

St Mary Magdalen
Upper North Street
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Website: <http://stmarymagdalenbrighton.org/>

5th Sunday of Easter 14th May 2017

10.30 am Sung Mass	People of the Parish
5.00 pm Said Mass	Madeleine Pratt rip
Monday	
No public Mass	
Tuesday	
11:00am	William Donovan rip
Wednesday	
11:00am	Martha & Maurice Fitzgerald rip
Thursday	
11.00am	Adeleine - Adams
Friday	
11:00am	Adams – Adams
Saturday	
11.00am	Blanche Houghtom rip

Confessions heard after Masses on weekdays, and on Sundays after Mass at request.

Parking on Sundays behind the Church in the school playground in Spring Street

Servers – we still only have one volunteer from the 5pm Mass, he is unable to serve every week. Please volunteer if you are able.

Saint Jacinta and Francisco Marto were canonized yesterday



Francisco de Jesus Marto (12 June, 1908 – 4 April, 1919), his sister Jacinta de Jesus Marto (11 March, 1910 – 20 February, 1920), also known as Saints

Francisco and Jacinta Marto, and their cousin Lúcia Santos (1907–2005) were the children from Aljustrel, a small hamlet near Fátima, Portugal, who said they witnessed three apparitions of the Angel of Peace in 1916 and several apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Cova da Iria in 1917. To the Virgin Mary was given the title Our Lady of Fátima as a result, and the Sanctuary of Fátima became a major centre of world Christian pilgrimage. The two were solemnly canonized by Pope Francis at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima, in Portugal on 13 May 2017, the first centennial of the first Apparition of Our Lady of Fátima.

The youngest children of Manuel and Olimpia Marto, Francisco and Jacinta were typical of Portuguese village children of that time. They were illiterate but had a rich oral tradition.

According to Lúcia's memoirs, Francisco had a placid disposition, was somewhat musically inclined, and liked to be by himself to think. Jacinta was affectionate if a bit spoiled. She had a sweet singing voice and a gift for dancing. Following their experiences, their fundamental personalities remained the same. Francisco preferred to pray alone, saying that this would "console Jesus for the sins of the world". Jacinta said she was deeply affected by a terrifying vision of Hell shown to the children at the third apparition, and deeply convinced of the need to save sinners through penance and sacrifice as the Virgin had told the children to do. All three children, but particularly Francisco and Jacinta, practiced stringent self-mortifications to this end.

The siblings were victims of the great 1918 influenza epidemic that swept through Europe that year. In October 1918, Mary supposedly appeared and promised to take them to heaven soon. Both lingered for many months, insisting on walking to church to make Eucharistic devotions and prostrating themselves to pray for hours, kneeling with their heads on the ground as they said the angel had instructed them to do.

Francisco declined hospital treatment on 3 April, 1919, and died at home the next day. Jacinta was moved from one hospital to another in an attempt to save her life, which she insisted was futile. She developed purulent pleurisy and endured an operation in which two of her ribs were removed. Because of the condition of her heart, she could not be fully anesthetized, only local, and later suffered terrible pain, which she said would help to convert many sinners. On 19 February, 1920, Jacinta asked the hospital chaplain who heard her confession to bring her Holy Communion and administer Extreme Unction because she was going to die "the next night". He told her that her condition was not that serious and that he would return the next day. The next day Jacinta was dead; she had died, as she had often said she would, alone.

In 1920, shortly before her death at age nine, Jacinta Marto reportedly discussed the Alliance of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary with a then 12-year-old Lúcia Santos and said:

When you are to say this, don't go and hide. Tell everybody that God grants us graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; that people are to ask her for them; and that the Heart of Jesus wants the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be venerated at his side. Tell them also to pray to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for peace, since God entrusted it to her.

Jacinta and Francisco are both buried at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima.

May these young saints intercede for us