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WAF England and Wales AGM at t Carmelite Priory, Boars Hill, Oxfo



Dear Friends,

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

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WAF Annual General Meeting 23-24 November 2018

We had our WAF England and Wales Annual General Meeting at the Carmelite Retreat Centre at Boars Hill, from Friday 23rd to Saturday 24th November.

Delegates attended from many parts of the country and it was a great success. We gathered for a 10 o'clock start, and after this attended Mass in the Retreat centre chapel, followed by the Rosary and lunch.

Then it was down to business, which commenced with the opening remarks and a report from Oliver Abasolo, the acting WAF National President. This report detailed events in 2017 and 2018, with a focus on the Centenary celebrations last year, when the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue and Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco visited many of the Cathedrals in England and Wales.

This was followed by a financial report, and then there was a time of formation in the Fatima message given by Canon Jason Jones, the National Spiritual director. This focused on the preparations for the Centenary, in 2025, of the apparition to Sr Lucia by Our Lady in Pontevedra, Spain, in 1925, when the First Saturdays devotion was revealed in full.

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from 2019 to 2024, which looks at ways in which we can further promote the Fatima Message, including a much bigger focus on social media. He also discussed ways of increasing our membership, and of promoting greater involvement by young people in the Apostolate, as well as, amongst other things, the promotion of the Five First Saturdays devotion, and continued Visitations to the Statue and Relics.

The vital importance of promoting Formation programmes was also highlighted by Oliver, as well as ways of increasing our fundraising capabilities, so that we are better able to spread the message.

After that, we had workshops which allowed more in-depth discussion of topics such as the Rosary, the First Saturdays, Fatima Prayer groups, and the Holy Pilgrim Statue programme.

Then came the election of the new Committee members, which turned out to be very interesting, as we learnt that Oliver was resigning as acting National President to pursue a religious/priestly vocation. A new National President was elected, and after further rounds of voting, we also had a new vice-President, plus a new Secretary and treasurer - all the details below.

After that, we had a further formation session given by Fr Richard Nesbitt, who gave a very interesting talk on "The Message of Fatima and Our Lady's Immaculate Heart."

Supper was then followed by Vespers and Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.

The next day, Saturday, we had a practice session with the Prayer

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After an early lunch, and all too soon really, it was time to go home.

This AGM generated a lot of enthusiasm, and we went away from it with confidence for the future of WAF England and Wales. It turned out to be an excellent opportunity for participants to become better acquainted with the Fatima message, and also as a social occasion, and as a means of getting to know our fellow Fatima workers better.

The above photo shows the delegates who attended the WAF AGM. The National President, Jerry Rivera, is second from left front row. The new Vice President, Patrick Cunningham, is third from left, back row.

Message from our New National President

Dear Fatima family,

The 1st WAF National Annual General Meeting was one for the history books. It was truly an empowering and grace filled event in the life of the Apostolate in our lands. My heartfelt gratitude to those who have organised it, and especially to our Spiritual Directors who took the time to be with us, in spite of their hectic parish pastoral responsibilities. Of course, thank you to all of you for the much-needed prayers.

During the weekend of 23-24 November 2018, we have elected our new National Executive Committee for 2018-2020:

National President: Jerry Rivera (Southwark)

National Vice President: Patrick Cunningham (Hexham & Newcastle)

National Secretary: Oonagh Pittam (Plymouth)

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We would like to thank all the past officers of the Apostolate, especially Ol Abasolo (Southwark), who acted as the National President. The success of celebrations during the Centenary year of the Apparitions in 2017 paved the way for where we are currently. Our beloved Bishops and the clergy have welcomed us in their respective dioceses, with much generosity and love, for these we thank you!

"What do you want of me?," Lucia asked Our Lady on 13 July 1917. May we humbly exclaim the same thing ourselves and ponder on the essence and implications of this simple question in each of our lives. The sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of our dear Mother calls us to repair the offences hurled against her. Let us then pray unceasingly, sacrifice without tiring, and fight the good fight of faith. May we be like the three shepherd children who lived exemplary lives of fidelity in responding to Our Lady's requests.

We are ONE FAMILY, ONE ARMY in Our Lady's Apostolate! God bless you and your families! Ave Maria!

Jerry Rivera

National President

WAF England and Wales

Message from our National Spiritual Director

The liturgical season of Advent begins this weekend and is a time for us to reflect on the great theological virtue of Hope which dominates the readings at daily Mass during this season. We are to live in Advent Hope.

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So important is Hope that the prayer of the Angel of Fatima not only mentions our own hope but also asks pardon for those who do not hope. Have we ever thought of this - that we ask pardon for those who do not hope? Can we imagine living without hope?

The message revealed by Our Lady at Fatima gives to us reasons to hope because we are given the solutions to the sin that surrounds us. When we hear her appeals, then all is not lost or forsaken or can fill us with despair. Sin and eternal damnation will never be the last word for in the end her Immaculate Heart will triumph. We have a lot of reasons to be hopeful.

As we enter into Advent let us have a 'Mary' Christmas in our sights through Advent observance - the daily Angelus, daily Rosary, the worthy celebration of the great feast of the Immaculate Conception, our confession during Advent, ready for our Christmas Holy Communion, so she who is our life, our sweetness and our hope may prepare our hearts through greater fidelity to the Fatima message and WAF membership, so as to await in joyful hope the coming of Our Saviour Jesus Christ this Christmas, and when He comes again.

With assurance of my prayers

Canon Jason Jones

National Spiritual Director.

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This photo of the celebration of Mass during our time at Boars Hill, shows Canon Jason Jones at the altar assisted by Fr Richard Nesbitt, with the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue and Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco positioned to the front of the altar.

WAF National Pilgrimage 2019

The WAF England and Wales National pilgrimage next year is from J 10th-16th. The flights are via Air Portugal TAP, and the Pilgrimage operator is Tangney Tours.

Pilgrims will stay at Domus Pacis hotel, at a cost of £632 per person sharing. The single supplement is £120, and Insurance is from £33.

Accommodation is half board, with 2 half-day excursions included in the price.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to come on this pilgrimage, then please book up as soon as possible.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[You can see details about the pilgrimage here:](#)

<https://worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/waf-england-and-wales-national-pilgrimage/>

Five First Saturdays devotion

Saturday 1st December is the first Saturday of the month, so you can participate in the Fatima Five First Saturdays devotion on that day either in your local parish, or at home.

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

<https://worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/the-first-saturdays-devotion-in-england-and-wales/>

You can check for churches by diocese.

At the moment we only have notice of First Saturday devotions in about half the dioceses in England and Wales - so please consider trying to start the devotion in your local church.

All you need is a few like-minded people, and it is very important that the First Saturdays starts in as many parishes as possible, since it is linked with the conversion of Russia and thus with the promised era of peace for the world.

Please visit this page to check for your nearest church and contact them directly before travelling to check that the times etc., as advertised,

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Donations to WAF England and Wales

If anyone wishes to donate towards the ongoing costs of promoting Fatima in England and Wales, they can do so by visiting the home page of our website at: <https://worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/>

This is important, because even if you can't help in a practical way, your financial assistance will be very helpful in expanding WAF England and Wales. For example, the costs of the AGM last month were considerable and so we really do need, and appreciate, any donation you can make bearing in mind that we have now entered the season of Advent which is traditionally a time of giving.

The yellow PayPal donation button is about half way down on the right, 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 - no need for a decimal point or extra zeros!

Or you can email: 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.

Or equally, if you would like to make a regular monthly donation to WAF then we can let you have the details of how to do this.

Some concluding thoughts

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Jason, our National Spiritual director, that through our devotion to the Message given by Our Lady at Fatima, we can play a vital part in helping to re-Christianise society, through such apparently simple things as the Rosary, Five First Saturdays devotion, but above all, through a renewed and heartfelt devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

The new appointments to the WAF England and Wales Committee, plus a support shown by those who came to AGM, and from our spiritual director and of course from **you**, the readers of this newsletter, mean that we now have a position to really promote the Fatima message in our country with greater enthusiasm, as we follow in the footsteps of the Fatima children and live in fidelity and hope.

p.s. you may like to print off and pray [this Christmas Prayer](#) from the Feast of St. Andrew, which can be prayed up until Christmas.

**Happy Advent and Christmas,
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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