacred Heart of Jesus”.

The Cardinal concluded his homily with an act of consecration using the words of Pope St John Paul II at Fatima on 13th May 1982.

You can see more details about this pilgrimage here:

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/32431>

Centenary programme of WAF Visitations this month

In this month of May, the Visitations begin at Cardiff on 6-7 May and will continue with Belmont Abbey on 10 May, and then the Statue and Relics of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco Marto will travel to London, to Southwark Cathedral, from 13-14 May for the 100th Anniversary date of Our Lady’s first apparition at Fatima.

At Fatima on 13th May, Pope Francis will declare the two seers the first child saints in the history of the Church who died in the normal course of family life, and not as martyrs. This development highlights the importance of Our Lady’s message for the family at a time when it is facing unprecedented threats.

At each of these Visitations the faithful will be able to venerate the relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco, and participate in devotions to Our Lady.

On the following weekend, 20-21 May, the Statue and Relics will be at Shrewsbury Cathedral, and the final weekend in May will see them in Wales, firstly at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Taper in Cardigan, on 27 May, and then at Menevia Cathedral in Swansea from 27-28 May.

Just to give advance notice of the June Visitations – these are at the Dominican Priory at Leicester (1 June), Nottingham Cathedral (2-4 June), Louth in Lincolnshire (4 June), the London Ordinariate (10-11 June), and Plymouth Cathedral (24-25 June).

For details of these and the succeeding Visitations from July to October, please see:

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

where you can download posters, and access the relevant websites.

Fundraising for WAF England & Wales

Les Whittaker is a parishioner of Our Lady & St Peter's Church, East Grinstead in Sussex. He has volunteered to cycle 1,500 miles to Fatima, Portugal, this summer, in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions, and the 50th anniversary of the

1967 Abortion Act.

He is also undertaking this cycling pilgrimage to raise funds for WAF England and Wales and several Pro-Life societies. Les will bear all expenses relating to the ride himself, to maximise the money that will be donated to the causes. He will start from the memorial to unborn children in East Grinstead on 6th June, and finish at the Chapel of the Apparitions, Fatima, on 13th July.

Thus his arrival will coincide with the WAF National Pilgrimage to Fatima from 10th to 17th July. Bishop O'Toole from Plymouth and Bishop Byrne CO from Birmingham, are accompanying this pilgrimage.

If you would like to sponsor Les, please make a donation at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fatima100>

You can see more details about Les's ride here:

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

You can see details about the WAF England and Wales Centennial tree programme here:

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

and details of how you can donate gold and silver items for the Centennial Crown, here:

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

Alan Frost has kindly provided a Fatima Centenary crossword, which you can download and fill in, here:

<http://www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/pdfs/fatima-crossword.pdf>

Unfortunately, there aren't any prizes, (unless someone would like to make a donation!) but the answers will be given next month!

This coming Saturday, 6 May, is the first Saturday of the month, so you may want to keep the Fatima Five First Saturdays devotion in your local parish.

At the Church of the Assumption, Beeston, Nottingham, Mass is at 10 am, followed by the Rosary and confessions until 11:15. And there are also First Saturday devotions at St Barnabas Cathedral in Nottingham from after 10 am Mass.

At the church in Glastonbury, there is Mass at 10 am, preceded by First Saturday devotions at 9.20 am, and followed by Confessions from 10:30 – 11:00 am.

At the Sacred Heart church in Morrision, Swansea, there will be 1st Saturday Devotions from May – October as follows:

10:10 - Act of reparation and Consecration to the Immaculate Heart

10.15 - The Rosary

10.30 - Holy Mass

11am - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and prayers of the Angel

Time for Confession and the 15 minute meditation in company with Our Lady

11.45 - Benediction

12 Noon - the Fatima Ave

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

Please visit this page to check about your local church and contact them directly before travelling to check that the times etc., as advertised, are correct for the coming month.

Donations

If anyone wishes to donate towards the costs of the Visitation programme, which are considerable, they can do so by emailing:

donate@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

and the bank account details etc., will be sent to them.

If you know anyone who lives within a reasonable travelling distance of the places where Visitations are to take place over the next month, that is Cardiff Cathedral, Belmont Abbey, Southwark Cathedral, Shrewsbury Cathedral, Shrine of Our Lady of the Taper in Cardigan and Menevia Cathedral, then please forward this newsletter to them and let them know what is happening.

Likewise with the Visitations in June and throughout the rest of the summer. All the details are here:

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

Also, if you intend to attend any of the above Visitations and are not already involved with the preparations for them/helping on the day, but would like to help, then please get in touch via:

info@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

And please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested.

Finally, please keep the intentions of the WAF Cathedral Visitations in your prayers, that Our Lady will open hearts to her message, and bring us the support we need to maintain and extend the rewarding but also very demanding work of promoting her message in our country.

**Thanks and God bless,
Donal**

on behalf of WAF England and Wales Committee

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