

The World Apostolate of Fatima

SCOTLAND



FATIMA AND THE CALL OF HOLINESS

“O my Jesus, forgive us; save us from the fire of hell; lead all souls to heaven especially those who are most in need.”

When Adam and Eve sinned, their immediate reaction was to hide from God. When he asked them why, they responded that they were afraid because they were naked. When they exposed themselves to God in all their nakedness and fear, he clothed them to cover up their nakedness. He accomplished this in all its fullness by virtue of the Incarnation of his Son, who 'clothed' humanity in his Divine Nature. This simple story describes our human condition. Deep down in our hearts we 'feel the 'depth of our sinfulness' and we are ashamed and afraid. When we 'come out into the open' and expose ourselves to God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, then he clothes us once more with his own holiness, he covers up our nakedness afresh by grace, just as he first did on the day of our baptism.

SAINTS COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

Saints come in all shapes and sizes but have many characteristics in common. They all have, on the one hand, a deep sense of their own sinfulness, but without fear or scrupulosity, and on the other hand, they joyfully accept all suffering, joyfully and cheerfully, in union with Christ. For St. Francisco his driving motivation was to console Jesus. For St. Jacinta it was to save the souls of poor sinners from hell and to console the Holy Father.

St. Ignatius and St. Louis Marie de Montfort would encourage us to mediate that we are a snail or a slug. They always leave a trail of their passage. Our greatest and most meritorious actions are, in short, always imperfect as we are sinners to the roots of our being. Without grace, we are ashamed and afraid hence we live in a state of denial' ceaselessly defending ourselves and blaming others.

“BE HOLY FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS HOLY”

St. John Paul II said: *"Holiness continues to be the greatest Challenge for Believers. We must be grateful to the Second Vatican Council which recalled how all Christians are called to the fullness of Christian life and the perfection of charity. Dear friends do not be afraid to take up this Challenge: be holy men and women. Do not forget that the fruits of the apostolate depend on the depth of spiritual life: on the intensity of prayer, on continual formation and on sincere adherence to the church's directives.... Always keep your gaze fixed on Jesus. Make him the heart of the world."*

GRACE AND MERCY

(The Apparition in Tuy 1929)

Our Blessed Lady taught us to say, "O my Jesus, forgive us." She focusses us not on the sins of others but on our own sins. In order to receive the graces she promises will be ours, she insists that we confess our sins and receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. She directs us to our inner selves. She is inviting us to step into "*the interior castle*" of our hearts and experience the depths of God's mercy and love. We will see ever more clearly, in the depths of our sinfulness, the unbelievable mercy that God has shown and is continuing to show us. The fruit will be humility and an ever deeper love for sinners.



PREPARING FOR A GOOD CONFESSION



The Eucharist is, of course, as Blessed Carlo Acutis put it, "our highway to heaven", but its effect on us depends on the interior disposition with which we enter into the sacred mysteries. Blessed Carlo, who had a great

devotion to Our Lady of Fatima and to the children, confessed his sins to his parish priest every week. Our confession of our sinfulness at Mass will, have an ever deeper meaning for us and purify us that we may more worthily enter in the depths of the sacred mysteries and enjoy their fruits.

A GOOD CONFESSION AND GOOD EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Learning how to make a good daily examination of conscience is of tremendous help in enabling us to make this interior journey, to confess our sins well and to grow, like Jesus himself, "in holiness, grace and truth." In Psalm 50, the famous Miserere, we pray:

"Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.

O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed, you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn."

HOW DO WE EXAMINE OUR CONSCIENCE?

We need to enter into "our interior castle" and listen in silence to the Word of God. What is most important is to cultivate a deep interior disposition of repentance and true sorrow for sin. This is far more important than recalling the particular sins which the Holy Spirit may bring to mind.



ST. IGNATIUS OFFERS CONCRETE DIRECTION: **Give thanks**



Spend a few moments in gratitude for the gifts and blessings of the day.

Ask for light

Ask God to enlighten you, showing where he has been

at work and present in your day through events, people and places.

Examine the day

Review the moments of the day, noticing what has led to consolation and what has led to

desolation and my reactions to these events, people and places.

Seek forgiveness

Ask God's forgiveness for the times when you have acted, spoken or thought contrary to his grace and calling for you.

Resolve to change

Decide what in your behaviour or attitude you will try to **improve tomorrow**.



MOTHER TERESA's APPROACH

"You need only ask at night before you go to bed "What did I do **to** Jesus today? What did I do **for** Jesus today? What did I do **with** Jesus today? You have only to look at your hands. This is the best examination of conscience"

THE TRIUMPH OF MARY'S IMMACULATE HEART

Mary is the Queen of the World and Queen of Peace. "The message of Fatima is a universal message of mercy and of peace" SAID. Cardinal D. José Tolentino Mendonça in a homily at one of the shrine Masses. The Sacrament of Reconciliation cleanses our souls so that the peace which Christ has promised us may reign in our hearts. Mary is bringing us to Jesus in this sacrament of grace and mercy. She is offering us her hand. Let her lead you. Do not reject the grace she is offering you.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION LIVE

The First Saturday Devotions, led by our spiritual director, Fr. Joe McAuley will be live streamed from St. Brendan's Church, Yoker at 10.15am, Saturday 4th December 2021. If you do not have a Facebook account, go to the WAF Scotland: <http://www.wafscotland.com>. Click the tab marked 'Links' and open the 'Webmail' link which will, hopefully, offer the option to open without an account.

WEE BLUE BOOK

To order copies, please telephone the office and leave your details.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER - *Catechists*: "Let us pray for the

catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit."



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