



## **WAF England and Wales Newsletter, First Saturdays, July 2018**

Dear Friends,

**This is the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) England and Wales newsletter for July 2018.**

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***Report on World Apostolate of Fatima "Grace and Mercy" Seminar, which took place at Domus Pacis in Fatima, Portugal, from 24th to 30th June.***

**WAF England and Wales was represented at the Seminar by Oliver Abasolo, the acting National President, and Fr Jason Jones, our National Spiritual Director, and also Fr Richard Nesbitt, the Westminster spiritual director. Also present were Nichola Hurley, National Executive Committee, Birmingham, & Patrick Cunningham from Hexham & Newcastle Diocese.**

35 countries were represented and there were over 140 participants. Oliver reported that there is a growing cohesion between WAF England and Wales and WAF Scotland and Ireland which is encouraging.

One bishop and numerous priests attended the Seminar, which was rich in terms of formation. There were two days of input from the Sanctuary, and two and a half days from WAF International, and the consensus was that the event was well organised.

Bishop Marto of Leiria-Fatima was present at Seminar before going to Rome to be installed as a Cardinal.

**WAF England and Wales have now acquired a statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was blessed in the Chapel of Apparitions, and will be used to promote devotion to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart and the Five First Saturdays in this country.**

Mr Jorge Leitão, who donated the Centenary crown to WAF England and Wales last year, has now also donated a new Centennial Rosary to go with the National Pilgrim

Virgin Statue and crown. This Rosary is silver gilt, and has many symbolic design elements, while the Hail Mary beads are pure crystal.

You can see some information about the Rosary, and pictures, [here ...](#)

**Finally, the next WAF Euro Congress will be in Fulda, Germany, from May 19-24, 2019.**

*The image above shows the new Statue in the Capelinha at Fatima, with left to right, Fr Richard Nesbitt, Oliver Abasolo, Reynald Andales (WAF International Board Trustee), and Fr Jason Jones.*

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### **WAF October Rosary Campaign**

**WAF England and Wales are organising an October Rosary Campaign as a follow up to the Visitation of the Fatima Statue, and Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco, to many dioceses and cathedrals last year, as a contribution to the re-evangelisation of our country, under the maternal guidance of the Queen of the holy Rosary and Mother of the Church.**

October is the month of the Rosary, and of course 13 October is the anniversary day of the famous Fatima Miracle of the Sun on 13 October 1917, when at least 70,000 people who had gathered at the Cova da Iria in Fatima, at the place where Our Lady appeared to the children, saw a tremendous miracle.

**So we would like to celebrate October as the month of the Rosary by inviting as many parishes, groups, families and individuals in England and Wales to pray the Rosary during the coming month of October. And hopefully by that means, a habit will be formed and people will want to go on praying the Rosary throughout the year!**

**Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) wrote numerous encyclicals promoting the Rosary, and encouraged the practice of saying the Rosary every day in October. And since Our Lady requested during each of her six apparitions at Fatima that people should pray the Rosary for peace in the world, we know that the Rosary is a prayer she particularly favours, to the extent that on 13th October 1917 she revealed herself as, "the Lady of the Rosary".**

And while it's very important to emphasise the Rosary, it's also necessary to promote other aspects of the Fatima message, such as the Five First Saturdays devotion, which includes Our Lady's request for recitation of the Rosary and meditation on the mysteries.

**The centenary of the apparition of Blessed Virgin to Sr Lucia in Pontevedra, where she revealed the details of the First Saturdays devotion, occurs in 2025 – so this is an important date to work towards.**

And we also want to highlight more general Marian items and themes, such as the Brown Scapular, and personal consecration to the Blessed Virgin, as well as devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

**It would be a good follow up to having October as the month of the Rosary for [parishes to begin the Five First Saturdays devotion](#) (if that doesn't already happen), the following month, November, carrying on through till March 2019, and even beyond that, so it becomes a regular feature of parish life, while also encouraging the saying of the Rosary in the parish and in people's homes.**

To this end, we would also like to publicise our [Rosary Pledge campaign](#), as a way of encouraging as many people as possible to pray the Rosary daily, in imitation of what happened in Austria in the 1940s and 50s.

**The fact is that the Fatima message is over a century old and yet still far too few Catholics know much about it. It has been strongly recommended by Popes St John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis, who urged, "Let us accept these Messages (i.e. the Divine Mercy and Fatima) so that they fill our hearts".**

**Thus the emphasis we would like to place on the month of October, and particularly 13 October, as the Fatima anniversary date, and also because Our**

**Lady linked the conversion of Russia and the promised era of peace with the message she was giving at Fatima.**

So WAF England and Wales wants to play its part in this Marian renewal by promoting the message of Fatima, with, in this October Rosary campaign, an emphasis on the miracle of the sun, the Five First Saturdays devotion, and in particular, the Rosary, and October as the month of the Rosary,

**If a Rosary campaign is something you can start, with your parish priest's permission, in your parish this coming October, please let us know, and likewise, if you are able to start up the First Saturdays devotion in your parish.**

But even if a parish-based Rosary campaign isn't possible, there's nothing stopping anyone organising the praying of the Rosary in their family, or with their friends or neighbours.

**Please circulate information about this October Rosary Campaign as widely as possible!**

This information is on the website at:

<https://worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/october-2018-rosary-campaign-2/>

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***Padre Pio First Saturdays consecration prayer***

**St. Pio of Pietrelcina, Padre Pio, was deeply devoted to Our Lady. He prayed many rosaries every day and also consecrated himself to the Blessed Virgin on the first Saturday of every month, probably in response to the Fatima apparitions. Below is the prayer that he prayed each month:**

*O Mary, Virgin most powerful and Mother of mercy, Queen of heaven and Refuge of sinners, we consecrate ourselves to your Immaculate Heart. We consecrate to you our very being and our whole life; all that we have, all that we love, all that we are. To you we give our bodies, our hearts and our souls; to you we give our homes, our families, our country. We desire that all that is in us and around us may belong to you, and may share in the benefits of your motherly benediction.*

*And that this act of consecration may be truly efficacious and lasting, we renew this day at your feet the promises of our Baptism and our first Holy Communion. We pledge ourselves to profess courageously and at all times the truths, of our Holy Faith, and to live as Catholics who are duly submissive to all the directions of the Pope and the Bishops in communion with him.*

*We pledge ourselves to keep the commandments of God and His Church, in particular to keep holy the Lord's day. We likewise pledge ourselves to make the consoling practices of the Christian religion, and above all, Holy Communion, an integral part of our lives, in so far as we shall be able to do so.*

*Finally, we promise you, O glorious Mother of God and loving Mother of all, to devote ourselves whole-heartedly to your service, in order to hasten and assure, through the sovereignty of your Immaculate Heart, the coming of the kingdom of the Sacred Heart of your adorable Son, in our own hearts and in the hearts of all, in our country and in all the world, as in heaven, so on earth. Amen.*

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**If you can help with distributing Fatima literature, and promoting the Five First Saturdays, or regarding the website, social media and so on, whether locally or nationally then please get in touch via:**

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

**We especially need people to help promote WAF and Fatima through Social Media. This is particularly important. If you happen to know of anyone who might be interested in helping in this area, please ask them to get in touch.**

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**If anyone wishes to donate towards the ongoing costs of promoting Fatima in England and Wales - such as the cost of the new Statue -they can do so by visiting the home page of our website at:**

<https://worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/>

**The yellow PayPal donation button is about half way down on the right of the home page, and you can donate either via a credit card or your Paypal account.**

(There is no need to include a £ sign. Also, please ensure you enter a whole amount of pounds, i.e. 10 for a donation of ten pounds, not 10.00 - so no need for a decimal point or extra zeros!

Or you can email: [donate@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk](mailto:donate@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk) and the WAF bank account details etc., will be sent to you, and also, if you want to make a donation by cheque, you can get address details via that email address.

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***54 day Rosary novena from August 15th - October 7th***

**Anyone can do a 54 day rosary novena from August 15th to October 7th, that is from the feast of the Assumption to that of the Holy Rosary.**

This is a very powerful form of prayer, and you can read more about it here:

<https://www.romancatholicman.com/the-miraculous-54-day-rosary-novena/>

This is what's happening in the United States regarding this Novena:

<https://www.novenaforournation.com/>

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***Rosary Bike Ride In Support of the Pro-Life Work of the Good Counsel Network***

**Les Whittaker, who did a bike pilgrimage to Fatima last year, which helped to raise funds for WAF England and Wales as well as some pro-life charities, is undertaking another pilgrimage this month from East Grinstead Unborn Children Memorial to Walsingham, and back.**

Les will pray 50 rosaries on the way to Walsingham, 50 there, and 50 on the return journey, with the intention of mourning the almost 9 million lives lost at the 50th anniversary of the Abortion Act.

His pilgrimage, which had to be put off from last month, and which will start soon, will cover between 350-400 miles.

**He will pray that, through Our Lady's intercession, the culture in this country will change to one of choosing life, not death.**

**To support the ride please sponsor Les at this web site:**

[justgiving.com/fundraising/rosarybikeride](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/rosarybikeride)

Please also join in and pray the Rosary each day in union with Les while he is undertaking his prayer pilgrimage, as a powerful way of supporting him and the work of the Good Counsel Network.

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***Five First Saturdays devotion***

**Saturday 7th July is the first Saturday of the month, so you may want to keep the Fatima Five First Saturdays devotion in your local parish.**

**You can see details of churches around the country where the Five First Saturdays devotion is kept, here:**

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.

**On a personal note, the First Saturdays devotion is being started at St Mary's church in Hyson Green, Nottingham, this coming Saturday, so it would be good if you could pray that this will be a successful launch.**

It's interesting that this church is very closely associated with Venerable Mary Potter, who founded her religious congregation, the [Little Company of Mary](#), there in the late 19th century. She followed the True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin taught by St Louis de Montfort in a very profound way, and lived a life of suffering and sacrifice through prolonged illnesses.

**In some ways, it could be said that her teaching was a sort of precursor to what Our Lady said at Fatima, regarding devotion to her Immaculate Heart, in that Ven. Mary Potter very much promoted the idea of devotion to the Maternal Heart of Mary.**

So it is very suitable that the First Saturdays devotion should be starting in the church so closely associated with her.

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#### ***Important Marian initiatives in Britain***

**The success of the Rosary on the Coast initiative last April is a sign that people are interested in Marian devotion, do want to pray the Rosary, and realise its importance.**

The organisers estimate that some 45,000 people took part in around 400 locations, and it was supported by all the Bishops of Scotland, Wales and England, who encouraged participation through Diocesan channels, websites and blogs. On the day 17 Bishops attended with all the rest pledging to join us in Prayer from where ever they were.

And likewise, The [Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage](#), from 2018 to 2020, when there will be visitations to the cathedrals of England of the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham is another very important initiative, which will lead up to our Bishops renewing the dedication of the country to Our Lady as her Dowry.

**So WAF England and Wales wants to play its part in this Marian renewal by promoting the message of Fatima, with, in this October Rosary campaign, an emphasis on the miracle of the sun, the Five First Saturdays devotion, and in particular the Rosary and October as the month of the Rosary,**

***Finally, we are due to have our important mid-year National Committee meeting near Southampton a week Saturday, 14 July, so we would appreciate your prayers for its success.***

Thanks and God bless,  
Donal

on behalf of WAF England and Wales Committee  
(please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested.)

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

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