

## A Heart of Love

Our late Holy Father, Saint John Paul II said in his visit to Fatima in 1991, "The new condition of the people and of the Church is still dangerous and unstable. Therefore, Mother, we need you and ask that you reveal your love to each one of your children and to the nations" (cf. May 13)

Our Lady of Fatima is rightly associated with some of the most amazing spiritual occurrences of the last century. Firstly, there was the miracle of the sun in which on October 13th, 2017 everyone in a crowd of approximately 100,000 witnessed an incredible solar phenomenon. This phenomenon was witnessed by both believers and atheists alike and was so dramatic that everyone thought it was going to be the end of the world. The second amazing occurrence was the correct prophecy about the end of the First World War and the beginning of the Second World War. Then there was the prediction about Communism, and Our Lady's role in its downfall in Russia through Her intervention in preventing the assassination of St John Paul II and then through St John Paul's consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

However, let us not focus on these fantastic and prophetic and world changing events, to the exclusion of the deeply personal message that Our Lady of Fatima brings to us, Her children. God wanted us to see and know that it is only in and through Mary. All the great Saints testify to this, but God wanted us to see that for ourselves through the great events that unfolded last century through Our Lady's Immaculate Heart.

When we come and see the deep affection of the Portuguese faithful to Our Lady of Fatima, we realise that there is something much more important. Our Lady comes to us because She loves us and she wants all of us to enjoy her motherly affection and protection. She wants us to allow ourselves to be enfolded by Her love in Her Immaculate Heart. As a Mother and out of love for us she warned that many souls were being lost to hell through the sins of impurity, and she reminds us, out of that same motherly love and care, of the importance of the scapular and the Rosary. She also asked for processions because they bring upon us great blessings from God. With this in mind we are going to have a beautiful procession on 8th May at St Colman's Church Balaclava. We invite you to bring a flower that can be placed at the end of the procession.

St Colman's is a beautiful Church close to Balaclava station. There is a tram right on the door (Trams3,3A, 16: stop 39), and ample parking at the rear of the Church, that is just 5 minutes drive off Dandonong Road, and Nepean Highway.