
the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association

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the Ecumenical Friends
da Associação Ecuménica



of Fatima Association
Amigos de Fátima

Newsletter No. 22

Christmas 2012



The Community at the Sao Paulo Pension

Regina Sacratissimi Rossarii Fatimea, Ora pro Nobis



**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 Norman Banks
further details from
Fr Gray 020 8950 7860 and Fr Stevens
020 8854 0461**

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Father Malcolm writes

Bishop Lindsay Urwin, OGS, Administrator of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham quotes, in the recent Walsingham Review, the Benedictine monk and liturgical scholar Dom Gregory Dix as he described Mary in a sermon preached 70 years ago on the Feast of the Assumption.

“Here she is Queen of all the Cinderellas in history: the humble peasant girl; the Carpenter’s wife, brought to bed in a stable; the refugee in Egypt; the mother of whom ill-natured neighbours said she was no better than she ought to be; the poor widow, who watched her Son die in agony because the great ones of the world feared this young man and put him out of the way; the silent humble old woman of the people, whose life was over for all that mattered, praying in obscurity for twelve or twenty years after the Ascension: and then the Queen of heaven.”

Mary, Queen of heaven, Queen of all the Cinderellas of history is the focal point of shrines throughout the world (twenty such shrines are to be found in Europe) pointing very clearly to her beloved Son, Jesus.

I’m sometimes asked if I prefer Fatima above all other shrines. I’m sometimes asked to compare Fatima, with Lourdes and Walsingham. But I resist making comparisons because each shrine stands in its own right.

For instance Our Lady of Walsingham, England’s Nazareth is that ancient national shrine which has drawn, over the centuries, the people of our country in their droves to pay homage to our Lady, imploring her intercession, to drink water from the well and then return home refreshed both spiritually and physically to face the demands of the world in which we live. Walsingham is in a little corner of England where we can experience the powerful presence of the Mother of God who just points us all to her Son with the command to do as he tells us. Walsingham has always drawn people of our land to this holy place and today, not just people of faith but also many tourists come to see and wonder and ponder. Many prayers are offered and many know that their prayers have been answered.

Our Lady of Lourdes is a great international shrine where the prayers of the sick are heeded - where the sick and

handicapped are brought in faith seeking healing and wholeness of life - a place where cures are experienced. Lourdes is a place of prayer and a place where people (especially young people) give of their time and energy to care for those who cannot care for themselves.

Lourdes is very French (as Walsingham is very English) but has an international appeal attracting people from all over Europe and from across the Atlantic. Many prayers are offered and many know that their prayers have been answered.

Our Lady of Fatima, like Walsingham and like Lourdes is a place where prayers are offered to Our Lady for healing, making whole and all other manner of things. Many prayers are offered and many know their prayers have been answered. However, while the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima is sought Our Lady asks the pilgrim to go home and do something for her - pray for the conversion of sinners - do penance - make sacrifices for others - pray the conversion of Russia and that the spread of the evils of communism be stopped. Pope John Paul II describes Fatima as the 'altar of the world', and since the fall of the Berlin Wall, Fatima has ceased to be a national shrine (it is very Portuguese) it has ceased to be an international shrine, and has become a 'global' shrine drawing pilgrims from many Eastern countries that were once confined to the other

side of the Berlin Wall. Every shrine of Our Lady has its 'holy spot'. Walsingham, the Holy House - Lourdes the Grotto. At Fatima it is the Capelinha.

To witness the devotion of so many men, women and children gathered around that sacred spot and spreading across the whole area of the domain in the silence and spirit of prayer is an overwhelming experience. To see so many national colourful flags and banners in the processions on the 12th and 13th just emphasises the 'global' nature of Fatima - and bears out the truth of Pope John Paul II's description of Fatima as the 'altar of the world'.

In Fatima the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association is honoured to be given such a wonderful welcome to this holy place. It's a great privilege to be able to respond to Our Lady's call to make sacrifices for the sake of others when we seek to support the Vida e Paz community who seek to rehabilitate those caught up in drug abuse. With this Newsletter comes my letter in connection with our Epiphany appeal for the Vida e Paz community which I hope will meet with a good and generous response.

But to go back to the question do I prefer Fatima above all other shrines, the answer is simply no. Fatima is one of many 'cinderella's' and I along with many others have responded to Our

Lady's call to serve others sacrificially under her patronage via Fatima and as an Association we have made a commitment which we are duty bound under Our Lady to honour. In a sense what happens in Fatima, Lourdes and Walsingham and all other shrines of Our Lady is that Our Lady points us to Jesus, so who dare compare one shrine with another.

To mark the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima we produced our brochure 'Children of the Dancing Sun' - 'yesterday - today - forever'. It is hoped that in 2017, our Association we will do something to mark the centenary of the Apparitions, I with the Priest Directors Council will be looking to see how best we can mark the centenary of the Apparitions.



Our Annual General Meeting (part II) at Pusey House in Oxford on 29th September 2012 is recorded elsewhere in this Newsletter, but it is good to report that 'our Fatima banner' is now situated in the chapel there. This is most appropriate not just because it is the residence of our recently elected President, Bishop Jonathan Baker, but Pusey House was opened in 1884 in part as a memorial to Dr. Edward Bouverie Pusey, Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford University, Canon of Christ Church Cathedral and for 40 years, a leading figure in the Oxford Movement, a movement of the mid 19th century which sought to bring the Church of England to a deeper understanding of its witness as part of the universal Catholic Church. It was also intended to continue the work of Doctor Pusey in "restoring the Church of England's Catholic life and witness". That work continues to this day

Father Philip Corbett, one of our EFFA members is Priest Librarian and Chaplain at Pusey House. The library is extensive and somewhere within it there is an historical record of the Oxford Movement that was originally housed in the Library of Lichfield Theological College (where some of our EFFA members were trained for the priesthood) but lodged at Pusey House when Lichfield Theological College was closed in the mid 70's.

Some of our members will recall our first encounter with the Sao Paulo Pension way back in 1994 (we called our selves the 'Fatima Four') and the lovely welcome we received from Father Francis and Brother Paul. Eleven years on from the inauguration of our Association in 2001 that same warm welcome continues to be extened to us. It has been said by so many that to return to the Sao Paulo Pension/Seminary is a 'coming home'.

JUST A THOUGHT

I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down on earth and be an atheist,

but I cannot conceive how he can look up to the heavens and say there is no God.

(Abraham Lincoln)



Epiphany

The wise men from the East were courageous men. When they saw the star and associated it with the birth of the Messiah, nothing would deflect them from their mission. Theirs was a long and hazardous journey, taking them through hostile territories and into unwelcome countries. Travel they did and found Jesus the Messiah - - but what had inspired them?

Well those wise men were imbued with a spirit that urged them to communicate God's plan of salvation to all those they came into contact with. Nothing would stand in their way of announcing Jesus Christ to the whole world. Neither persecution, nor threats from King Herod could hinder the proclamation that Jesus has come to free and redeem us. This is the meaning of the Epiphany - a showing forth of a manifestation of God in Jesus - God has manifested to the world his desire to liberate us.

In the Epiphany we celebrate God's extravagant love for his people - - all his people - of all generations -in all times. His love couldn't be restricted - - - no - - -the mercy - forgiveness and compassion of God is offered to everyone - and the wise men and countless others like them over the centuries have taken this story to the ends of the earth.

From the humble stable in Bethlehem

Photographs of Richard North



- the story of redemption has been proclaimed - - in season and out - - under persecution or freedom. The big question is - - are we willing to be Epiphany people? Are we eager to manifest Christ to the world? Because this is our mission - - - our faith is not something static - - - we are to be involved in the proclamation of God's love. The Feast of the Epiphany is meant to encourage us to "arise" and bring God's hope and love, forgiveness and compassion to those who need it most. The Epiphany is not just for the "bejewelled men" on camels. As we celebrate the great feast of Christmas, we are emboldened to travel our land and proclaim that God has dramatically intervened in our life through the birth of his Son Jesus Christ.

At the start of this New "secular" Year - - let each of us be eager to show forth Christ to all those we shall meet. In that way we will be an Epiphany people - - a people that God will be pleased to recognise as his own. May Christmas and Epiphany tide be a season of great joy to all of us as we celebrate this great intervention of God into his world to be amongst his people to save us from ourselves. But more important may we be signs to others of this wondrous thing so that others may share our joy and find wholeness of life.



Report on Pilgrimage to Fatima May 2012

Whilst all pilgrimages to Fatima are good and happy occasions the pilgrimage last May was especially happy and memorable. As you will have read in the Minutes of the AGM (part 1) in the Newsletter No 21, we elected a new President in the person of Bishop Jonathan Baker, Bishop of Ebbsfleet. His presence with us, presiding at the Mass, delivering homilies and his presence in the Sao Paulo lounge/bar was much appreciated and I think we all came away feeling we knew our new President so much the better. The pilgrimage was also something of an ecumenical milestone. It was a great privilege that a meeting could be arranged with the Bishop of Leiria-Fátima, Bishop Antonio and the Rector of the Shrine, Father Carlos Cabecinhas and Bishop Jonathan.

In the discussions that took place it was clear that Bishop Antonio and Father Carlos and Bishop Jonathan had a good understanding of where we stood

ecumenically and that ARCIC (Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission) was still a very important part of the ecumenical agenda. It was with an enthusiastic delight that both Bishop Antonio and Father Carlos accepted our invitation to be Vice Presidents of our Association. At the end of our hour long meeting, Bishop Jonathan, myself and Father Andrew were asked to meet the next day (eve of the 13th) to be presented to Cardinal Ravasi, who serves in the Roman Curia as President of the Pontifical Council for Culture. The Cardinal was aware of our Association and delighted to know of our links with Fatima and its Bishop.

Another lovely moment was at the end of the Mass on the 13th when I briefly met Bishop Serafim who was as delightful as ever and said that he continued to pray everyday for our Association. It's just 11 years since he was present at our Mass when our Association came into being and consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We made our annual visit to the Vida e Paz community. After Morning Prayer and Mass in their chapel new pilgrims were given a tour of the community. Refreshments were provided once again and then Bishop Jonathan presented our cheque to the Director, Dr. Renata Alves. As you know the support we give to the Vida e Paz community is our response to Our Lady's

request to make sacrifices for the sake of others. With the next Newsletter will come the annual Epiphany gift appeal for our presentation next May.

Some of our members will recall our first encounter with the Sao Paulo Pension way back in 1994 and the lovely welcome we received from Father Francis and Brother Paul. Whilst in some ways we miss the Sao Paulo Pension (closed at present for reordering etc) that same welcome is extended in the Sao Paulo Seminary. It has been said by so many that to return to the Sao Paulo Pension/Seminary is a 'coming home'. The community of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception over these past 11 years have welcomed us as an Association as well as individually and it was our joy that Father Francis, who continues to be a Vice President of our Association, on behalf of the Community, received our gift of a Missal in the new translation for the use of English speaking pilgrims in the Sao Paulo chapel.

Arrangements are already underway with the Shrine for the pilgrimage next May which will be led by the Bishop of Richborough, Bishop Norman Banks. Reg and Doreen Martin continue to mastermind our "moveable sacristy" for which we thank them for their unstinting work in managing this important aspect of our pilgrimages.

Thanks are also due to Father Andrew Stevens for “his photography” as seen in the recent editions of the Newsletter.

As I have already said, the pilgrimage in May was something of a “milestone” for our Association. Pray God, with the prayers of Our Lady, our Association may continue to proclaim the message of Fatima - and encourage others to make pilgrimage to this “global” shrine which Pope John Paul II called “the Altar of the World”.

I know today I am speaking to the converted, but as you speak to others about Fatima, use the words I so often use,

“If you haven’t been to Fatima you’ve never lived”.

and encourage others to come with us and live!



OUR LADY OF THE EUCHARIST



“Blessed is she who believed” (Lk I :45). Mary also anticipated, in the mystery of the incarnation, the Church’s Eucharistic faith. When, at the Visitation, she bore in her womb the Word made flesh, she became in some way a “tabernacle”-the first “tabernacle” in history-in which the Son of God, still invisible to our human gaze, allowed himself to be adored by Elizabeth, radiating his light as it were through the eyes and the voice of Mary. And is not the enraptured gaze of Mary as she contemplated the face of the newborn Christ and cradled him in her arms that unparalleled model of love which should inspire us every time we receive Eucharistic communion?

-John Paul II Ecclesia de Eucharistia.

The Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (part II) 2012 at Pusey House Oxford.

1. The Priest Director, Father C. Malcolm Gray welcomed members of EFFA to Part II of our AGM

2. Apologies were received from Father Alan and Mrs Rosina Cochrane, Mrs Helen Lewis, Father Timothy Bugby, Father Bernard Holdridge, Father Paul Andrew, Father William Davage, Mr Paul Pangrace and Mrs Pearl Yarde.

3. Appointment of Clerk to the meeting Father Cornish was appointed Minute Secretary for the meeting.

4. Minutes of AGM (part I) May 2012 (see Newsletter No 21) were agreed. There were no matters arising

5. Report from the Priest Director AGM Part I and pilgrimage Fatima May 2012

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Culture. The Cardinal was aware of our Association and delighted to know of our links with Fatima and its Bishop.

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about Fatima, use the words I so often use, "If you haven't been to Fatima you've never lived". and encourage others to come with us, and live!

6. Business to be considered by Rule of the Constitution

(a) Report from Cells.

No Cells have been created

(b) Financial Report Statement of accounts presented by Mrs Joan Hooton were received.

7. Priest Director : Future Festivals. The Autumn Festival will take place at S. Nicholas Plumstead. Date to be confirmed.

8. Any other business (time permitting) Father Cornish reported that some very complimentary comments were made about the last pilgrimage to Fatima (May 2012). Amongst them it was said that, 'it as the best pilgrimage yet,' and people 'gelled well together.'

Father Gray was thanked for his careful organisation making it such an enjoyable pilgrimage.

In delaring the meeting closed, Father Gray thanked Father Corbett and the staff at Pusey House for their kind and warm hospitality.



*Father John Cornish
Minute Secretary*

FATIMA 2012

On a rather damp 9th of May, a group of pilgrims gathered in Terminal 1 at London Heathrow for a pilgrimage organised by the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association (EFFA). The group was led by the Rt. Revd. Jonathan Baker, Bishop of Ebbsfleet, and the pilgrimage was organised by Fr Malcolm Gray, Priest Director of the Association. As well as Bp Jonathan and Fr Malcolm, the party included five other Anglican priests, two Roman Catholic priests, fourteen Anglican lay pilgrims and two Roman Catholic lay pilgrims. Bp Jonathan was the principal celebrant at our Anglican Masses during the time we were in Fatima and also gave the homily at each one.

Following a smooth and uneventful flight to Lisbon, the pilgrims emerged into brilliant and rather warm sunshine and were escorted by the representative from Mancunia Travel to board their coach for the ride of just over one hour to Fatima itself. The Hotel Sao Paulo was to be the group's headquarters for their stay of one week, and they were met there on arrival by Fr Gray, Fr Andrew Stevens and some lay pilgrims who had gone ahead to ensure that all was ready for the party.

A first impression of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary of Fatima is of its sheer size. The esplanade is about five hundred yards long and the same across.

At one end is the Basilica, consecrated on the 7th of October 1953; at the other end is the modern Church of the Most Holy Trinity, consecrated on the 12th of October 2007 by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary of State to the Vatican and Legate of Pope Benedict XVI. Some way in front of the Basilica, and on the left hand side of the esplanade, stands the Capelhina, the first chapel to be built at Fatima to commemorate the appearances of Our Lady to three young shepherds on six occasions in 1917. A statue of Our Lady of Fatima now stands on a pillar marking the exact spot of the apparitions. The Capelhina, together with the statue and the seats surrounding them, are protected by a large canopy.

The mortal remains of the visionaries, Lucia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, now lie in side chapels near the chancel of the Basilica. Francisco's tomb is to the right of the chancel; Lucia and Jacinta were interred on the left hand side.

Beautiful, albeit fairly informal, gardens planted with trees and shrubs have been established around the east end of the Basilica and also extend along both sides of the esplanade. The trees provide welcome shelter from both sun and rain, and the gardens form a living screen around the Sanctuary, contributing to its atmosphere of tranquillity.

The most important days at Fatima are the 12th and 13th of each month from May to October since the apparitions of Our Lady, with one exception, occurred on the 13th of each of those months in 1917. (The vision in August took place on the 19th of that month because the visionaries had been abducted on the 13th by the Regional Administrator.) In 2012, the 12th and 13th of May were particularly significant because the 13th fell on a Sunday. The first appearance in 1917 happened on Sunday the 13th of May.

All through the day on Friday, pilgrims streamed into Fatima, many in cars but many others on foot having walked considerable distances to gain the holy place. The extensive parks around the Sanctuary steadily filled up with cars, tents and caravans, while those who could afford nothing better slung a plastic sheet between two trees for shelter or simply rolled out their bedding on the ground and trusted that the weather would stay fine.

By Saturday evening, when the International Mass began at 10.30 p.m., the esplanade was a sea of twinkling lights, almost everyone in the host of pilgrims having a lighted candle. For that Mass, the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was carried from the Capelhina to stand beside the Altar just outside the west door of the Basilica on which the Mass was celebrated.

There was a further great Mass on the Sunday morning when the esplanade was, if anything, even more crowded than on the previous evening. For this Mass, the Anglican clergy were invited to occupy places near the Altar as ecumenical visitors. At the conclusion of the service, the statue of Our Lady was carried back to the Capelhina and all those present bade farewell to Her by waving a white handkerchief. By Sunday evening, most of the pilgrims had left and Fatima had regained the air of quiet and comparative solitude which it had had during the previous week.

The devotion of the pilgrims is awe-inspiring. Their behaviour during the lengthy ceremonies is impeccable while many of them, when the major ceremonies are not filling the Sanctuary, traverse the length of the esplanade on their knees while reciting the rosary.

EFFA supports with a corporate financial donation the work of the Comunidade Vida e Paz, an organisation which seeks to rehabilitate those caught up in substance abuse. On one day of the pilgrimage our group visited the Community to see its therapeutic work in action and to hear an informative account of its foundation and growth from one of its staff. Morning Prayer and Mass were that day celebrated in the Community's own chapel.

To take part in the Pilgrimage was a great privilege, and grateful thanks are due to all those who worked hard to make it a success. We took away unforgettable memories which will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

Richard North

Father Malcolm writes :

Over the last few months I have been exploring the possibilities of moving to a Pension Board Flat in Scarborough. I have now been informed that a flat is available for me and I will be moving from Stanmore on Saturday 15th December 2012.

My mind has been in a state of spinning round and round at the prospect. However, I do look forward to the move and it will be good to be “up north” in time for Christmas.

Needless to say there will be a sadness in leaving London but to be close to the family AND my beloved Yorkshire (North Riding) Moors makes it all worthwhile.

Dulverton Hall is a splendid residence overlooking the North Sea. To cross that stretch of water (as opposed to a certain river!!) I would finish up in Denmark. Behind Dulverton Hall lies the lovely Vale of York and the glorious Yorkshire Moors.

Dulverton Hall is in the (united) parishes of S. Martins (A & B) and S. Saviours (A,B & C under the care of the (now new) Bishop of Beverley. The parish priest is a member of the Society of the Holy Cross (ssc) and a member of Forward in Faith.

Each flat is totally independent - but there is a splendid communal dining room with waiter service. The thought of no more shopping and cooking - well! It has two lovely guest rooms also overlooking the North Sea. Over the years I have always maintained that whilst I have become a ‘Londoner by adoption’ I have remained a Yorkshire man at heart - that is, of course, ‘of the North Riding’.

The main advantage in this move is that I shall be close to the family. My brother and sister in law (George and Ann) and two nieces with husbands and children are just an hour away across the moors in Middlesborough and a niece with husband and children just ten minutes away from Dulverton Hall.

So, 2012 is a year of change for me. Are these changes coincidental or Divine Providence - I prefer to think of it being the latter - but who knows? I remain as optimistic as ever as I face whatever new challenges may come my way and the way of our Church.

My ties with the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association (EFFA) remain unchanged. I have been informed that one can get to Heathrow from the north - just takes a little longer than from Stanmore. The next ‘Bishop led pilgrimage’ to Fatima is 9th -16th May 2013. Booking firms and information from me.

As from Saturday 15th December my address will be :

Flat 7
Dulverton Hall,
The Esplanade, Scarborough,
North Yorkshire. YO11 2AR.

(Dulverton Hall telephone number is 01723 340 100)

My direct telephone number is 01723 340 107

My mobile telephone remains unchanged 07721 664 178

My e mail address will be changed

No BT line so I am exploring something known as a USB “DONGLE”.

Any advice on “DONGLE” welcome.



CHRIST THE KING



As with the end of the Churches year towards the end of November when we celebrated Christ as Lord and King of the Universe - the culmination of a years teaching and living of the faith - so at the end of December we celebrate the birth of this Christ Child who is to be the Way, the Truth and the Life whom we acknowledge and embrace afresh.

During this month our minds and hearts are set on the great feast of Christmas and all the joys and delights this feast affords us - in our worship and in our homes and amongst families and friends. But we must not lose sight of the fact that this Christ Child is none

other than the Christ we will encounter on "our day of judgement" and when departing from this life be called to give an account of what we have been and done with the time God has given us to love and serve him and our neighbour. Death, Judgement, Heaven - and/or Hell is something none of us can escape, but we can face it with a certain confidence in the knowledge that we have sought to be and do what God has laid before us. Whilst ever we seek to do that which is right in God's eyes rather than the short sightedness of many of our contemporaries in a world that has lost its way, we can with confidence stand before the Christ knowing that as we recognised him in this life so he will know us for what we sought to be and do for him and our neighbour.

Enjoy all the preparations for the coming of the Christ Child and enjoy all the feasting where he is at the centre - in worship and at home.



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Fr John Cornish

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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.

da Associação Ecuménica Amigos de Fátima

Annual English Festival in 2013 will take place at
The Parish Church of S. Nicholas, Plumstead.
Further details and date to follow.
Parish priest Fr Andrew Stevens 020 8854 0461



**THE PRIEST DIRECTOR AND THE COUNCIL OF THE ECUMENICAL FRIENDS
WISHES ALL MEMBERS THE CONTINUED PEACE AND BLESSING OF THE
BIRTH OF THE CHRIST CHILD**

Regina Sacratissimi Rossarii Fatimea, Ora pro Nobis
