

A Little Bit of Fatima in Leamington

Saturday 13th May was a memorable day for our parish of St Peter Apostle here in Leamington Spa as we celebrated the start of our Fatima Centenary celebrations.

We began quietly and prayerfully at 9am with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Morning prayer and a well attended Mass followed. Fr. John Cross, our parish priest, lifted our spirits further as he celebrated Mass especially when we sang the rousing hymn of Immaculate Mary to the well-known Lourdes tune.

At the end of Mass, during which we held the ceremony of enthronement and said the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Fr. John blessed and crowned the parish's new statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Three children from St Anthony's school Leamington carefully inserted the three doves into the statue. Our choir leader Anne-Claire sang Ave Maria wonderfully and a good crowd processed into the parish centre.

After Peter's introduction, Jane McSharry head teacher of St Anthony's helped the three children (dressed very much as the original Fatima children looked) and an angel, to act out the part of the angel's visitations at Fatima in 1916. We all said the angel prayers. What was especially significant was that, in the original film "The 13th Day", the three children acting the part of the Fatima children were actually three Portuguese children from the same school.

The story of Fatima, with subsequent events, were then presented by Peter, Rosalind-Marie and Christine using a time line and picture displays of the visions the Fatima children had on 13th October 1917.

After a packed lunch, it was over to Leo Hughes, Executive Producer and Romek Kracewicz, Marketing of the film "The 13th Day". With the assistance of their own two short DVDs of Fatima to supplement the main film, they helped us see the whole meaning of Fatima and the response that we need to make. Romek had constructed a dramatic display of the chalice and host which the angel had in the vision in 1916. *(Peter, Leo and Romek in photo).*

Much material was available during the day, with all the DVDs provided by Leo and Romek being taken as well as many other resources.

After singing the rest of Immaculate Mary, we processed back to the church to say the rosary and there was a large group who were invested in the Brown Scapular by Fr. Noel Breslin, assistant priest.

St Peter's is a pilgrimage church for the archdiocese for the Fatima Centenary Year and we hope many will come to pray here, particularly on the 13th of each month up to 13th October for the special jubilee indulgence.

Some of the comments on the day:-

"The Fatima 100th Anniversary Celebration day at St Peter's, Leamington was a prayer-filled and info-packed event. I had my eyes opened to the power of the message of Fatima and how God uses even little ones to spread the Gospel. I found the "13th Day" film a moving depiction of the events of 1917. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make it happen!" Paul.

"I had a wonderful day at St Peter's Church Leamington Spa at the Our Lady of Fatima Centenary Celebrations. Following the 10am Mass the beautiful statue of our Lady of Fatima was crowned and processed into the Parish Centre. It was a day of sharing, prayer, singing, talks and the Film the 13th Day. Thank you to everyone involved in organising such a marvellous day of celebration". Anne.

"The Fatima Centenary Celebration was an uplifting and blessed event. With morning prayer, Mass, and the enthronement of our new statue the tone was set for the whole day of prayerful companionship. The gathering of

parishioners from many parts of the archdiocese heard informative talks. The atmosphere was friendly and supportive, enriching our feeling of community spirit". Jenny

"Fatima Day in St Peter's church was absolutely wonderful. We felt a personal link with the celebrations taking place in Fatima with the Holy Father and I am sure that we all really felt that Our Lady of Fatima was with us. The next morning several people were seen praying in front of the newly-blessed statue". Mary.

"I found the Mass most moving on a very special day. The Fatima film was wonderful, truly inspirational, that showed very well the visions in Fatima in 1917". Kathy.

Peter Dimambro
St Peter Apostle
Leamington Spa

