

BULLETIN OF THE VENERABLE MARIA DE LÚCIA OF JESUS AND THE IMMACULATE HEART

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*“You, at least,
try to comfort me.”*
Apparition of Pontevedra

CENTENARY OF THE APPARITION OF OUR LADY IN PONTEVEDRA

1925 – 10 December – 2025

“It was 10 December 1925. I was in my room when, suddenly, everything lit up; it was the light of our beloved Heavenly Mother, who came with the Child Jesus on a luminous cloud. Our Lady, as if wishing to give me courage, gently placed her maternal hand on my right shoulder, whilst at the same time showing me her Immaculate Heart, which she held in her other hand, surrounded by thorns; the Child Jesus said: have mercy on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother, which is covered with thorns that ungrateful men pierce at every moment, without anyone making an act of reparation to remove them.

Then Our Lady said: Look, my daughter, at my Heart surrounded by thorns which ungrateful men pierce at every moment with blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console me and tell everyone that, for five months, on the first Saturday, they should go to confession, receive Holy Communion, pray a rosary and keep me company for fifteen minutes, meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, in order to make amends to me; I promise to assist them at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their souls”.

*A Journey Under Mary's Gaze, The Official Biography of
Sister Lúcia, Carmel of Saint Teresa*



21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF THE VENERABLE SISTER MARIA LÚCIA OF JESUS AND THE IMMACULATE HEART



Photograph: @Carmelo de Coimbra

13 February 2026 marked the 21st anniversary of Sister Lúcia's passing, and a Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated for the gift of her life.

As has been the custom in recent years, the Mass was presided over by the Bishop of Coimbra, Monsignor Virgílio do Nascimento Antunes, and concelebrated by the Rector of the Shrine of Fátima, Fr Carlos Cabecinhas, and by other priests from the dioceses of Coimbra and Leiria-Fátima.

This year, due to the inclement weather that battered our country, the number of devotees and faithful present was smaller, though they remained united in a profound spiritual communion, also with our departed brothers and sisters and with all those who suffered as a result of the countless devastation caused during those days.

In his homily, drawing on the day's Gospel reading about the healing of the deaf-mute (cf. Mk 7:31–37), the bishop began by referring to the importance of "listening to the voice of God, his Word, which will transform our lives from within, so that we may bear witness in the midst of the world: opening our ears to become heralds".

He emphasised that this was the attitude of Sister Lúcia and the Little Shepherds, though their paths were very different, yet they shared many similar traits, and he highlighted two of them:

"The desire to hear the voice of God, beginning with their families, through catechesis, and the tender words of the Virgin Mary... they heard the voice of God; and the inner ardour of the heart that became the dominant desire of their hearts, to the point of being willing to give their lives for the conversion of sinners."

In the light of this testimony, he emphasised that "this is the programme of life we have come here to seek, because the only voice that matters is the voice of God". And, in this context, Bishop Virgílio referred to the Holy Father Leo XIV's message for Lent 2026, in which one of the dimensions he highlighted was, precisely, the dimension of listening: "This year I would like to draw attention, first of all, to the importance of making room for the Word through listening, for the willingness to listen is the first sign by which the desire to enter into relationship with the other is manifested" (Pope Leo XIV).

Finally, with Lent just a few days away, the bishop encouraged the congregation to ask for "the desire to listen, so that Jesus may enter our hearts and we may be enlightened by the Holy Spirit to be heralds of his Kingdom, a Kingdom of love, peace, salvation and healing". And he concluded the homily with the words of the psalmist: "I am the Lord, your God; listen to my voice" (cf. Ps 80 [81]).

Over the years, the Bishop of Coimbra has always encouraged us to ask for God's gifts for the Cause of Beatification and Canonisation of Sister Lúcia, specifically to pray for her beatification. So we continue to pray in the Church and with the Church that, in God's time and according to his will, that happy day may come!



SISTER LÚCIA AMONG US

Photographs (1948–2005)

To mark the 21st anniversary of Sister Lúcia's return to the Father's House, the Carmelite Convent of Saint Teresa has sought to take a further step in raising awareness of the Carmelite life of the visionary of Fátima. Thus, on 13 February, the temporary exhibition "**Sister Lúcia Among Us**" was opened to the public in the multimedia room of the Sister Lúcia Memorial and will remain open until 16 July. Comprising photographic records tracing the Venerable's Carmelite life from her entry into the Carmelite Order in 1948 until her death in 2005, this exhibition also illustrates the life of the Carmelite community which, in the mid-20th century, welcomed Lúcia, and which boasts a history of almost 300 years in the heart of the city of Coimbra.

Indeed, "Sister Lúcia Among Us" aims to be an invitation to enter into the fruitful silence of the Carmel and to explore, through images, the hidden and profoundly luminous life of Sister Lúcia within her religious community. More than a simple photographic sequence, it is a spiritual and human journey. As one progresses along it, the beauty of a life entirely offered to God is revealed, guided by the wise and prudent hand of the Virgin Mary, following in the footsteps of Saint Teresa of Jesus and Saint John of the Cross, up to the summit of Mount Carmel. This is, in fact, the goal of every Carmelite and, with perseverance and faith, "amid thorns and brambles", Sister Lúcia managed to reach it.



From her entry into the Carmelite Order in 1948, we witness the beginning of a journey marked by self-giving, prayer and community life. Sister Lúcia's early years in the Carmel reveal her integration into a spiritual family where fraternity, simplicity and mutual love are lived out day by day, and where she was, in fact, "on the outside like everyone else, on the inside like no one else". In this first stage, photographs can be seen of Sister Lúcia as a Carmelite novice and in her early years as a solemnly professed nun. It is worth noting that, when Sister Lúcia entered the Carmelite convent, ownership of the building had recently been returned to the community, following several decades of military occupation. Thus, the images of these early moments of Sister Lúcia among us offer a glimpse of some areas of the convent still in the process of being adapted to cloistered life.

Over the decades, alongside the prayers of simple, anonymous people who turned to her for help and advice, there were memorable encounters with prominent figures from the Church and society, bearing witness to how, even in cloistered life, Sister Lúcia's life remained connected to the world, radiating faith and hope. These moments, discreet yet significant, reveal a presence that touched many hearts and which radiated, above all, from her life hidden with Christ in God. It is said that "saints seek one another". For this reason, at this stage of her life, we can highlight the visits to the Carmelite convent by the (now) Blessed Eduardo Pironio and John Paul I (at that time, Cardinal Albino Lúciáni), amongst others. The exhibition also illustrates her encounters with the *bishop dressed in white*, Saint John Paul II, in Fátima.



Towards the end of this journey, we come to the celebration of her golden jubilee as a Discalced Carmelite and her 75 years of religious profession (it is worth recalling that Sister Lúcia made her first religious profession in the Society of Saint Dorothy on 3 October 1928). Visitors to the exhibition can see here the evidence of fidelity to a long journey, lived with perseverance, humility and joy. These are milestones that essentially reveal the depth of a vocation matured in silence and prayer, lived with the resolute Teresian determination that so well characterised her. The photographs on display here highlight the passage of time in a body inhabited by a soul already purified and on the threshold of a serene and happy old age.

As we approach the end, Sister Lúcia's life is brought to light, lived fully in community, spanning the entire period during which she was among us.

The exhibition concludes with a *Farewell*. With the serene twilight of the life of one who knew how to be a faithful instrument in spreading a Message which, at the age of 10, *the Lady brighter than the sun had* entrusted to her, the final images evoke the memory, gratitude and continuity of a spiritual legacy left for Carmel and the world.

The photographic records on display thus constitute an invitation to contemplate simplicity, faith lived in the hidden, and the beauty of a life offered up, on a path of ascent to that mountain where only the honour and glory of God dwell.

Amidst everyday gestures and solemn moments, we discover the true essence of "Sister Lúcia amongst us".



SHELTER AND PATH: THROUGH CONTEMPLATION, BRINGING BELIEVERS AND NON-BELIEVERS CLOSER TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Marco Daniel Duarte

Director of the Museum of the Shrine of Fátima and curator of the exhibition “Shelter and Path”



The activities carried out by the institution through its museum, by means of temporary exhibitions – usually focusing on themes derived from the pastoral concerns of this Marian shrine – form part of the evangelising mission of the Marian Shrine¹.

Taking the centenary of the Apparitions of Pontevedra as its theme, the Museum of the Shrine of Fátima has prepared an exhibition for the 2025–2027 period which aims, by bringing together artistic works and historical documentation from different eras, to offer visitors a new experience based on the museology of contemplation², with the aim of providing them with a high-quality experience that, without neglecting the transmission of content, enables them to experience the space and engage with the themes through ethical and aesthetic values.

Through meticulous research, the exhibition illustrates the different cycles of the Fatima apparitions and explores content related to what, in theological terms, is known as Mariophany and Christophany—mystical episodes that lead to reflection of a religious nature, but also humanistic, since these specific apparitions, according to the testimony of Lúcia de Jesús (1907–2005), possess a symbolic language that transcends the boundaries of Catholicism. Far less well known than those of the angelic (1916) and Marian (1917) cycles, the apparitions of Pontevedra (1925–1926), in Galicia, form part of the so-called Cordi-Marian cycle, based on the powerful anthropological image of the heart, with all the symbolic significance that this element holds in contemporary culture.

1. The temporary exhibitions at the Museum of the Shrine of Fátima have been the subject of in-depth reflection within the field of museology; see Maria Isabel Roque, “Museologia da religião: exposições temporárias do Museu do Santuário de Fátima”, in *Transinformação*, v. 32, e200029, 2020, available at <https://doi.org/10.1590/2318-0889202032e200029>.

2. Like the other exhibitions organised by the Shrine of Fátima, this one also aims to contribute to what we call “museology of contemplation” (for more on this museological approach, see Marco Daniel Duarte, “Para uma museologia «contemplativa»: o papel dos museus da Igreja para a contemplação do ser humano”, in Maria João Neto, João Alves da Cunha (coord.), *Arte e Igreja em Portugal. Histórias e protagonistas de diálogos recentes*, Lisboa, Caleidoscópio, 2021, pp. 137–153).



Based on the symbol of the heart, drawn from the iconography of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the exhibition thus aims, through works of ancient art and contemporary creations, to highlight the importance of fundamental themes such as human relationships in the context of building world peace. The exhibition is organised into seven sections, offering a journey intended to be educational, reflective, aesthetic and, above all, experiential and contemplative.

In the first section³, whose title is intended to be clearly direct and educational – “Three cycles, one Message: Fátima (1916), Fátima (1917), Pontevedra (1925-1926) – Tui (1929)” – visitors are informed that, contrary to what many devotees of Fátima believe, the message of that place is not confined to the mystical phenomena of Aljustrel and the Cova da Iria. In fact, less well known than the apparitions of the Angel in 1916 and the apparitions of Mary in 1917, the Message of Fátima encompasses the mystical phenomena which, according to Lúcia de Jesus, took place in Galicia (Spain) in 1925, 1926 and 1929. Given the content described by the visionary, this period in the history of Fátima proves to be of great richness and constitutes a cycle that must be considered alongside the angelic and Marian cycles. As it is based on the symbol of the Heart of Mary, theologians refer to it as the “Cordi-Marian” cycle.

³ For the presentation of the exhibition, we have drawn on the texts that introduce its various sections.

In the second section, visitors can follow in the footsteps of Lúcia. Entitled “«A little more time»: Sister Dorés (Lúcia de Jesus) in Galicia”, this part of the exhibition displays the visionary’s Dorothean habit, as well as various personal items, including a set of miniature vestments that Lúcia made at that time. In fact, according to her *Memoirs*, it is the Mother of God herself who informs Lúcia that her life would be extended “a little longer” with the mission of becoming an apostle of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. When, in 1921, Lúcia left Fatima to enter the Institute of Saint Dorothy, the visionary was far from imagining that the mystical experiences of that decade would bring her important revelations about the maternal gaze of Mary, the special messenger of the God to whom Lúcia had consecrated her life. During this period of her life, to maintain her anonymity, Lúcia took the name Maria dos Dorés as a Dorothean nun, although she continued to sign letters to her closest friends with her baptism name. At the Institute of Saint Dorothy, Maria das Dorés’s daily life was divided, firstly, between her schoolwork and, secondly, between domestic chores which, nevertheless, left her time for prayer and writing.

To be continued in the next bulletin.

GRACES

I had an infected finger on my right hand, with an infection under the nail. As a cancer patient with lymph node involvement in that arm, healing proved difficult. In the end, I had surgery on the finger, but three months later it was still very painful. I am an organist and found it very difficult to play, as I had to skip that finger. On 12 May, I asked the Blessed Virgin to grant me God's miracle through the intercession of Sister Lúcia, to whom I would write to Coimbra to let her know. To my surprise, on 13 May I was already playing the organ without any pain, and it has remained that way until today, the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fátima. I pray for the beatification of Sister Lúcia.

Sister Maria, Taiwan

I would like to share the grace that has been granted to me through the intercession of Sister Lúcia. My son and his wife were going through difficulties in their marriage and were very unhappy. I prayed with great devotion for Sister Lúcia to intercede with our Blessed Mother, as they have two young children to raise. Everything returned to normal and they are now happy. It was Sister Lúcia who interceded; we look forward to her beatification, which she richly deserves. May God be with us.

Ana, Portugal

I was in great distress when the results of the teacher allocation were published. I saw that my daughter had been posted far away from her husband and their three children. I prayed fervently to dear Sister Lúcia to intercede with Jesus so that He might grant me the great grace of her being reunited with her husband. And so it was. Thank you, Sister Lúcia, for listening to me!

Anonymous



We are Portuguese and live in Venezuela. My daughter's twins were born prematurely and suffered many complications, particularly respiratory ones. Both babies were baptised, but one of them passed away. The other baby survived, although he suffered several relapses. Following the request for prayers to Carmel and this prayer chain involving several people, I am writing to thank everyone who prayed for my little grandson, asking for Sister Lúcia's intercession. I am here to bear witness to the grace received, as the child has recovered, has come home, is now six months old and is doing very well. Thank God for Sister Lúcia's intercession.

Fátima, Venezuela

At that point in my life, I was distraught by the news about my son. I signed up for a visit to the Sister Lúcia Memorial in Coimbra. I went there full of hope and prayed with all my might for my son's recovery, as the illness was in a very sensitive area. The visit was just coming to an end when I saw that prayer requests could be left there. With great faith, I asked Saint Lúcia to intercede with Our Lady of Fátima so that a miracle might occur for my son's health. As time went by and he underwent treatment, everything improved, and today my son is in good health. As I promised to write if this miracle were granted, I am here to give my testimony.

Maria, Portugal



Every time I went to Portugal, a friend would give me religious magazines she no longer needed. When I saw Sister Lúcia on the cover, I was very curious and delighted. I fell seriously ill and was on the brink of death on two occasions. The doctors even gave me three months to live. Sister Lúcia had already passed away when I asked my mother to send me some books that would tell me about her and Fatima. I confess that I picked up the books with my usual scepticism, but also with great curiosity. I read the books in one go, without stopping. I read them over and over again, until I almost knew some passages by heart. I felt immense remorse for my whole life, for my estrangement, my lack of love and, in short, for everything I should have done but did not. I saw the extent of my blindness and the missed opportunities that God had offered me! After 16 years of civil marriage, my husband, who is German and was of another faith, knew nothing of Our Lady of Fátima, but he too began to feel, through the words of Lúcia (which I read to him and translated into German), the call of God and converted to the Catholic Church. With Our Lady's help, I was married in the Church and Our Lady of Fátima was my godmother. You can imagine the gratitude we feel towards Sister Lúcia!

Maria, Germany

On the feast day of Our Lady of Tears, a deep sense of grief and sadness hung over the village because two men, both still very young and with families, were in a deep coma and their prospects were very bleak. The accidents were very different, but the situation evoked the same sense of sorrow. When I got home, I came across Sister Lúcia's Newsletter; I looked at the image of the Heart of Mary, felt her presence, and read the whole magazine. I prayed to Mary, asked her to intercede for these sick men and their mothers, and committed myself to spreading the word. The young men began to improve gradually. I have already been to see them; I spoke to the one who took the longest to recover, told him what had happened and asked him if it could be published, as they are now leading normal lives. Here I am, fulfilling my commitment.

Lúcia, Portugal

I would like to share a grace I received through the intercession of Sister Lúcia. For two years, I prayed for her beatification because of a cyst I have in my breast; I asked her to ensure it wasn't anything serious. She heard me. I am so grateful!

Ana, Spain

SISTER LUCIA MEMORIAL



To make Sister Lucia's life known, especially as a Carmelite, and to exhibit some of her objects, the Carmel of Santa Teresa in Coimbra has created an exhibition space, located next to the Carmelite monastery, where unique pieces of her personal use can be seen, among which the following stand out:

Her Carmelite cell.

Handicrafts made by her.

The itinerary of her life documented in photographs.

Objects used by her at the time of the apparitions.

Objects offered to her by various Popes.

The space also has a multimedia or conference room.

Opening hours:

10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon

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€ 2 (above 6 years old)

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 www.lucia.pt/memorial/

NOTICES

If you would like to receive Sister Lucia's Bulletin at your home, parish, group or movement, you can contact: **coimbra@carmelitas.pt**

The Bulletin is available in Spanish and English on the website:

lucia.pt





BIOGRAPHY

Lúcia Rosa dos Santos was born in Aljustrel, Parish of Fátima, on the 28th of March 1907. In the company of her two cousins, the Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto, she was visited three times by an Angel (1916) and six by Our Lady (1917), who asked them to pray and do penance for the reparation and conversion of sinners. Her peculiar vocation consisted in spreading the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as the soul of the Message of Fátima.

She entered the Dorotheans, in Spain, where she had the experience of the apparitions in Tuy and Pontevedra: the apparitions of the Holy Trinity, Our Lady, and the Infant Jesus.

Yearning for a life of deeper retreat to better respond to the Message entrusted to her by the Lady, she entered the Carmel of Coimbra, in 1948, wherein she devoted herself more intensely to prayer and sacrifice. Our Lady came for her on the 13th of February 2005, and her body rests in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, in Fátima since the 19th of February 2006.

This Bulletin is distributed free of charge.

To those who wish to contribute to the expenses of the Cause for the Beatification of the Venerable Sister Lucia, please send your donation to the following address:

Causa de Canonização Irmã Lúcia de Jesus Carmelo de Santa Teresa, Rua de Santa Teresa, n.º 52 3000-359 Coimbra - Portugal

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ATTENTION: If sending a check, it must be made to the order of *Fundação Irmã Lúcia de Jesus*

We give thanks for all the donations received.

In the Carmel of Coimbra, on the first Saturdays of each month as well as in every 13th, the Eucharist is offered for the intentions of those who trust themselves to the intercession of Sister Lucia.

PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF SISTER LUCIA

Merciful Father, You instructed Sister Lucia to humbly follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in obedience to your Holy Church. By obeying your Church, she was entrusted with the mission of reminding the world of the forgiveness offered to all through the Body and Blood of your Risen Son. Grant us the grace to learn from her example, to entrust ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so that, transformed by the Spirit, our hearts may mirror that of Jesus. May our purified hearts turn towards You in adoration, becoming witnesses of your compassion and agents of the peace You offer to your children. Grant us, through the intercession of Sister Lucia, the grace we seek, and may your faithful servant be beatified for the glory of Your name and our benefit.

Pater, Ave, Gloria

With ecclesiastical approval.

We kindly ask you to communicate all the received graces to the Carmel of Coimbra

CAUSE FOR THE BEATIFICATION
OF THE VENERABLE

LÚCIA

MARIA LÚCIA OF JESUS
AND THE IMMACULATE HEART

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“O Mother, the more I look upon you,
the more beautiful you seem to me!
I come to lay, with longing,
my heart at your feet!

You are the Queen of Heaven,
and of the earth, O kind Mother!
Take this loving daughter
into your embrace.

You are the dawn of Heaven.
Your radiance covers the earth!
Reflection of God’s light,
You are the Mother of eternal love!

To Heaven I raise my hymns,
You are the delight of the earth!
To the devout pilgrims
Spread the hem of your mantle!”

Sister Lúcia
(*A Journey Under Mary’s Gaze*, p. 394)