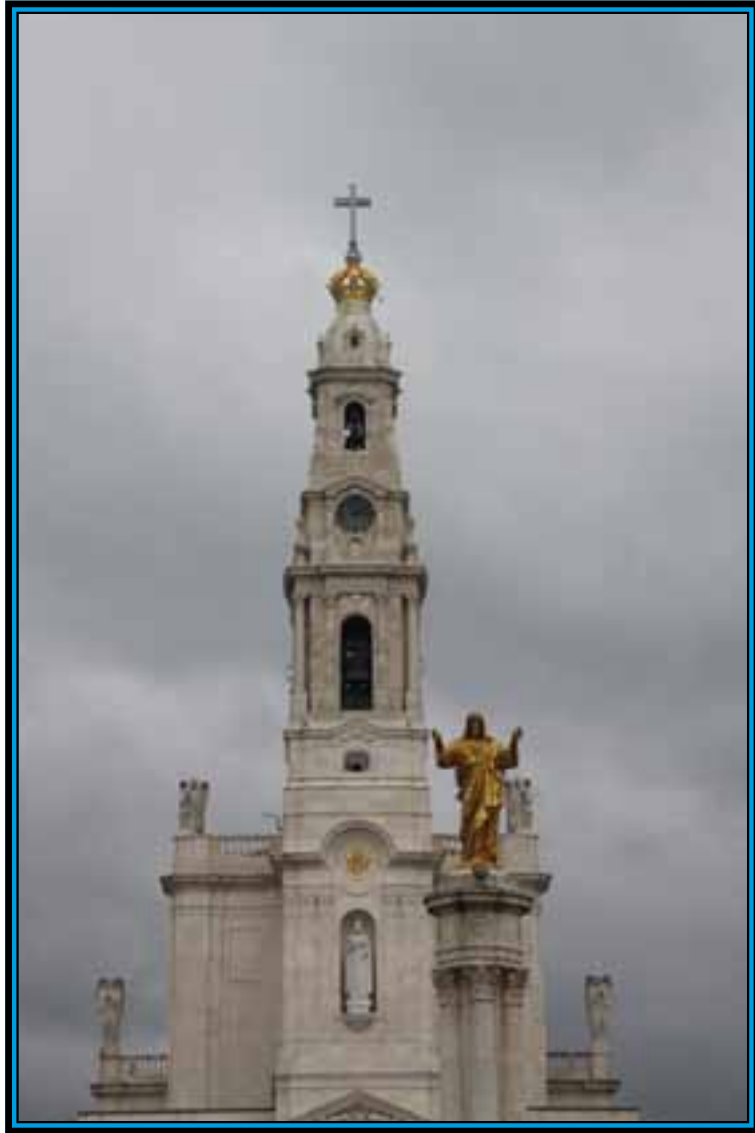

the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association

da Associação Ecuménica Amigos de Fátima



**THE PRIEST DIRECTOR AND THE COUNCIL OF THE ECUMENICAL FRIENDS
WISHES ALL MEMBERS THE PEACE AND BLESSING OF THE
INCARNATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Regina Sacratissimi Rossarii Fatimea, Ora pro Nobis

da Associação Ecuménica Amigos de Fátima

the Ecumenical Friends
da Associação Ecuménica



of Fatima Association
Amigos de Fátima

Newsletter No. 20

Christmas 2011



The Word was made Flesh.

Regina Sacratissimi Rossarii Fatimea, Ora pro Nobis

the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association

THE ECUMENICAL FRIENDS OF FATIMA ASSOCIATION was inaugurated and consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima on Tuesday 15th May 2001 by The Right Reverend Edwin Barnes, (the then) Bishop of Richborough and first Episcopal President of The Association, in the presence of His Excellency Serafim de Sousa Ferreira e Silva, (the then) Bishop of Leiria-Fatima.

On that occasion Bishop Serafim said:

“I greet your excellency Bishop Edwin Barnes and those who accompany you of the Anglican Church. On Sunday last, Your Excellency was present at the great Eucharistic Celebration of the Marian Pilgrimage to Fatima. Today, I am here present at the Celebration of the same Eucharist in the Anglican Rite. The same Faith. The same Mystery. The same eternal High Priest, Jesus Christ, the only Saviour. I pray with you and also for you. I pray that the Church of Jesus Christ may be reconciled and gain more strength, so that the whole world may encounter the Saviour and be saved, In the bond of friendship and peace. Amen.”

In response to Our Lady of Fatima’s call for sacrifices to be made for the sake of others and after consultation with His Excellency Serafim de Sousa Ferreira e Silva, the then Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, it was agreed that his suggestion to support prayerfully and financially the Vida e Paz community in Fatima with their work of rehabilitating those caught up in drug abuse be taken up as part of our ‘apostolate’ in this place and as a sign of our loyalty and support to the ‘Ordinary’ of this Diocese of Leiria-Fatima.

Father, may they all be one, just as you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.

John 17. 21.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President

Vacant

Vice Presidents

His Excellency Serafim de Sousa Ferreira e Silva Apostolic Administrator
Former Bishop of Leiria-Fatima

The Right Reverend Keith Newton. s.s.c. Bishop of Richborough

Mr Valter Peireira former Director, Vida e Paz Community

The Reverend Father Francis, M.I.C. Pensao Sao Paulo

Regina Sacratissimi Rossarii Fatimea, Ora pro Nobis

da Associação Ecuménica Amigos de Fátima

CONTACT INFORMATION

THE PRIEST DIRECTOR

Fr C. Malcolm Gray SSC
priestdirector@effa.org.uk

EDITOR OF THE NEWSLETTER

Fr Andrew Stevens SSC
S. Nicholas Vicarage
64 Purrett Road
Plumstead
SE18 1JP
effaeditor@effa.org.uk
020 8854 0461

SECRETARY

Fr John Cornish

The Treasurer

Mrs Joan Hooton

treasurer@effa.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mr Reg Martin

effamembership@effa.org.uk

CONSTITUTION SECRETARY

Fr John Cornish

constitution@effa.org.uk

To the greater glory of God an association of laity, deacons, priests, bishops and religious was inaugurated and consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima on Tuesday, 15th May 2001.

The aim of the Association is to promote the worship of almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through encouraging devotion to the Most Holy Virgin especially under her title of Our Lady of Fatima and to work for the re-union of all Christians under the patronage of Mary, mother of the Church.

Members keep a rule of life which includes the daily recitation of at least one decade of the Rosary and the regular use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Priest members of the Association should, wherever possible, offer Mass for the Association on or about the 13th of the month.

By prayer and its best endeavours the Association supports the cause for the canonisation of the Seers of Fatima.



In response to Our Lady of Fatima’s call for sacrifices to be made for the sake of others and after consultation with the then Bishop of Leiria-Fatima it was agreed to support prayerfully and financially the Vida e Paz community in Fatima in their work of rehabilitating those caught up in drug abuse.

Regina Sacratissimi Rossarii Fatimea, Ora pro Nobis

The 2012 May Pilgrimage to Fatima
celebrating the 95th anniversary of the First apparitions of

Our lady in 1917

will be

Wednesday 9th May to Wednesday 16th May

led by the Bishop of Ebbsfleet,

The Right Reverend Jonathan Baker

further details from

Fr Gray 020 9850 7860 and Fr Stevens 020 8854 0461



The 2013 May Pilgrimage to Fatima
celebrating the 96th anniversary of the First apparitions of

Our lady in 1917

will be

Thursday 9th May to Thursday 16th May

led by the Bishop of Richborough,

The Right Reverend Noman Banks

further details from

Fr Gray 020 9850 7860 and Fr Stevens 020 8854 0461



THE PRIEST DIRECTOR'S LETTER.

Father Gray writes:

The season of Advent is a journey which takes us from the bleakness of late autumn and winter into the brightness of the Christmas celebrations. It takes us from the sense of gloom we feel inside into the smiles and happiness of gatherings. More importantly, Advent leads us to the great celebrations that mark the birth of Jesus.

As we travel the Advent road, we have in mind others whose journeys are significant in Advent. We remember the shepherds, working in their remote fields and then rushing down the hillside to see the new-born baby. We think of the wise men, journeying long distances possibly over many months in order to worship. And we can't forget Mary and Joseph themselves, walking from their home to that strange and hectic city of Bethlehem.

The Advent journey carried out by the 'Magi', men of wealth, wisdom and authority, has been the subject of debate for generations. It may well have been that they arrived to visit Jesus many days or weeks after his birth, and some would suggest that by that stage Mary, Joseph and the baby had moved out of the stable into a house - even returned to Nazareth from where they had come from. Certainly it is one of the many myths of the Christmas story that the wise men and the shepherds were physically present at the same time - but - we do not know, and to get too tied up with when things did or did not happen can cause us to lose sight of the essence of the story. The essence is that as men of power and money from foreign lands visited and worshipped, we are reminded that Jesus Christ is for all people, from all places, cultures and backgrounds.

There are many words connected with the Advent season which begins with A. These 'A' words can be helpful in our thinking.

A - ANTICIPATED. The birth of Jesus was anticipated in the writings and words of God's messengers many hundreds of years before. The prophets Isaiah and Micah tell of a new King to be born - even anticipating the birth in Bethlehem. Some anticipated a strong warrior king - others a man of peace.

A - ADVENTURE. The whole experience must have been an adventure for the wise men. They had been used to power and control and comfort and security.

To leave all that behind because of some writings and a strange star in the sky was an adventure indeed - more so when they encountered the confused and angry King Herod - then the added excitement when they found Jesus and knelt before him.

A - ACHES. It isn't easy to walk in the hot sun along the dusty, stony track between Nazareth and Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph had to make that journey just so that Joseph could be added to the list of people being counted at that time. They probably walked all the way, with Joseph carrying their belongings, and Mary struggling on, knowing that the baby was due at any time. Little wonder they needed to rest their aching limbs - even in a stable!

A - ASTONISHED. One word that could be used to describe the shocked and stunned surprise of the shepherds on the hillside. First it was dazzling light, then the strange and powerful message of the angel who spoke to them. Then they were astonished by the choir, and astonished when finding this very special baby having just been born in a stable and wrapped in a cloth.

A - ANGELS. There are a number of angels in the Advent story. The angel Gabriel who had the duty of telling Mary that she was to be the mother of the son of God. The angel who visited Joseph in a dream and encouraged him to stick with Mary, to care for her, and love her and the special child Jesus.

Then there were the angels who visited the hillside above Bethlehem to tell the shepherds of the good news of the birth of Jesus.

A - AWESOME. What made the wise men kneel before the child Jesus and leave precious and expensive gifts? Jesus probably didn't look any different from any other new-born baby, yet for them this was an awesome sight and moment in time. Led by a star, they knew in their hearts that this child would change the world. Mary and Joseph watched them worship their son, this too was quite awesome and Mary wondered and thought about it.

A - AND. And what now? We know the stories, we know that Advent is about getting ready to welcome Jesus again and we know God sent his Son to be born in that dirty smelly place. And so it is up to us - we either let ourselves get caught up in the fuss people make over Christmas - or we allow God to lead us, like the shepherds and wise men to worship that awesome child.

May the peace and joy and hope and love of the Christ Child - Jesus, the Son of God be with you, your families and all those whom we love and whom we remember in prayer.

are most powerful as they present the story of Fatima. Both can be obtained on the internet but it can take time for delivery. For a quicker service the Catholic Truth Society has both in stock (020 7834 1363).

I feel sure that if you have not been to Fatima (if you haven't - as I often say - you have never lived) these two presentations will encourage you to make the pilgrimage. You would never regret it. If you have been, then these DVD's will rekindle the message of Fatima in heart and mind.

Do you know that you can tune into Fatima via Broadband. Each morning at 0800 there is a Mass celebrated in the Capelinha. The Rosary is broadcast each evening at 1830 and Rosary and procession at 2130.

The next pilgrimage to Fatima will be from 9th to 16th May 2012 led by the Bishop of Ebbsfleet. Details and booking forms are available from me. Early booking is essential.



The Message of Fatima is an invitation and a school of salvation. It was initiated by the Angel of Peace (1916) and completed by Our Lady (1917). It was lived, to a heroic degree, by the three Little Shepherds.

The Message of Fatima, which is that of the Gospel, emphasizes the following points:

- permanent conversion;
- prayer, and namely the Rosary;
- the sense of collective responsibility and the practice of reparation.

The acceptance of the Message brings with it Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which is a symbol of commitment to faithfulness and to the apostolate. The prayers taught in Fatima by the Angel and by Our Lady help us to live the Message which, as Pope John Paul II said, means conversion and living in the grace of God. (Fatima 1982).

Father Gray on Fatima in October.

A small group of pilgrims made their way to Fatima in October. Unfortunately this year we were not to be there for the 12th/13th celebrations. (Forward in Faith National Assembly was in the diary for that particular weekend!) However there were still many pilgrims about, both over the weekend and for the National Holiday marking the end of the Monarchy and the beginning of the Republic. It was most impressive to see so many families at Mass at the Shrine for that particular National Holiday.

The weather was more than kind. Temperatures reached 34 / 35 which meant that much of our time was used to relax in such glorious heat. None-the-less Mass was said each day in the Sao Paulo chapel and we managed to get into the swing of the new translations!

Once again we were made welcome at the Sao Paulo. Father Francis and Brother Paul whom some of us have known since 1994 were as kind and helpful as ever - not mention all 'the girls' who manage the domestic and office areas of work.

We stayed in the Seminary (the work on the Sao Paulo has not yet started) and enjoyed amongst many other things 'the new bar' which was once

a TV room for the seminarians. Father Stevens and I continue to be the current barmen. This is a long standing tradition started by Father Webb and Father Carlisle - but that's another story.

I had the opportunity of meeting with Father Carlos Cabecinhas the new Rector of the Shrine and gave him a copy of our 'Children of the Dancing Sun'. It was a delightful and encouraging meeting and he looks forward to meeting with us on future pilgrimages. I informed him that the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, Bishop Jonathan Baker will be leading our pilgrimage next May 2012 and its hoped a meeting may be arranged for them to meet. Father Carlos was in Walsingham the previous week with 19 other Administrators of Shrines of Our Lady in Europe. His visit to the Holy House made a deep impression on him. He spoke of the stillness and silence and the power of prayer of our shrine. It is interesting to note that of the other 19 shrines of Our Lady around Europe Walsingham is the only shrine that has Anglican and Roman Catholic ecumenical links.

There are many video's about Fatima - some perhaps rather dated - but recently I was sent a recently made DVD entitled 'The 13th Day' and more recently another entitled "Finding Fatima".

ADVENT

The Coming of Christ

We praise you, Lord Christ,
that in your infinite love
you came to save us from our sins
and to bring us to God.
We praise you that you come to us
now in the power
of your Spirit
to strengthen us for service
and to abide with us all our days.
Help us to remember
that you will come again in your
majesty to be our judge,
that we may dedicate our lives
to the furtherance of your kingdom.

Every year at this time
we are asked to escape
from the tumult of our hearts
to put aside our weighty cares
and leave our wearisome toil,
to enter for a while into the inner
chamber
of our souls. to listen to God's word.

The Word -
calling us through the mist of igno-
rance and apathy
to be silent to listen
to the sound of stillness,
and to see in the Child born of Mary
the Word who became flesh.
(from the writings of Basil Hume)

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

We give you thanks,
O God our Father,
for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ,
whose coming into this world was
proclaimed by prophets of old
and who was born for us
in lowliness and poverty
at Bethlehem.
As we make ready once again
to celebrate his birth,
fill our hearts with your own joy and
peace,
and enable us to welcome him as our
Saviour;
so that when he comes again in glory
and majesty
he may find in us a people prepared for
himself.

**CHRISTMAS -
ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING**

Glory be to God for the wonder of his
love made known to us in the birth of
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Glory be to God for the gift of his Son,
who took our flesh of the Virgin Mary
his mother and shared our human life.
Glory be to God
for the great salvation he has sent to us
and to all mankind, bringing joy to the
world.
For these manifold blessings
and for all the wonder of Christmas,
glory be to God for ever and ever.
Amen.

cell, but this had not yet come about. There was nothing further to report at the moment.

(b) Financial Report. A report was made and the accounts were received and accepted.

6 Priest Director : Future Festivals.

The Priest Director spoke regarding future EFFA Festivals. With the advent of the Ordinariate the Mass may cause division amongst us and therefore it could be that the celebration of Vespers of Our Lady and Address might be said instead. Following refreshments the day could very well conclude with the saying of the Rosary, a Procession ending with the Salve Regina. Father Gray also commented that the Annual Festival does not draw many people and this is something needs reviewing before next year. In discussion the suggestion was made that a film about Fatima might be shown to local groups to generate interest. The question was asked if it would be possible for Man-cunia Travel to put on a presentation?

7 Any other Business

(a) Regarding Annual Subscriptions. It was recommended that a written letter should be sent out to say when annual subscriptions are due but bearing in mind that some subscriptions are paid by Standing Order.

(b) EFFA change of nature. From the floor it was thought that as EFFA is no longer ecumenical by nature it should therefore change its name to 'Anglican Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association' (AEFFA). It was mentioned that this would involve a Constitutional change. It was also pointed out that the world is changing both for the Catholic Church and for the Church of England Anglo Catholics.

The Ordinariate is in its early days and we all need time for reflection. Father Paul Andrew had been asked to 'rejjig things a bit' in relation to the Living Rosary but as yet had not done so. Father Gray again emphasised that no intention had been made to slight anyone. The reason for the damage had come about through the addition on the Mysteries of Light (Luminous Mysteries).

Motion of Closure. Father Bugby proposed a motion of closure and this was accepted unanimously and the meeting was then formally closed.

Father John Cornish.

NOT ALL IS GLOOM AND DOOM IN BETHLEHEM.

Happily, it is not all gloom and doom when we meditate on the "Little Town of Bethlehem". Someone once commented that one aspect of the word "Almighty" is the realisation that there is no substitute, however awful, out of which God cannot bring something wonderful. In the streets of Bethlehem today, in many places one can find wonderful testimonies to the loving power of God. One of the most moving of these is the witness to the Caritas children's hospital, often known by its German title Kindenhilfe Bethlehem, which the organisation itself translates as "Help to the Children in Bethlehem".

The children's hospital celebrated its fifteenth anniversary at Christmas 2002. Half a century earlier a Swiss pilgrim to Bethlehem, Father Ernst Schnydrig, had come across a Palestinian burying his child as the bells rang out for the Midnight Mass. Profoundly moved by the combination of the two events, Father Schnydrig rented two rooms in the town, filled them with cots and started his work of nursing new-born Palestinian children and their mothers.

From humble beginnings the work expanded. Father Schnydrig was joined by German speaking Swiss nursing nuns and in 1978 a modern hospital was built. This has been enlarged over the past three decades and provides vi-

tal care for the most vulnerable people: new-born babies and slightly older children with a variety of serious illnesses.

As with all paediatric care, a great importance is placed on supporting the whole family of a sick child. Places in the hospital are subsidised to a large extent by fund raising in Europe and America. No one is turned away because of financial need. Out-patients' clinics and education programmes form an ever-expanding part of Caritas' work. In addition, the hospital provides much needed employment for the local community. The Nursing School has trained 250 nurses since it opened in 1970.

So in the middle of the seemingly sad and sorry state of modern Bethlehem we can see a little miracle. Sometimes miracles are apparently "small" things which, nevertheless, are of earth-shattering importance. The miracle of Christmas night was in some ways a small one. The world slept on. A few shepherds from the local hills were the only ones who were alive to the significance of what had happened. We must never lose sight of that. For the birth of this tiny baby in a stable is nothing other than the sublime truth which St. John put into unforgettable words: "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us".

www.khb.ch/e_sweiten/fset_khb_e.html



the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association

CELEBRATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD OF
FR. JOHN CORNISH 2011



“Simon son of John, do you love me? He replied, “Yes Lord, you know I love you” (*John 21. v 15 - 17*)

Who should I ask to preach an anniversary homily for me?
Over the years I have observed other preachers at anniversary Masses.

Some priests invite a nice “tame” bishop to preach who tells everyone how lucky they are to have such a fine priest. No doubt the celebrant goes home with a lovely rosy glow.

Other clergy have invited clerical friends to preach who have strung together twenty minutes of the most embarrassing anecdotes during which the priest in question smiles graciously but it would be interesting to know how high his ‘squirmanometer’ reading might be.

So to avoid this I decided to preach myself.

Why did God call me to serve him in the priesthood?
I haven’t the slightest idea!
He could have chosen a much better sort of person than me: a person with an intellectual ability; a person with dynamic leadership qualities; someone with fine preaching potential; someone who would turn out to be more productive in the Lord’s work. But for some reason he alone knows about he chose me.

And the only thing that I’ve become more and more certain about is that God has called me to share in our Lord’s eternal priesthood and to serve in the ministry of his Church.

Regina Sacratissimi Rossarii Fatimea, Ora pro Nobis

da Associação Ecuménica Amigos de Fátima

The Annual General Meeting (part 2) held on Saturday 10th September 2011 at S. Mary the Virgin, Kenton.

1 Welcome. The the Priest Director welcomed all present

2 Apologies for absence were received from :
Fr Edwin Barnes, Mrs Jane Barnes, Fr Andrew Stevens, Fr Robert Page, Fr Mark Elliot-Smith, Fr James Neal, Mr Tom Montgomery, Mrs Margaret Pearson, Fr Paul Andrew (and for his absence at the AGM (part 1 in May which were not then presented by mistake) Fr John Pitchford, Mrs Valerie Pitchford, Mrs Helen Lewis, The Reverend (Deacon) James Patrick, Mr David Horton, Mrs Diana Horton, Fr Ronald Crane, Fr David Dunn, Fr Alan Cochrane, and Mrs Rosina Cochrane.

3 Appointment of Clerk to the Meeting. Fr John Cornish was appointed to act in this capacity.

4 Report from the AGM Part 1, May 2011.
In discussing the first part of the meeting held in Fatima, some welcomed the changes in the arrangement of the ‘Living Rosary’ whilst others expressed deep disappointment. Thus there was both enthusiasm and criticism . The changes came about because of the introduction of the Mysteries of Light (Luminous Mysteries). This necessitated a reallocation of people’s position on the Rosary scheme causing a

certain amount of disquiet from some sections of the meeting. It was felt that the reorganisation had turned some people into ‘second class citizens’.

The Priest Director explained that EFFA, since its inception in 2001 has always been known at the Shrine in Fatima as an Anglican Group. Prior to EFFA, pilgrimages had been arranged for Anglicans since 1986. Despite what some may perceive, any recent changes have not been made to make any of its members feel ‘second class citizens’. But a contrary view was taken and Father Bugby declared that division had been created. Father Gray responded by saying there was no intention to do any such thing. Father Bugby insisted that offence had been taken and harm done. This had come about either by accident or by design.
A layman’s point of view was made in this way: the position of the ‘Living Rosary’ was not what caused concern. What caused concern was that there was no communication about what was going to happen.
Furthermore no constitution had been seen (although it transpired that it had been seen by some members). It was suggested that the full membership of EFFA should be involved in decision making. There needs to be more democracy in our organisation.

5 Business to be considered by the Rule of the Constitution.

(a) Report from the Cells. Father Crane was going to set up an EFFA

Regina Sacratissimi Rossarii Fatimea, Ora pro Nobis

the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association

Finding Fatima opens wide the doors to the entire story surrounding Our Lady's 1917 apparitions in Fatima, Portugal.

The film goes well beyond simply recounting the story of appearances by the Angel of Peace and Our Lady to three Portuguese peasant children.

Finding Fatima includes archival footage, dramatic re-enactments and original interviews with Fatima experts and relatives of eyewitnesses. It tells the entire story of Our Lady of Fatima and the world events related to her appearances of 1917 – including a truly miraculous event that occurred almost 30 years later halfway around the world. With high production values and a beautiful look, Finding Fatima covers all the crucial details about the importance of the appearances and messages of Our Lady in Fatima – messages and prayers, penance and conversion that are desperately needed today.

Finding Fatima is a 90-minute film that will encourage all who see it to take heed of Our Lady's critical messages from Fatima. The DVD is produced in widescreen format with English narration and includes English and Spanish subtitles.



Regina Sacratissimi Rossarii Fatimea, Ora pro Nobis

da Associação Ecuménica Amigos de Fátima

In that calling - to my shame - I haven't served him at all well.

Each Lent and again on each anniversary of ordination I look at the ordination vows I made and consider how well I've kept them.

And I'm not at all proud of that record - a record of failures. The fine resolutions I'd made the previous year have usually come to nothing.

How easy it would be to become very dependent over this.

But I take heart from the Patrons of my ordination day, Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Saint Paul spoke about the good things he wanted to do but failed to do. And the bad things he wanted to avoid he did.

He also expressed a concern that having preached to other people he himself should be cast away.

He may fail in his own life to live up to those things he preached about. For after all the best sermon a preacher can preach is the life he leads; the example he sets.

As for Saint Peter, when our Lord needed a friend about him most - in the Garden of Gethsemane - Peter and the other disciples had fallen asleep.

So when the crisis came they were unprepared for it and fled from the scene - deserting the Lord.

Then a little later Peter denies even knowing the Lord. This denial was absolute, despite his earlier claims that though all others may desert the Lord, he certainly wouldn't. But he did.

Yet the Lord didn't desert him. After the Resurrection the Lord appeared to Peter.

Nothing else was said about that appearance.

Then Saint John records Peter's restoration to grace - words we heard in this evening's Gospel.

Peter was upset that Jesus asked him a third time "Do you love me?" and said "Lord you know everything, you know I love you."

Now this isn't an advertisement for 'Father Gray's Tours Ltd', but just to mention that the first pilgrimage of his that I went on was to the Holy Land.

And at the site traditionally believed to be where Peter was restored to grace we celebrated Mass. At that Mass the priests in the group renewed their ordination vows.

This was a moment that no words could describe so great was the depth of feeling experienced.

It was as though the Lord said of me, 'Yes I know you've made a mess of things, but I still have confidence in you as I had in Peter. I called you; follow my guidance.'

Regina Sacratissimi Rossarii Fatimea, Ora pro Nobis

Also at that Mass I suddenly felt the presence of those who were at my ordination and had since died. They were present again then and there.

Moving on now, I have a very uncomfortable Patron Saint with which to live.

He keeps saying things like 'repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

But Saint John the Baptist is also an excellent example to the clergy. He always points away from himself and to the Lord.

'He must increase, I must decrease';
'There is the Lamb of God'.

It's important for a priest not to cast a shadow on the Lord's resurrection light, by standing in the way and casting a shadow.

Because of the nature of his work it's easy for the priest to push himself forward rather than point the way to God.

The priest, therefore, needs to stand to one side so the faithful have a clear and uninterrupted vision of God.

I have spoken about personal things this evening but only to emphasize that if God can do wonderful things for me, he can surely do the same for you.



THE 13TH DAY AND FINDING FATIMA Two new and important films



In a world torn apart by persecution, war and oppression, three children were chosen to offer a message of hope. Based on the memoirs of Sister Lucia Santos and

independent eye-witness accounts, *The 13th Day* dramatizes the incredible true story of three shepherd children from the village of Fatima in Portugal who experienced six apparitions with a Lady from Heaven between May and October 1917, which culminated in the final prophesied miracle. The lady, who later revealed herself to be the Blessed Virgin Mary, gave a secret to the children told in three parts, from a harrowing vision of hell, to prophetic warnings of future events including the advent and timing of the Second World War, the spread of communism, and the attempted assassination of the Pope. Stylistically beautiful and technically innovative, writer-directors Ian and Dominic Higgins use state-of-the-art digital effects to create stunning images of the visions and the final miracle that have never before been fully realized on screen. This film was shot on location in Portugal and in England. For more information on *The 13th Day* visit www.The13thDay-Movie.com

