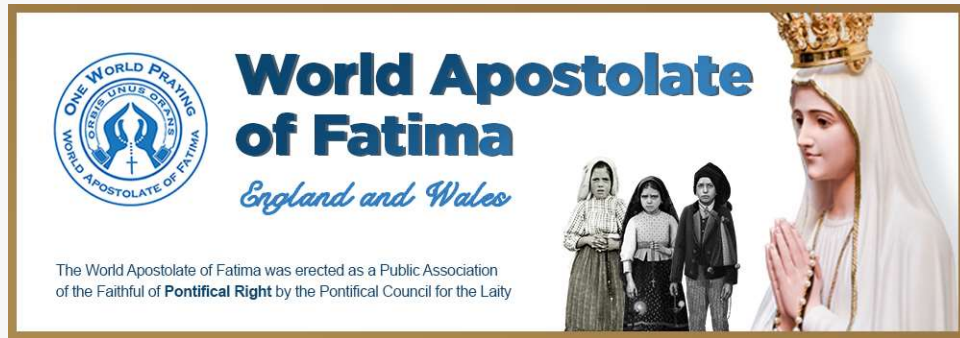


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WAF England and Wales

December 2019 Newsletter



Dear Friends,

This is the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) England and Wales December 2019 newsletter.

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Dear Fatima family,

Greetings on the eve the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and a very happy Christmas to you and your families!

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months. It has been a year that I will never forget – a year of discovery, empowerment, housekeeping, reflection and celebration! Our Lady and the blessed children of Fatima have truly been orchestrating all the events of the year and the most esteemed spouse of Our Lady, the Holy Spirit, has poured upon us his anointing and gifts.

The highly successful 2nd WAF Annual General Meeting (AGM) last 29-30 November was attended by 31 diocesan promoters and Diocesan Spiritual Directors. We pondered on the growth of the WAF and launched the 5-year thematic preparation for the Centenary of the request of the Five First Saturdays (FFS) Devotion in 2025.

This year's theme is: "HAIL, FULL OF GRACE (Luke 1: 28)." This is based on the dogma of the Immaculate Conception and the reparation for the blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

At the AGM we also actualized our Safeguarding, GDPR and Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) policies and plans.

This month marks the last of the parish visitation events, which takes place today, Saturday 7 December, at the parish of Saints Philip and James, Bedford, MK41 7BX.

Next year's visitations commence on Saturday 11 January 2020 at Our Lady of Good Counsel & St Peter, March, Cambridgeshire.

We hope to see many of you at these two events.


For more details on the parish visitations, please visit the website @ <https://worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/whats-new-and-events/>

I would also like to remind you about the launch Mass for the 5-year preparation for the Centenary of the Five First Saturday devotion request, which will take place on Saturday 22 February 2020 at Westminster Cathedral, from 2-4 pm.

The Centenary Pilgrim Statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be present. Please mark this event in your diaries, speak to your parish priests, and begin organising your parishes to come to this once in our lifetime celebration in London.

Lastly, both the Fatima Prayer Cell guide and the Home Pilgrim Statue Visitation guide are now available to purchase when you come to one of the parish visitations. These guides are very useful tools to help us meditate on the great mysteries of the Holy Rosary, pray the Fatima prayers and get to know more the apparitions of the Angel of Peace and Our Lady over a century ago.

St Francisco, pray for us. St Jacinta, pray for us. Servant of God Sr Lucia, pray

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Jerry Rivera

National President

WAF England and Wales

national.president@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

Message from our National Spiritual Director

Tota pulchra est Maria et macula non est in te

All beautiful is Mary and there is no shadow in thee

Dear WAF friends,

With these words we prepare for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the First Saturday of December in honour of the Immaculate Heart.

Throughout December, in this Advent season, we have a number of further Marian feasts. On the 10th December we honour Our Lady of Loreto, and on 12 December, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

These feasts prepare us for the joyful celebration of Christmas and January 1st, when we honour and celebrate the greatest vocation and title of Our Lady as Mother of God who brought to birth the Saviour of the world.

In the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations it is good and indeed necessary that we find time and space for moments of reflection and prayer. Many of the activities which we will undertake can be spiritualized so as to help us remain aware of the presence of God.

For example, as we write or open our cards let us pray a Hail Mary for those for whom we are sending or receiving greetings.

Our Lady was also busy on the days before the first Christmas. Swaddling bands had to be obtained and cut and hemmed and stitched. Food and essentials were needed for the journey. The donkey had to have its saddle and baskets cleaned and prepared.

All of these mundane actions took time and Our Lady undertook all of them out of a great love for the Child within her Immaculate womb.

It was good to be with many of you at the recent AGM at Belmont Abbey and to offer the Mass on Friday and Saturday together.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones during these coming festivities, and may I wish you a very blessed and happy and grace filled Christmas

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Dowry of Mary Rededication programme

You can see details about the Dowry of Mary Rededication programme at:

<http://dowrytour.org.uk/>

This is a very important initiative, and it also includes a programme for personal consecration to Our Lady ending on 25 March 2020.

Free copies of Fr Gaitley's book on this topic, *33 Days to Morning Glory* are available from Walsingham.

On Sunday 29th March 2020 there will be a rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary. This will be done in Westminster, Walsingham, every Cathedral, and ideally every parish, and as many homes as possible.

It's possible for parishes to sign up with for pledges of participation in the Rededication at the above link.

Five First Saturdays devotion

Today, Saturday 7th December, is the first Saturday of the month, so I hope you were able to participate in the Fatima Five First Saturdays devotion 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-wales/>

You can check for churches by diocese.

At the moment we have notice of First Saturday devotions in about two thirds of 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, are correct for the coming month.

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Instagram: waf_england_wales

Facebook: World Apostolate of Fatima of England & Wales

YouTube: Fatima EnglandWales

Website: www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

CHRISTMAS Donations to WAF England and Wales

We appreciate any donation you can make, especially during the Christmas season.

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.

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.

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