

Today is the feast of Our Lady of Fatima.

It is a curious link that today – as we experience the global Coronavirus pandemic – we are reminded that two of the three children to experience the visions of Our Lady at Fatima – St Jacinta and St Francisco (de Jesus Marto) – died as children in the Spanish Flu pandemic of the early 20th century. We are taught lots of things about Fatima but there are two that stand out: to pray the Rosary and to pray for the souls of those who have died.

O Mary, who's face shines on us, we pray for all those who have died, especially those with no family, those who have died alone or in distress; those far from home or far from faith; those who have gone to God too soon, and those who mourn. O Mother, O woman of Sorrows, hear our prayer and gather all those who have died to Christ our Lord in heaven.

So today, as we mark this special Marian feast day, pray aloud in your own home, the Rosary and after each decade say the Fatima Prayer – *‘O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell and lead all souls to heaven, especially those who most need thy mercy’*.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

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