

A Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima

*Mother of all individuals and peoples,
you know all their sufferings and hopes.*

*In your motherly heart
you feel all the struggles between good and evil,
between light and darkness,*

*that convulse the world:
accept the plea which we make
in the Holy Spirit directly to your heart,
and embrace with the love*

*of the Mother and Handmaid of the Lord
those who most await this embrace,
and also those whose act of entrustment
you too await in a particular way.*

*Take under your motherly protection
the whole human family,
which with affectionate love we entrust to you, O Mother.*

*May there dawn for everyone
the time of peace and freedom,
the time of truth, of justice and of hope.
Amen.*

Pope St John Paul II



Welcome to
St Joseph's Catholic Church
Bilton, Harrogate



*The Visitation of the Pilgrim Statue of
Our Lady of Fatima*



*St Joseph's Catholic Church
Bilton, Harrogate
Thursday 20th October 2022*

This week we shall welcome the Missionary Statue of Our Lady of Fatima into St Joseph's in Harrogate, and we invite you to join us for all, or a part of that afternoon. The story of Fatima is one to give hope to the Church, for in the 1917, at the Cova da Iria area of Fatima, Portugal three young shepherd children witnessed remarkable events, which were to help shape the life of faith of many millions of Catholics worldwide. For it was here that Our Lady appeared to these three children, with messages for them and the whole world.

While tending sheep in a field, Lucia dos Santos and her two younger cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, reported seeing a woman dressed in all white, "more brilliant than the sun, shedding rays of light clearer and stronger than a crystal glass filled with the most sparkling water and pierced by the burning rays of the sun." Calling herself "Our Lady of the Rosary," Mary asked the children to pray the Rosary daily for the conversion of sinners. She asked for prayer, penance, and the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart.

On October 13th, 1930, Bishop Jose Alves Correia da Silva of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima announced the results of the investigative commission and formally approved the apparitions. Every pope thereafter has recognized these events and has emphasized the importance of Our Lady of Fatima and the devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

The most spectacular of the apparitions was the sixth and final one on October 13th, 1917, when Mary appeared with St. Joseph. A crowd of up to 70,000 people witnessed the sun dance, spin, display in various colours and descend on them, drying their rain-soaked clothes and the land. The sun miracle was reported by people as far as 40 miles away.

Due to the 1918 influenza epidemic, the two younger children did not live long beyond the apparition events. Francisco, ten, requested his first Communion on his deathbed and passed away the following day, April 4th, 1919. Jacinta died on February 20th, 1920, at age nine after an unsuccessful operation for an abscess in her chest.

Lucia became a postulant at the convent of the Institute of the Sisters of St. Dorothy at Pontevedra, Spain, but later entered the Carmelite convent in Coimbra, Portugal, where she remained until her death in 2005.

Fatima has become an important place of pilgrimage with five million people per year coming to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, the construction of which began in 1928.

Outline of the Day's Visit:

Morning: The statue of Our Lady will be welcomed into School, where each class will be able to join in with Devotions

1:15pm Procession of the Statue from School to Church

1:30pm Private Prayer (Church)

1:45pm Rosary (Church)

2:00pm Private Prayer (Church)

2:30pm Talk & Film on Fatima (Parish Hall)

3:15pm Private Prayer (Church)

4:00pm Talk on the Rosary (Church)

4:45pm Adoration (Church)

6:00pm Rosary (Church)

6:15pm Benediction (Church)

6:30pm Mass (Church)

You are warmly invited to join us for the whole, or part of the afternoon visit and Mass.