

World Apostolate of Fatima



England and Wales **News and Comment** Easter 2014

www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/index

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With Pope Francis in Rome - 13 October 2013

Welcome to the new WAF England and Wales newsletter, which, in the future, we hope to publish not less than three times a year. A lot has happened in the last year and there have been some important new developments for the Fatima Apostolate in this country.

The most exciting international event was the Marian "Day" which took place at the Vatican last 12-13 October, as part of the Year of Faith events, when Pope Francis presided over some truly impressive ceremonies. The majority of the members of the WAF England and Wales committee were

privileged to be in Rome for that weekend. There was a real Fatima connection in that not only was the event scheduled to coincide with 13 October, the anniversary date of the final apparition at Fatima on 13 October 1917, when Our Lady performed the incredible miracle of the sun before 70,000 amazed spectators, but also due to the fact that Pope Francis specially requested that the statue of Our Lady from the Capelinha in Fatima be brought to Rome for the occasion.

On the afternoon of the 12 October, Pope Francis gave a Marian Catechesis, and we were very privileged as a group in that Timothy Tindal-Robertson, the WAF England and Wales National President, was chosen to meet the Pope afterwards, as the representative of all the WAF groups present. This gesture signified the Pope's approval of the work of the Apostolate in promoting Our Lady's message in the Church, and Timothy, who was warmly received by the Holy Father, told him that all the members of the WAF were praying the Rosary for his intentions.

On Sunday 13 October, the Pope celebrated Mass in St Peter's square, under beautiful blue skies, in the presence of a congregation of about 150,000 people. After Mass the Pope recited an act of consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, emphasising his profound commitment to Fatima and Our Lady's very important message.

Pope Francis consecrates Pontificate to Our Lady of Fatima

But even before that, Pope Francis had shown how he wanted to put his pontificate under the special protection of the Blessed Virgin, when it was consecrated to Our Lady of Fatima in Fatima on 13 May 2013.

The Pope asked the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon to perform this consecration, which he carried out together with all the bishops of Portugal on the 96th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima on 13 May 1917. This is a significant event, and shows that Pope Francis intends to maintain the close links between the Papacy and Fatima. And the Pope's obvious devotion to Our Lady is becoming more apparent as his papacy unfolds.

In all this, he is carrying on the traditions established by his predecessors, Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. Saint John Paul II visited Fatima three times, performed the collegial consecration requested by Our Lady in 1984, beatified Jacinta and Francisco, the two youngest seers, at Fatima on 13 May 2000, directed Cardinal Ratzinger to publish the third part of the secret of Fatima, and entrusted the Third millennium to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the presence of Our Lady's statue from Fatima, at the Jubilee Mass of the bishops on 8 October 2000.



Pope Francis with Timothy Tindal-Robertson

"We would be mistaken to think that the prophetic mission of Fatima is complete."

Pope Benedict XVI, Fatima, May 2010

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Promoting Fatima - Presentations and Fatima Days

We are pressing forward with promoting the Fatima message in England and Wales, and can now offer Fatima Presentations and Fatima Days around the country. These comprise an introductory talk and DVD on the message of Fatima, as seen through the lives of the two shepherd children, Bl Francisco and Jacinta, 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 Donal Foley at: donal.foley@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk if you think there might be an opportunity for him to give 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, including the favourable commendations by some of the priests who have hosted recent Presentations.

There are Presentations and Fatima Days due to take place in Bristol, Birmingham and Nottingham in the coming months, and it is hoped that others can be arranged. You can see details about them here:

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

New WAF E & W Website

Our new website is now up and running, and while there is quite a bit of material on it, we still have more to upload. You can see it here:

www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/

There is information about why Fatima is important, about Fatima itself, about the Fatima Seers, as well as information about the work of World Apostolate of Fatima.

Please take a look at the site and recommend it to your friends!

There is also a links page on the site here:

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

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

WAF E & W Membership

If you are not already a member of WAF England and Wales you can see details about joining here:

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

If you have received this newsletter as an email, but wish to unsubscribe, you can do this by visiting:

www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/newsletter.html Choose the "unsubscribe" button, and then click on "sign up." (You won't receive an email to confirm this, but it does work!)

For those receiving the newsletter as a printed sheet, you can either provide an email address and receive the newsletter electronically in future without any charge, or else we are suggesting a subscription of £5 per year to cover printing and postage costs for those who prefer to receive it through the post. If you wish to do this, please send your cheque, made out to "Apostolate of Fatima Swindon," to the WAF England and Wales treasurer, Mike Daley, at: 93 Kingsdown Road, Swindon, SN2 7PA

Please also feel free to pass on this newsletter to your friends!

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

Fr Gerard Kelly, Spiritual Director, Timothy Tindal-Roberston, National President, Mike Daley, Treasurer, Donal Foley, Secretary, Brigid McKenna, Birmingham Representative, Oliver Abasolo, Southwark Representative.

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WAF National Pilgrimage

The WAF England and Wales National Pilgrimage is still going strong, and has now been taking groups to Fatima nearly every year for over 30 years. This year, the pilgrimage will be going from 10-17 July, with Fr Gerard Kelly as Spiritual Director, and Mike Daley as Leader, ably assisted by Brigid McKenna, the WAF Birmingham diocesan representative.

Although the pilgrimage is fully booked for this year, if you would like, in due course, to receive information about the 2015 pilgrimage, please email Mike Daley at: mike.daley@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

Oliver new WAF Int'l Trustee

We were very pleased to hear that our Southwark Archdiocese representative, Oliver Abasolo, was elected to WAF International Board of Trustees in Fatima, Portugal, during the meeting which took place between 11-17 November 2012.

Oliver has been doing very important work in Southwark Archdiocese, particularly as regards the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, of which he is the custodian, and we hope to have more details about this on the website shortly, including photos of the venues he has attended with the National Pilgrim Virgin statue.