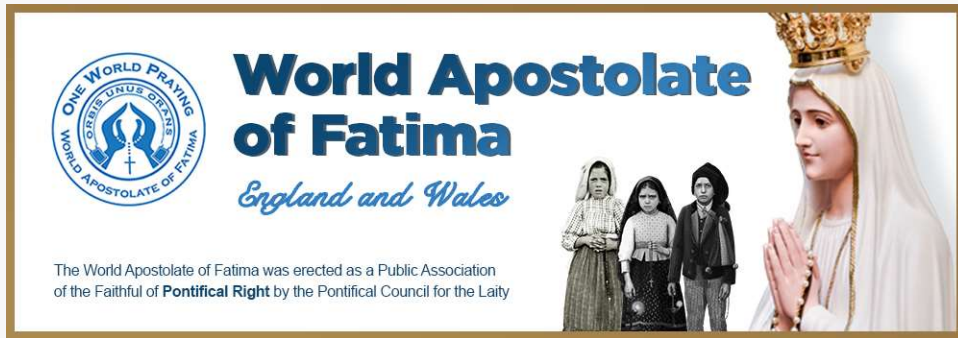


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WAF England & Wales

September 2020 Newsletter



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This is the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) England & Wales September 2020 newsletter.

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Dear WAF Family

Shalom!

Our Lady is indeed a significant part of our lives as children of God. At Fatima, Our Lady told the three children seers “continue to pray the rosary in order to obtain the end of the war.”

As a mother and intercessor, she shows us the way and offers us solutions to our challenging plight. The call of Our Lady for penance, prayer, sacrifice and reparation needs to be heeded.

We are still in a pandemic – not only of Covid-19 but of atheism, relativism and secularism. Let us seek the protection and intercession of Our Lady and of the Saints of Fatima, Saints Jacinta and Francisco, and of Servant of God Sr Lucia. They lived their own pandemic yet they also remained steadfast, resilient and embraced life as given to them.

Our lives are not the same any more. The world has evolved. We are travellers as on the sand where there are times when we only see one set of footprints. May we remember that during these times, we have been carried by Jesus, our Lord, son of Mary and the Name above all names.

I would like to reiterate that all parish and home visitations have now been cancelled for the rest of 2020. We will be expecting changes as to how we carry out these visitations in 2021, in line with social distancing and infection control practices.

Virtual prayer sessions and meetings have become the media forum in gathering as a body of the faithful.

Locally here in Kingston upon Thames, we have been holding the Fatima

It is with great excitement that we invite you and your families to the National Pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal on 9-16 July 2021. The arrangements are nearing its final stage and we will be announcing soon the programme of events and the pilgrimage fee, for all of you to prepare. There will only be limited seats on the pilgrimage.

God bless you, your families, your parishes, your dioceses and most especially your hearts! Ave Maria!

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

**Jerry Rivera
National President, WAF England & Wales**

Message from Canon Jason Jones

Dear WAF members

It is good for us to refresh our hearts and minds with the account of the September apparition of Our Lady at Fatima.

Our Lady: "Continue to pray the Rosary to obtain the end of the war. In October, Our Lord will also come, as well as Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and Saint Joseph with the Child Jesus, to bless the world. God is pleased with your sacrifices, but He does not want you to sleep with the ropes; wear them only during the day." (The children were wearing pieces of rough old rope around their waists as a sacrifice for sinners.)

Lucia: "They have requested me to ask you for many things, for the cure of some sick persons, of a deaf-mute."

Our Lady: "Yes, I will cure some, others not. In October, I will perform a miracle for all to believe."

And rising, she disappeared in the same manner as before.


September also puts before us some lovely feasts of Our Lady.

Sept 8th – Birthday of Our Lady

Sept 12th – The holy name of Mary

Sept 15th – Our Lady of Sorrows

Sept 24th – Our Lady of Walsingham (England) – also known as Our Lady of Ransom, and Our Lady of Mercy.

Subscribe	Past Issues	September is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Cross and the Sorrows of Our Lady, as in the image above, and as we reflect on the penance of the	Translate ▼	RSS 
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little shepherds (and the motherly advice of Our Lady to remove the rope at night), we are given an inspiration to unite our own sufferings and crosses, as we heard in last Sunday's Gospel, with the Holy Cross.

Sometimes these penances and sufferings are imposed on us and others come our way almost without us realising it, e.g. waiting at the red lights when we are in a rush, or listening to a friend or relative tell us the same story for third or fourth time, and we simply smile and remain silent without interruption.

When we face the cross we know that Our Lady stands with us as she stood at the foot of her Son's cross.

At the cross we received the Blessed Virgin as our Mother, and the cross also brought to birth the Church.

What encouragement Our Lady gave the little shepherds, and in turn to each of us, when she told Lucia that her Immaculate Heart would be a refuge for her. She will stand by us.

During these opening days of September I will be at the Shrine of Divine Mercy at Lagiewniki in Krakow, Poland, and so please be assured of my prayers during my time there.

**Canon Jason Jones
National Spiritual Director**

WAF England and Wales 2021 Pilgrimage

As indicated in the previous newsletter, because of the uncertainty due to the coronavirus it was decided to cancel this year's National Pilgrimage.


But there will be a National Pilgrimage in 2021. Flights are on sale already for July next year and we have begun our planning for the great highlight of the year, the National Pilgrimage to Fatima. We are looking at the possible dates of 9-15/16 July 2021.

Airports have not been decided but possibilities are Bristol, Manchester and Heathrow.

It would be most helpful to know which airports are popular so as to finalise bookings. Please do contact us with preferences.

Fr Jason looks forward to leading this pilgrimage next year.

Five First Saturdays devotion

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churches are starting to open again. But if not you follow the advice below.

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

Because of this health crisis, we all will celebrate the First Saturdays of the month and the communion of reparation from our family homes. This 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”.

Tomorrow is the First Saturday of August, so you can adopt the above practices for the First Saturdays devotion.

If you aren't sure about how to participate in the First Saturdays, you can download a leaflet with instructions of how to do this here:

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

Subscribe	Past Issues	And an explanation of the First Saturdays devotion is given here:	Translate ▼	RSS 
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<https://worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/the-five-first-saturdays-devotion-explained/>

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

WAF International Spiritual Bouquet

The World Apostolate of Fatima program for an International Spiritual Bouquet of offerings, sacrifices and prayers, which is to be offered to Our Lady of Fatima on 13th October 2020.

A similar bouquet was offered on May 13th 2020, the 103rd anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady in Fatima. On that occasion, the World Apostolate of Fatima, through the Rector of the Shrine in Portugal, presented the World Rosary 2020 Spiritual Bouquet to Our Lady.

During the candlelight procession and night vigil of May 12th, Cardinal Antonio Marto, bishop of Leiria-Fatima, announced the presentation of the bouquet of flowers to Our Lady, “as a spiritual bouquet of the World Apostolate of Fatima, to represent our emigrants and pilgrims from the various continents of the world.”


This beautiful ceremony took place at the Chapel of the Apparitions during the morning recitation of the Rosary, on May 13th. Two children, representing all who have registered their prayers and reparatory practices for the World Rosary 2020 Spiritual bouquet, placed a beautiful bouquet of flowers at the feet of the centenary statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

A short video of this celebration, with subtitles in English, can be viewed here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=34&v=Je_BzV-AARY

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 and insert your prayer commitments:

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

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the feet of Our Lady of Fatima, in the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, on 13 October.

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>

and you can read more information about it from Prof. Americo, here:

<https://worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Message-Spiritual-Bouquet.pdf>

The Two Hearts, Sacred and Immaculate, will surely be touched by all these offerings, and in particular, 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 honour Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto in the year we celebrate the third anniversary of their canonization.

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.

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then we can let you have the details of how to do this.

Our Lady of Sorrows

As Fr Jason pointed out above, September is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Cross and the Sorrows of Our Lady, with the feast day on 15 September.

This was originally connected with the seven dolours or sorrows of the Blessed Virgin having begun within the Servite Order. In the seventeenth century, the Holy See allowed the Servites to observe this as a feast day, and Pope Pius VII proclaimed it as a universal feast in 1814, the year in which he returned to Rome having been released from imprisonment at the hands of Napoleon.


Traditionally, the seven sorrows comprised the following incidents from the life of Our Lady: the prophecy of Simeon that a sword should pierce her soul; the flight into Egypt, when the Holy Family had to escape the wrath of Herod; the loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem, an incident which was a cause of such anguish to both Mary and Joseph; Our Lady meeting Jesus on the way of the Cross; the bloody Crucifixion of Jesus on Mount Calvary; the piercing of his side by the soldier after his death and the descent of his body from the Cross; and finally, his burial in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea nearby.

These seven sorrows show how closely linked the lives of Jesus and Mary were, and that she was present at all those crucial moments of pain and distress, and so shared as fully as possible in his sufferings.

And this is relevant to our own time and lives, too, since the theme of suffering is prominent in what Our Lady said to the children at Fatima. During the very first apparition, on 13 May 1917, after telling them that they would go to heaven, she said: "Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He wills to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication for the conversion of sinners?" Lucia replied, "Yes, we are willing," to which the response was, "Then you are going to have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort."

During the July apparition, she asked them to sacrifice themselves for sinners – which implies suffering – and also showed them the vision of hell, the first part of the Fatima secret. Hell is a place of unending suffering, but tragically a suffering which has no redemptive value and is a consequence of the rejection God made by those who choose to go there through mortal sin.

After this horrific vision, which only lasted an instant, Sr Lucia tells us that they looked up at Our Lady who spoke to them kindly but with a very sad expression, and then told the second part of the secret, which of itself refers to the wars, persecutions and martyrdoms which would come if her words were not heeded.

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Our Lady at the plight of mankind in its opposition to God became most apparent. Sr Lucia tells us that at the end of this apparition, “looking very sad” she said, “Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them.”

Sr Lucia also records that this same sadness during the final apparition on 13 October 1917, once again saying that the Blessed Virgin was “looking very sad” as she said, “Do not offend the Lord our God any more, because He is already so much offended.”

This plea, of course, was not particularly directed to the children, but to the world in general, and part of the message of Fatima is that through our prayers and sacrifices, through reparation, we can do something to assuage the on-going sufferings and sorrows of Christ and His Mother – and also help to bring about peace in the world.

**God bless and Ave Maria!
Donal**

on behalf of WAF England and Wales Committee

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<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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