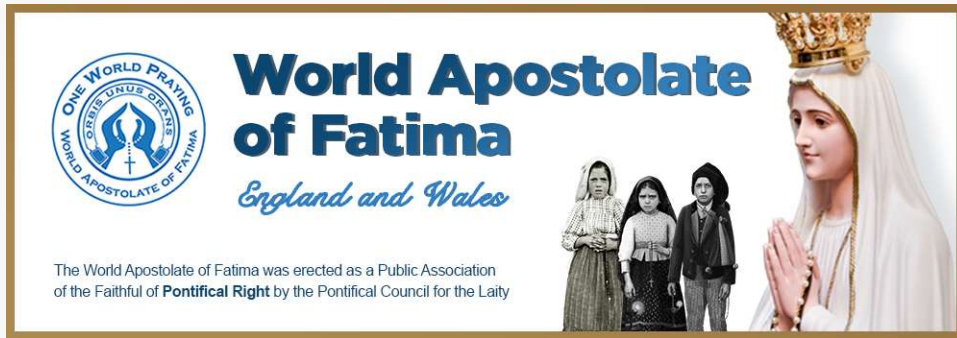


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WAF England and Wales

April 2020 Newsletter



Dear Friends,

This is the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) England and Wales April 2020 newsletter.

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Message from WAF International President

Dear Friends,

Prof. Américo Pablo López-Ortiz, the International President of the World Apostolate of Fatima has sent out a message to the members of the World Apostolate worldwide concerning the Global Pandemic. You can read [the entire message here](#), but the following is a summary of some of his remarks:

He speaks of this being a worldwide crisis, one causing thousands of deaths and a strict lockdown in many countries, including the suspension of public liturgies and closing of churches, and says this is a tremendous burden for humanity.

He then points out that Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto, the two child saints of Fatima, died from the terrible pandemic caused by another virus, the so-called "Spanish influenza". Jacinta endured many complications and much pain as part of her vocation to become a reparatory victim. The sickness was also transmitted by the soldiers returning from the war to their families. Many millions of people from around the world died from it.

He also speaks of praying to Francisco and Jacinta, that they will bring comfort and strength to our families today, and can through prayer assist our medical doctors and sanitary personnel in their great sacrifices to combat this dangerous virus - and also, we hope, illuminate the minds of scientists so they can discover a cure and a vaccine to eradicate this calamity.


Prof Americo also spoke of the Consecration carried out on 25 March in Fatima.

The Ecclesiastical Advisor of WAF International, Antonio Cardinal Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, consecrated Portugal and Spain, the Iberian Peninsula, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, on the 25th of March, 2020, on the Anniversary of the Collegial Consecration performed to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Pope St. John Paul II in 1984. This was the consecration that produced "the Miracle of the Century", the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Communist countries in Eastern Europe. (Above is a picture of Cardinal Marto performing the consecration in the Basilica at Fatima.)

Spiritual Bouquet for Our Lady of Fatima

This is a message from the WAF International Secretariat about a Spiritual Bouquet to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, something which has assumed even greater importance now with the advent of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The World Apostolate of Fatima, together with other Church movements, is

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Portugal.

The Bouquet will be made up of holy Masses, rosaries, sacrifices and other acts of piety, in reparation for the sins of the world, for world peace, for the Holy Father and for the unity and strength of the Church.

For this purpose, a website has been created with the relevant information about this initiative and to assist people in sending in their own spiritual offerings for the Bouquet. It's a simple process. Just click on this link:

<https://worldrosary2020.org/spiritual-bouquet-offering/>

and insert your prayer commitments.

The Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, Father Carlos Cabecinhas will gladly receive and present the totals of prayers, sacrifices and reparatory practices at the feet of Our Lady of Fatima, in the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, on the anniversary dates of the Apparitions, in May and October, 2020.

Prof. Américo López-Ortiz, International President of the World Apostolate of Fatima, recorded a video message presenting this spiritual campaign and inviting clergy, parents, and teachers, to gather the prayers and sacrifices from children, students and the faithful, for this Spiritual Bouquet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bSo7pX7Sc8>

Surely, the Heart of God will be touched by these efforts of every man, woman and child who participates. The prayers of children and young people are very powerful. Our Lady chose little child-shepherds to bring to the world her Message. This initiative will also honor Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto in the year we celebrate the third anniversary of their canonization.


WAF International Secretariat - www.worldfatima.com

WAF England and Wales 2020 Pilgrimage

At the present moment we are still hoping to be able to go on the National Pilgrimage - but we will inform you of any necessary changes to that position. Also, at this time we are NOT taking any new bookings

Five First Saturdays devotion

The following is information from Prof Americo as to how we should now celebrate the First Saturdays devotion during the Coronavirus pandemic:

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devotion was intended to be practiced by the whole family. But it was not done by families. It was done by individuals. Now it is the time to start a family practice!

We are not allowed to have it publicly in our parish churches because of the pandemic. From these circumstances we can learn the following lessons:

- The first Church is the “domestic Church” and the Holy Family represents it;
- The Good Lord is calling us to the development of our interiority, “the God that dwells in our hearts”, the school of holiness taught to us by Our Lady of Fatima through the interior life developed by the child shepherds “who saw God through the eyes of Mother Mary”, participating in her beatific vision of the Most Holy Trinity;
- This also gives us the opportunity to first evangelize our own family in these days of enforced sharing of our time!

During the First Saturdays that we are kept in our family homes, we will fulfil the Great Promise of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the following way:

- Confessing our sins spiritually to Jesus, with deep repentance and perfect contrition, as Pope Francis taught, when there is no sacramental Confession available, promising to receive sacramental Confession as soon as possible;
- Making a spiritual Communion with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary;
- Praying the Rosary and meditating on its mysteries;
- Sharing in the company of Our Mother Mary’s solitude and keeping her company for 15 minutes of meditation, in addition to the reflection of the mysteries on the Rosary;
- Offering this devotion as a means of uniting our family in God’s love, grace and mercy, and so liberating us from “the spirit of the world”.

Details of our Social Media platforms

Twitter: @WAF_Eng_Wales

Instagram: waf_england_wales

Facebook: World Apostolate of Fatima of England & Wales

YouTube: Fatima EnglandWales

Website: www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

Joining the Rosary Confraternity

Another thing we can do at this time is to join the Rosary Confraternity.

This is a pious association of the Catholic Church, under the care of the Dominican Order. Its members strive to pray the complete Rosary (15 decades)

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Confraternity's members, living and dead.

You can see more details about it here, and also sign up online:

<https://www.english.op.org/about-us/the-dominican-family/rosary-confraternity.htm>

As indicated the only requirement is to at least say the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries once a week – in return you get many spiritual benefits from the Confraternity membership throughout the world - and those benefits also extend to purgatory, plus there are indulgences, etc.

Donations to WAF England and Wales

We appreciate any donation you can make to WAF England and Wales.

Also, you can leave a bequest in your will for WAF England and Wales - please contact us for more details via: info@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

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.

HOW TO DONATE

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 - so no need for a decimal point or extra zeros!

Or you can email: info@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.

General News and Info

At this time, clearly it would be very good if we could keep NHS workers, who are in the front line against this pandemic, in our prayers. Every day,

On a different subject, there are numerous livestream and YouTube services which allow us to either participate in Mass, and other devotions, such as the rosary, live, or watch them later. Obviously, in the present situation, this is a great benefit.

For example, the Shrine at Walsingham has a livestream service at:

<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>

You can also access livestream and recorded Masses, etc, via Church Services TV at:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/>

Also, if you check with your local diocesan site, there may well be information about such services there, for Masses being livestreamed in your locality.

The Vatican is also doing this during Holy Week:

<http://www.comunicazione.va/en/servizi/mondovisione-worldtelecaster/mondovisione-aprile-2020.html>

In addition, some of our WAF Spiritual Directors are either livestreaming or recording their Masses and other devotions.

For example, Fr Ivan Aquilina is livestreaming Mass, etc, at:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/westerham>

and Fr David Palmer's Masses are being recorded and can be seen at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1GxayEWIN_QQcfHqdzQG3g

(If any of the other spiritual directors are doing this, please let me know, and I will publicise it).

Also, Canon Jason Jones, our national spiritual director, has just set up a YouTube channel, Divine Mercy Wales, and will be featuring various services from time to time, at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFMIBeLU-5UnqQqzhR_PlaQ

(Canon Jason can also accept Mass stipends, and requests for candles, at the shrine - please contact him at: morrison1@menevia.org or via the address at the end of this email).

You can see the Stations of the Cross being done on the Via Dolorosa in the Old City of Jerusalem, here:

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and there is another one here, with views of the Holy Land:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wW1t7M8HKT8>

As long as you have access to a Computer, tablet, etc with an internet connection, then you can participate. Likewise you can also watch these services on your phone.

Finally, I've just had a few articles/blogs published re the spiritual response to the coronavirus, which might be of interest:

<https://www.bluearmy.com/how-st-john-bosco-handled-an-epidemic/> and
<https://thewandererpress.com/catholic/news/featured-today/some-saints-and-sacramentals-for-coronavirus/>

**God bless and Ave Maria!
Donal**

on behalf of WAF England and Wales Committee

You can sign up for this newsletter here:

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

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

info@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk
www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/



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