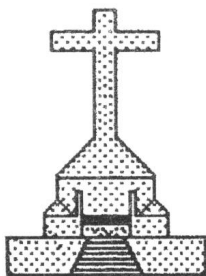


NUMBER 227 : MAY 2010 : FREE

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MEDJUGORJE CENTRE NORTH EAST



[www.medjugorjene.co.uk](http://www.medjugorjene.co.uk)

## OUR MINISTRY

To spread the messages of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus,  
given through the visionaries in Medjugorje.

**PEACE CONVERSION**  
**FAITH PRAYER FASTING**

**OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE**  
**PRAY FOR US**



## MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE 2010

**Travel to Medjugorje from Newcastle Airport** with a fully-bonded company and licensed tour operator - **Marian Pilgrimages Ireland**, 19 Eden Quay, Dublin. 7 nights accommodation on half-board basis, direct return flights to Split, includes all airport and local taxes, return coach transfer from airport to Medjugorje, service of resident guides and couriers.

**Cost £499 plus insurance (approx £15.00)**

**Non returnable deposit £80.00**

**Single supplement - £14.00**

*Limited places available*

**SATURDAY 29th MAY to SATURDAY 5th JUNE**

**Spiritual Director: Fr John Cooper**

For further information and/or booking forms please contact

Mrs Marian Fletcher:

**Tel 0191 4174413**

## OUR LADY'S MESSAGE

*given 25th April 2010*

### **Dear children**

At this time, when in a special way you are praying and seeking my intercession, I call you, little children, to pray so that through your prayers I can help you to have all the more hearts be opened to my messages. Pray for my intentions. I am with you and I intercede before my Son for each of you.

**Thank you for having responded to my call.**

### *You are praying and seeking my intercession*

**T**his month's message begins with the reminder that we are a praying and seeking church that is joined to the intercession of the saints and angels in heaven.

Not only is the Blessed Virgin aware of the intercession going on up there in eternal life before her Son, the Risen Lord, but Mary is also aware of the church down here on earth interceding and seeking her intercession as Queen of peace, an intercession for - not only those who are open to her messages at present, but that all the more hearts be opened to her messages, especially her mes-

sage of **'through faith conversion' and 'through conversion peace'** a peace which we all desire for ourselves, for this world and forever in the world to come.

### *Pray for my intentions.*

***I am with you and I intercede  
before my Son for each of you***

**T**o pray for Mary's intentions is to put **her** intentions before our own and our own will as she did at the annunciation and all throughout her life.

To pray for her intentions is to pray for what God wants for us, because Mary is and always has been one with the Divine will in the whole

of her being, in the whole of her life. We could say that in Mary is the mind of Christ Jesus her Son.

Mary best of all knows what pleases Him and so before his face she intercedes for us knowing that He hears and answers her prayer joined to the many praying with her that her messages especially of 'conversion' may be for the church in our day, a renewed and lasting conversion to holiness of life. The sacred scriptures remind us to pursue what makes for peace and the holiness without which no one can see the face of God.

*Thank you for  
having responded to my call*

Once again Mary graciously thanks us for having responded to her call. Mary in her life let no call of the Spirit go unanswered.

Let us take her as our model, she who always responded to the Lord's call with a noble and generous heart, that we may once again see more and more of the good fruit in the heart of the church that comes from imitating Mary as the true disciple of the Lord who listens and obeys the voice of her Son, Jesus.

*Let us pray.*

Lord, you chose Mary to be the Mother of your Son, Jesus the Redeemer of all mankind. May her intercession before the face of her Son, obtain for the whole church a time of peace and consolation, a time of renewed listening and openness to her desires to see your plan of salvation for all the world unfold that brings true and lasting peace.

We join our hearts and prayers to the loving heart of Mary, your Mother and Queen of Peace, praying that her intentions for the whole church may be realised speedily in our time so that more and more thanksgiving may ascend to you the Almighty and merciful Lord. We make this and all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

God bless you all, and let us pray for, and prepare ourselves for, a New Pentecost in the heart of the church, that once again the breath of God's Spirit may breathe New Life and joy into the heart and soul of the church.

I wish you all every joy and blessing.  
*Fr Ciaran.*



**CELEBRATE**

**THE 29th ANNIVERSARY  
of Our Lady's Apparitions in Medjugore**

*Rosary : Mass  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
Led by Fr Ciaran McDonnell*

**FRIDAY 25 JUNE 2010  
Beginning at 7.00pm**

**ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH  
WEALCROFT  
LEAM LANE, FELLING,  
GATESHEAD**



**MEDJUGORJE  
AFTERNOON OF PRAYER**

*led by Fr Ciaran*

**4th JULY 2010  
4.00pm to 5.30pm**

*Rosary : Holy Mass  
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament*

**ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH  
WEALCROFT  
LEAM LANE, FELLING,  
GATESHEAD**



## MEDJUGORJE CENTRE NORTH EAST

[www.medjugorjene.co.uk](http://www.medjugorjene.co.uk)

\* **Investigative Commission set up by the Vatican** (reported in April newsletter) - We understand that the work of the Commission investigating the appearances of Our Lady in Medjugorje is going to be very demanding.

We invite you all to pray for Cardinal Ruini, Chairman of the commission, and all those investigating. We offer the work of this Commission to Our Lady Queen of Peace and pray for a good and positive outcome.

\* **We are sorry** that this month's newsletter is a little late. Unfortunately due to the editor's ill health and some computer problems this could not be avoided. Once again we ask you to bear with us until we get back to normal. Many thanks.

\* **We wish all pilgrims** going to Medjugorje at the end of this month a safe journey and a holy and fulfilling pilgrimage. Please pray for those of us not going this year.



### MEDJUGORJE RETREAT 2010

*Led by Fr Ciaran McDonnell*

**COST £86 per person**

**MINSTERACRES  
CONSETT  
CO DURHAM**

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 15th  
To  
SUNDAY OCTOBER 17th**

For booking forms contact Kath Ash

**Tel 01670 733358**



## NEWS FROM MEDJUGORJE

From the Parish Information Office  
[www.medjugorje.hr](http://www.medjugorje.hr)

### PRIESTS SEMINAR

The 15th International Priests Seminar will be held in Međugorje from June 28 to July 3, 2010 on the theme of: **“Take courage, I have overcome the world”** (John 16:33)

The coordinator of the seminar is Fr. Miljenko Šteko. Lecturers at this seminar will be Medjugorje Franciscan Priests: Father Tomislav Pervan, Doctor of Biblical Theology ; Father Miljenko Šteko, Doctor of Theology with specialization in spirituality; Father Danko Perutina, Master of Theology with specialization in Mariology; Father Svetozar Kraljević, the Head of Mother's Village.

#### **Reservations can be made by:**

E-mail:

[seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr](mailto:seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr)

Or by fax: +387-36-651-999 (for Marija Dugandzic).

The parishioners of the Međugorje parish will provide free accommodation to all priests during the seminar as they have done in all the years to date. We kindly ask all priests who are organising their own accommodation with friends in Međugorje to list the name, surname and telephone number of the family with whom they have organised accommodation in their registration form. Priests who do not themselves have acquaintances and the possibility of directly organising accommodation with families should make a note of this in their registration form and we will organise it for them.

Instead of a monetary payment, we ask you to kindly celebrate five Mass intentions. It is necessary to bring with you: your celebret given by your superior, an alb and stole, a Bible.

Many priests who do not have ac-

cess to the Internet may not have been informed about the existence of this international meeting in Medjugorje. Therefore, we kindly ask all Organizers of pilgrimages, Prayer Groups and Centres for Peace to publish this information as widely as possible by all means at their disposal, so that as many priests as possible may participate.

In as much as it is possible, we also kindly ask you to financially assist the priests who would like to come but do not have the necessary funds for such a journey. We thank you in advance and pray for God's blessing and the blessing of the Queen of Peace upon you and your work.



### **MLADIFEST**

The 21st International Youth Prayer Festival takes place in Med-

jugorje this year from the 1st to the 6th August and the theme will be **“Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”** (Mk10:17)

### **THE SUMMER**

#### **PRAYER PROGRAMME**

The summer Prayer Programme schedule in Medjugorje began on May 1st. Praying of the Rosary in the Parish Church begins at 6.00 pm. Holy Mass is at 7.00 pm, followed by the Prayer Programme according to the day of the week. Eucharistic adoration on Wednesday and Saturday is at 10.00 pm. Both the Rosary on Apparition Hill and the Way of the Cross on Krizevac begin at 4.00 pm.

#### **Without Medjugorje I would never have played in The Passion of the Christ**

Jim Caviezel played the main role in Mel Gibson's movie “The Passion of the Christ”, and became known throughout the whole world. The very moving presentation of the scourging and crucifixion of Jesus have permitted the passion of the Lord to become the initiator of many discussions about faith.

A Viennese professor of Theology brought the criticism of the movie to the point: “ How can I accept that my sins are supposedly so great, that a man must bear so much suffering for me?”

Again and again we hear about conversions, which spectators experienced while watching the movie. Who is this Jim Caviezel who was able to interpret Jesus in such an impressive way? In an Interview with the” Oase des Friedens “ he admits that without his experience in Medjugorje he would never have accepted this role. In Medjugorje he was granted a new dimension of faith. Christian Stelzer in Vienna held the Interview with Jim Caviezel, in February 2010.

### **INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION ON MEDJUGORJE**

Rome (IKA) – The Holy See Press Office published on April 13, 2010 a report from the **first session of International Investigative Commission on Medjugorje, held on March 26th, 2010.**

The International Investigative

Commission on Medjugorje is being presided over by Cardinal Camillo Ruini, who used to be Vicar of Rome Diocese and includes several cardinals and archbishops, many of whom serve on Vatican congregations or Pontifical Councils. These members include, Cardinal Jozef Tomko, prefect emeritus of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples; Cardinal Vinko Puljic, Archbishop of Vrhbosna, and president of the Bishops' Conference of Bosnia-Herzegovina; Cardinal Josip Bozanic, Archbishop of Zagreb and vice-president of the Council of European Bishops' Conference; Cardinal Julian Herranz, president emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts and Archbishop Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

"As announced previously, the work of the Commission will be carried out with the utmost reserve. **Its conclusions will be submitted to the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith for study.**"

## Statement of the Bosnian Papal Nuncio on the New Vatican Commission

**A**rchbishop Alessandro D'Er-rico, Apostolic Nuncio to Bosnia and Herzegovina, gave a statement about Medjugorje on March 18th at the end of the 48th Bishops Conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the statement broadcast by Radio Mir Medjugorje, he said amongst other things: "Whenever I met the Holy Father, he was always very interested in Medjugorje. He was involved in everything, starting with the time when he was Head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He is aware that this is an issue of special importance, and he, as supreme authority of the Church, needs to give his precise statement about this matter.

The Holy Father is very familiar with the Medjugorje phenomenon; he even mentioned this to me personally. He is aware of a huge amount of positive and good influ-

ence of local priests, religious, Franciscans, lay people, and therefore it is very difficult for him to perceive that there can be so much opposing information about the same matter.

That is why he wanted to establish this Commission on a really high level, so as to have a broad picture concerning this matter, and according to the people who have highest qualities and skills. And so that is why he invited Cardinals, Bishops and experts from different parts of the world to be part of this Commission.

**O**n March 17th it was officially announced that the Chairman of this Commission is going to be Cardinal Ruini, a very prestigious cardinal, who has great qualities, and who is also a close associate to the Holy Father, and his friend not only in this period while he is the Pope. Cardinal Ruini is very familiar with the situation in Bosnia and

Herzegovina; he especially knows the situation from the war period, when he used to be the President of the Bishops Conference of Italy.

At that time, he was responsible for the decision that the Italian Church and the Bishops Conference of Italy should become more involved in helping all wounded nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

What is especially interesting, and shows the Holy Father's great sympathy for this country, is that he wanted this information about the Commission to be announced publicly and at the same time, at the Vatican as well as in Mostar, since Medjugorje is in the territory of the Mostar Diocese. I know well that the media have spoken a lot about this Commission for a long period of time, and certain expectations

were made.

Today, we can say that we are pleased and grateful to the Holy Father for the attention that he has shown towards Mostar and our Catholic communities. That is why I, on behalf of the Holy Father, announced this decision on March 17th, at the same time when the decision was announced in Rome.

We understand that the work of this Commission is going to be very demanding, and I would like to invite all of our communities **to pray and to offer the work of this Commission to St. Joseph and to Mary, Mother of Church, patron saints of Mostar.**

*(Source: reproduced from the St James Parish Medjugorje website).*



## SUFFERING WITH THE SAVIOUR

**W**hen writing to the Corinthians, Paul expressed his feeling with great fortitude: ***“I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”*** (2 Cor 12: 7-9)

You, like me, must be taken up from time to time with the example of the martyrs in the Church who suffered painfully and died agonising deaths because of their belief in Jesus Christ. I often think of Thomas More, sitting in his damp cold cell in the Tower of London, and reflecting on his life and actions. He had held high office in the land, he talked and consulted with the King, he was looked upon as a learned man, had a wife and family living in comfortable surroundings, and was looked after by faithful servants. And now here he was having lost everything and in a few weeks time would be climbing the scaffold for execution. And it had come to this because he could not, and would not, deny the Lord Jesus who died on Calvary to set

mankind free. And yet his spiritual guardians and leaders, the Bishops apart from John Fisher, were all caving in to Henry, and this must have caused More great sorrow and distress, because in his heart of hearts he knew he was right, that it was the way of salvation, the way of Calvary.

There are many men and women in past history who, like St Thomas More, have preferred death to life, and if we were to list them their names would fill page after page.

*In this present time, as we make our way in the last three weeks of Lent, we see in the liturgy the storm clouds gathering round the figure of Jesus. He is not acceptable to the Scribes and Pharisees, He says what they don't want to hear, He is making their situation, comfortable as it is, dangerously unstable, so steps must be taken to have Him removed. In Holy Week we will see the Lord's sufferings increase and especially on Holy Thursday evening we will recall the crushing agony He endured in*

the Garden of Gethsemane.

A biblical commentator (Father J La Place sj) expressed it in these terms: "**The agony** is one of the most mysterious scenes we find in the Gospels. The believer may only approach it with extreme discretion. Here the prayer of Jesus manifests its depth but also its simplicity and its humanity. Jesus finds Himself caught in all man's evil and allows Himself to be crushed by it. He who is without sin finds Himself to be crushed and enmeshed in it; sees it approaching in the person of His enemies who are plotting His death, and especially in the person of Judas who becomes like the embodiment of evil."

The secret of the martyrs' courage was not that they were fearless people, having no horror of being disembowelled, hanged or burnt to death. They were terrified, but found solace and strength in Christ whose power and love flowed through their veins, and so they were equipped to face the horrors about to be inflicted on them. Like St Paul, when they were weak it

was then they were strong.

We now, in the 21st Century, for the most part have a comfortable existence. We have freedom of movement and are able to worship God when we want. Technology has spread in leaps and bounds. Medicine in all areas has and is working marvels, with the result that we are living longer than our forbears. Yet, you know and I know that our world, our society is very sick. For those of us who believe in God and His Commandments, who believe in Christ and His Church, who believe in the intercession of Mary, Mother of God and all the Saints, we are now finding that there is much opposition to all that we hold as precious. There is a certain amount of sophistication in the air, but when we begin to dig a little deeper we find there is much opposition and in places overt persecution.

True, there is the sadness and sorrow of great wrongdoing and scandal in the Church, but it is being used to smear those who are living good lives and with the help and assistance of God's grace to give a

good example to others. St John in his Gospel refers to the 'Prince of this world' and we must be aware that, as St Peter has told us, he is going around like a roaring lion to see who he can devour. It is all too obvious in our television programmes, magazines, modern music of the worst type and aspects of modesty in dress and behaviour. We believe that we are pilgrims on our way to the Kingdom of God and until that day, as St Augustine tells us, "the Church progresses on her pilgrimage amidst this world's persecutions and God's consolations".

This, surely, is the reason why Mary has been coming to us in Medjugorje for such a long time, to encourage us, to support us, to enable us to believe more firmly and to be constant in the practice of and witness to the Gospel of her Son. Unless we are united to Christ each day in our prayer, united to Him in the Sacrifice of the Mass and Holy Communion, united to Him in sorrow for our sins and healed by His touch in the Sacrament of Penance, unless we are 'in Christ', then we will fail through weakness.

So, there is no reason for us to be afraid. The Lord has told us many times not to fear, because He is with us and we must remember that He has conquered the world. One day you and I, no matter how long we live, must die, and we pray that our death will be holy and that we will be welcomed into the joy of Heaven to live in God's presence. We must pray for a happy death and for the grace to prepare for it. The words of the *Imitation of Christ* help us to reflect on this: 'Every action of yours, every thought, should be those of one who expects to die before the day is out. Death would have no great terrors for you if you had a quiet conscience. Then why not keep clear of sin instead of running away from death? If you aren't fit to face death today, it's very unlikely you will be tomorrow.' (Imitation 1,23,1)

*Every Blessing of the Risen Christ at Easter to all Members of the Apostolate. Fr. John ofm*

**Fr John McCaffery ofm**  
**Spiritual director of the Medjugorje**  
**Apostolate for England and Wales**

## PAPAL VISIT TO THE UK

**P**ope Benedict is to visit the UK in September this year. This will be a four day visit from 16th to 19th September and he will visit both England and Scotland.

We offer the following prayers to prepare for his visit. One is the **official preparation prayer** and the other is a **novena for his protection**.



### OFFICIAL PREPARATION PRAYER

**G**od of truth and love,

Your Son Jesus Christ, stands as a light  
to all who seek you with a sincere heart.  
As we strive with your grace to be faithful in work and deed,  
May we reflect the kindly light of Christ  
And offer a witness of hope and peace to all.

We pray for Pope Benedict and look forward with joy  
To his forthcoming visit to our countries.  
May he be a witness to the unity and hope  
Which is your will for all people.  
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

## Novena to implore God's protection for Pope Benedict



*This Novena has been begun by many on 11th April. Please join in or begin with a new start date, for a period of nine consecutive days)*

**L**ord, source of eternal life and truth, give to your shepherd, Benedict, a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he, as successor to the Apostle Peter and Vicar of Christ, build your Church into a sacrament of unity, love and peace for all the world. **Amen**

V/ Let us pray for Benedict, the Pope.

R/ May the Lord preserve him, give him a long life, make him blessed upon the earth, and not hand him over to the power of his enemies.

V/ May your hand be upon your holy servant.

R/ And upon your son whom you have anointed.

Our Father... Hail Mary...  
Glory Be... *(Many will be adding a Rosary to these prayers.)*



*From the Medjugorje Apostolate website*

## God's great plan

**W**e're slowly approaching another anniversary of the apparitions; in June we will enter the thirtieth year of Mary's presence among us. A long story...Every now and again someone asks themselves: how much longer will it last? What more will happen?

In the past, many striking episodes have left their mark on the life of Medjugorje and its protagonists: signs, events, sensational testimonies, and then there are the ten secrets that still remain closed in the discretion of the visionaries ...

*“Little children, do not forget that you are all important in this great plan, which God leads through Medjugorje. God desires to convert the entire world and to call it to salvation and to the way towards Himself, who is the beginning and the end of every being. In a special way, little children, from the depth of my heart, I call you all to open yourselves to this great grace that God gives you through my presence here. I desire to thank each of you*

*for the sacrifices and prayers. I am with you and I bless you all. Thank you for having responded to my call.”* said Mary on the 25th of June 2007.

It is therefore a great plan that cannot be enclosed in our forecasts or expectations. We cannot continue to scan the horizon to anticipate what will happen, nor can we look back in regret, thinking about what was and what could have been.... according to us!

God's plan is not only big, it is enormous, because it is for the salvation of the whole world: not only men, but also the whole of creation and every living being, so that good might be re-established for all, as it was at the beginning of all species. Let us not waste time running around our small projects, and above all let us not shirk the responsibility of the success of God's plan: **we are all important.** Let us try then to seriously discover what we must do and let's do it, until the end.

*Stefania Consoli—Echo of Mary*

**RECENT MESSAGES GIVEN TO MIRJANA  
BY OUR LADY IN MEDJUGORJE**



**ANNUAL MESSAGE  
given to Mirjana March 18 2010**

**Dear children** Today I call you to love with all your heart and with all your soul. Pray for the gift of love, because when the soul loves it calls my Son to itself. My Son does not refuse those who call Him and who desire to live according to Him. Pray for those who do not comprehend love, who do not understand what it means to love. Pray that God may be their Father and not their Judge. My children, you be my apostles, be my river of love. I need you. **Thank you.**



**Message to Mirjana April 2, 2010**

**Dear children** Today I bless you in a special way and I pray for you to return to the right way, to my Son - your Saviour, your Redeemer – to Him who gave you eternal life. Reflect on everything human, on everything that does not permit you to set out after my Son – on transience, imperfection and limitation - and then think of my Son, of His Divine infiniteness. By your surrender and prayer ennoble your body and perfect your soul. Be ready, my children. **Thank you.**

*Our Lady blessed everyone and all the religious articles. As Our Lady was leaving Mirjana saw a large golden Cross behind Our Lady.*

**MIDDLESBROUGH  
CENTRE FOR PEACE  
MEDJUGORJE EVENING**

**FRIDAY 14th MAY 2010  
FRIDAY 11th JUNE 2010  
7.30pm to 9.30pm**

*Rosary : Holy Mass  
Talk : Witness*

**JOHN PAUL CENTRE  
55 GRANGE ROAD,  
MIDDLESBROUGH**

**For further details please contact Mrs Marie Bedingfield**

**Tel: 01642 530739**

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**Message to Mirjana May 2nd 2010**

**Dear children**

Today, through me, the good Father calls you to, with your soul filled with love, set out on a spiritual visitation. Dear children, be filled with grace, sincerely repent for your sins and yearn for the good. Yearn also in the name of those who have not come to know the perfection of the good. You will be more pleasing to God.

**Thank you."**