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**WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA - SCOTLAND**  
**'THE BEGINNINGS'**

The Devotion was promoted with great fervour in the late 70s, in the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima, Dalmarnock, Glasgow, by the then Parish Priest, Fr Mc Elholm , who held a monthly All Night Vigil on the eve of First Saturday-Rosary, Procession round the Church, silent Prayer and Meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary, finishing with Mass. These vigils were attended monthly by at least 100 people. It was a time to honour Our Lady and to meet with Friends who were Devotees of the Fatima Message of Prayer and Reparation.

Fr McElholm was moved to a bigger Parish in 1981 and was followed by Fr Devine who also had a firm Devotion to the Fatima Message and so continued the All Night Vigils ---much to the joy of the many people who attended each month from all over the city and beyond.

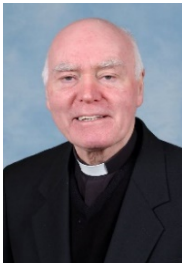
Meanwhile in the Diocese of Paisley, a beautiful shrine to Our Lady of Fatima was set up by Father Lillis in Howwood, Renfrewshire where busloads of Fatima Devotees gathered on the evening of First Saturday. Throughout Scotland the First Saturday Devotion was prayed in many Parishes, largely through the prompting of praesidia of the Legion of Mary.

Meanwhile in the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Glasgow, the shortage of Priests was beginning to show.

Fr Devine lost his curate in the early 1980s and, then, in 1984 was himself moved to another parish. The parish priest who came apologised for the loss of the All Night Vigils, explaining that, being alone, he could not stay up all night and work all day Sunday. The devotees were saddened by this, but following discussion, Dr John Dunn, asked one of the Group to find a different venue each month to celebrate the Devotion and he would pay for the advert saying where they were each month.



And this was where Fr Willie Mone became a significant person in the progress of the development of the Devotion. After the organising Group had visited his Parish of The Immaculate Conception in Maryhill, he invited them to make it their permanent venue each first Saturday. And so the Fatima Devotion duly continued at The Immaculate Conception Church till Father Willie moved to St Paul's, Whiteinch and so did the gatherings of the Fatima Devotees. By this time Fr Willie had pulled together a little Team to promote the Devotion throughout Scotland. They were the two sisters, Mae and Irene Reilly, Mary Cassidy, Frank Gallacher, Ann Boyle, Brendan Gill, Ina McCann and Frances Brown, (Betty Ingram and Frances Kinnaird in Edinburgh and Betty Deakin in Aberdeen) and of course, Dr John Dunn. Their first task was to organise a Pilgrimage to Fatima led by Father Willie, which they did with great success. The Pilgrimage to Fatima was a great success. Other



activities followed which soon established the group as a driving force in promoting the Fatima message.

Events varied from "A Morning with Mary" which comprised, Mass with the School Children, Blessing of the Roses, Rosary, film and Tea in the Hall afterwards. They visited Parishes to present, "A Morning with Mary" having visited the local School in the previous week to invite the children to come along the following Saturday to take a significant part in the Liturgy and to distribute the blest roses at the end of Mass.



They established the monthly newsletter which eventually was being distributed at 1300 copies each month. They brought bus-loads of Primary School children to Carfin to honour Our Lady in May-time. They regularly donated at least 30,000 Rosaries to Schools. They visited every Cathedral in Scotland with a Pilgrim statue of Our Lady to celebrate the Centenary of Our Lady's six apparitions in Fatima in 1917.

A tasteful lapel pin of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was designed by Artist Netta Ewing and over 300 were produced. A new Hymn to The Immaculate Heart of Mary was written and published as also was the, now extremely popular blue prayer book. A play was written and presented for the school children: "Our Lady Speaks at Fatima".

Ann Boyle would constantly say that if Our Lady wanted the apostolate to continue, she would provide the funds. Ann gave Our Lady a helping hand by inaugurating an annual Gala Fund-Raiser - "The Ladies Lunch" which has ran for the last 16 years. The regular monthly Newsletter was an important part of the outreach work of the group and all this time numbers of First Saturday Groups were steadily growing.

Fr Willie Mone went into retirement and he was replaced by Fr Joe McAuley who was appointed by the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. Fr Joe led the project for the Group to be recognised and accepted into The World Apostolate of Fatima.

The World Apostolate of Fatima, or WAF, is, in formal Church language, a Public International Association of the Faithful of Pontifical Right approved by the Holy See on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The mission of this Association is to participate in the New Evangelisation by spreading the message of Fatima throughout the world. In giving the Church the message of the First Saturdays Devotion, Our Blessed Lady has herself given us a very practical method, a wonderful tool to bring about the personal conversion of every human being and restore the holiness of the Church so much scarred by sin in these troubled times.

When the work of the first Team began there were approximately 20 Fatima Devotion Groups in Scotland. There are now 84. Our Lady has certainly blest the efforts of those first devotees of 20 years ago.

Fr. Willie has now gone to God. With his usual exemplary patience and trust in God he bore the last nine years of illness with great peace and serenity. I am sure these nine years of 'purgatory' will have prepared him for a special place in eternity. He had a very deep love for and devotion to Mary. We have a sure and certain hope that she was waiting at the gates of Paradise to lead him home. "Well done good and faithful servant, enter with joy into your Father's house!"

Ann has now 'stepped back' from her leading role and a new Team has been formed. We hope and pray that we will be able to work together to keep the movement alive and to help all those with a devotion to Our Lady of Fatima to embrace the devotion to the Five First Saturdays and the spirituality it involves.

Ave Maria