

The World Apostolate of Fatima

SCOTLAND



MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

A YEAR OF PRAYER

Dear brothers and sisters,

Amidst the sufferings which billions are undergoing due to poverty, war climate change and so many forms of injustice, it is for so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ truly a journey to Calvary.

Amidst the total brutality and injustice of Calvary it was for the followers of Jesus the death not only of the Master but of all the hopes and dreams they had placed in him. Yes, all came sorrowfully away from the tomb but there was one, who, though her heart was 'pierced by a sword', had not lost hope and that was Mary. She is the woman who knew how to listen to the Word of God. She is the woman 'wrapped in silence' who constantly 'pondered everything in her heart'. People have lost faith in God because they have no hope. Because they have no hope, they are lacking love.

Next year will be a Holy Year, the normal Jubilee Year which the Church celebrates every 25 years inviting pilgrims from every corner of the globe to journey to Rome to venerate the relics of the Apostles, to visit the Holy Places and to receive the Apostolic Pardon for the forgiveness of their sins. In preparation for the Great Jubilee, the Holy Father has designated this final year of preparation as A year of Prayer.

In response to his request, the Shrine at Fatima has made the celebration of the Holy Year the horizon for its theme for the next two years. Not only is it a Jubilee for the entire Church but it is also a most significant year for the First Saturday devotion as it will be the centenary of the appearance of Our Blessed Lady to Sr. Lucia at Pontevedra in 1925. It was then she said the time had come for the consecration of Russia and the promotion of the Five First Saturdays as a spiritual programme to establish peace in the world.

Prayer is the soul of Fatima, and this is dramatically manifested in the life of the three seers whose whole lives were completely transformed by the graces they received. All of them, especially St. Francisco, were consumed with a desire to pray, to fast and to do penance. In his homily at the Beatification Mass, Pope St. John Paul II said, "*A transformation takes place in his life, one we could call radical: a transformation certainly uncommon for children of his age. He devotes himself to an intense spiritual life,*

expressed in assiduous and fervent prayer, and attains a true form of mystical union with the Lord. This spurs him to a progressive purification of the spirit through the renunciation of his own pleasures and even of innocent childhood games. Francisco bore without complaining the great sufferings caused by the illness from which he died. It all seemed to him so little to console Jesus: he died with a smile on his face."

The Kingdom of God is within us, and it is there that peace must be established. Peace flows from the heart.

"The fruit of silence is prayer.

The fruit of prayer is faith.

The fruit of faith is love.

The fruit of love is service,

and the fruit of service is peace."

(St Theresa of Calcutta)

God is asking us to make this a year of prayer and Mary is showing us how to pray. Let us silence the clamour of evil in our hearts and the despair and despondency which our sins and the evil of the world brings upon us by a wholehearted commitment to prayer and penance.

Fr. Joe Mc Auley, Spiritual Director

THE WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA,

WAF - Scotland is an association of the faithful, approved by the Holy See [The Pope] and by the bishops of Scotland. It has as its general purpose the promotion of the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church and the strict faithful adherence to the message of Fatima and the promotion of the common good by the spreading of the message of Fatima. (Statutes, art. II, 1-3).

At the same time, the World Apostolate has the specific purpose of promoting the Pledge given by each member of the World Apostolate of Fatima. (Statutes, art. II, 4).

The members of the World of Apostolate of Fatima, spread throughout numerous countries of the world, commit themselves to become faithful witnesses of the Catholic faith in their own families, at work, in the parishes and communities, participating in this way in the "New Evangelisation".

A call to holiness. The apparitions at Fatima make it clear that Our Blessed Lady is asking us to become saints by developing a deeper love and reverence for the Holy Trinity, leading to amendment of life.

Through prayer and penance and reparation for sin, and by making sacrifices for the conversion of sinners, we will win souls for Christ. Furthermore, Our Blessed Lady is guiding us to love the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to "*satiating the thirst of Christ to be loved in the Eucharist and in the poor.*" [St Theresa of Calcutta] The devotion

to Our Lady herself, is rooted in Consecration to her Immaculate Heart and to making reparation for the offences against her Heart.

The Pledge. Members are asked to sign the Fatima Pledge. These pledges are sent to the shrine and placed at the feet of Our Lady's statue in the shrine. The members commit themselves:

A daily commitment

(1) to offer up every day the sacrifices demanded by remaining faithful to the Law of God whilst fulfilling our daily duties.

(2) to say five decades of the Rosary daily while meditating on the mysteries.

(3) to wear the brown scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as a sign and reminder of personal consecration to our Lady and Commitment to the five first Saturdays

(4) On the first Saturday of five consecutive months, with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, confess and receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep company with Our Lady for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary.

Footnote: In 1917 Pope St. Pius IX established the structure and had guided the church to meditate on 15 aspects of the life of Christ through the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries. Pope St. John Paul II added the Luminous Mysteries.

CARFIN – 21st MAY 2024

We are delighted to confirm that our annual day at Carfin Grotto, to celebrate our devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, will take place on Tuesday 21st May. We are hoping to have children from two/three Schools joining us in this wonderful celebration. We plan to start the day at 10am with a short film and talk on 'Our Lady of Fatima' Mass will be celebrated at 11.15am by our Spiritual Director, Fr Joe McAuley. The **Blessing of the Roses** will follow thereafter. Please make every effort to come along and to deepen your understanding of the '**Message of Fatima**'.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA: Cost £799

In our previous Newsletter we mentioned about a possible pilgrimage to Fatima to participate in the commemoration of our Lady's final appearance at Fatima on 13th October 1917.

- Direct flight from Edinburgh to Lisbon and coach transfer on arrival to your hotel in Fatima
- 7 nights' hotel accommodation in Hotel Cinquentenario
- Full board: breakfast, lunch & dinner each day

- Coach transfer from your hotel to Lisbon Airport
- Direct flight from Lisbon to Edinburgh
- Check-in assistance at airports
- 1 x 20kg check-in bag & 1 x small cabin bag

Please contact us as soon as possible by telephone: 07950502991 or wafscotland@gmail.com

PONTEVEDRA: Five First Saturdays

In a letter dated 12th June 1930, Sister Lucy answers the question of "why five FIRST SATURDAYS?" ---- they are in REPARATION for the 5 different offences and blasphemies uttered against Our Lady,

- against her Immaculate Conception,
- her Perpetual virginity,
- her divine maternity,
- the violation of her Sacred Images,
- and the alienation of her children.

THE FATIMA SEASON: 12/13th May to 12/13th October

The two principal places where the devotion is celebrated are at Carfin, near Motherwell and Howwood near Johnstone. The devotions will begin again on 12/13th May 2024 and continue each month until 12/13th October. The **Vigil at Howwood** takes place on the 12th of each month at 7.30pm and includes a procession with the statue, recitation of the rosary and the celebration of the Eucharist followed by adoration and Benediction.

The commemoration at Carfin follows the same structure and begins at 7pm. The processions are, of course, governed by the weather!

Some further events which we at WAF Scotland are sponsoring are as follows:

- **12th May 2024 at St Mary's, Whifflet, Coatbridge.** Fatima Film at 6pm followed by a talk and discussion at 7pm.
- **19th May 2024 at St Joseph's, Clarkston** consisting of Mass at 10 am followed rosary procession, recitation of the rosary led by the Childrens' Rosary Group, Blessing of the Roses, a talk and then discussion in the parish hall over tea and hospitality.

At both these events the Fatima Team will be on hand to sell the 'wee blue book', scapulars and to enrol persons for the Fatima Pledge. Once a person is enrolled the pledges are sent to the shrine at Fatima where they are placed at Our Blessed Lady's feet.



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