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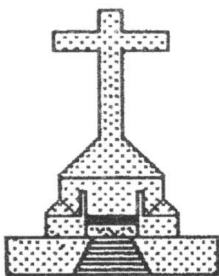
Published Monthly

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# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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**MEDJUGORJE CENTRE NORTH EAST**  
(Established since 1989)



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

Email: **[medjugorjene@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:medjugorjene@yahoo.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**

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

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## **MEDJUGORJE AFTERNOON OF PRAYER**

*led by Fr. Martin Morris*

**2nd Sunday of the month  
4pm – 6pm**

**8th October 2017  
12th November 2017**

At  
St Teresa of the infant Child Jesus  
Heaton Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 5HN



### **ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE 2018**

**Spiritual Director—Fr. Martin Morris**

**Wed 23rd - 30th May 2018**

**£595 ( Sharing)**

Single room supplement—£125

**Early bird booking—Save £25  
Book before October 31st 2017**

**Flying from Newcastle  
Half Board  
Hotel Orbis—Close to St. James' Church**

*Booking forms available from  
Kath Ash 01670 733358*

**Medjugorje Centre (North East)**

### **MEDJUGORJE RETREAT AT MINSTERACRES**

**Spiritual Director—Fr. Shaun  
O'Neill**

**Cost is £125 pp**

**Fri 13th –15th October 2017**

**Booking forms available from  
Marian Fletcher  
Telephone 0191 4174413**

### **THE ROSARY CRUSADE**

**Our Lady of Fatima**

**6th Apparition of the Sun  
for Peace in the World and Repentance for Sinners**

**Friday 13th October 2017**

**11am—2pm**

**Holy Mass 12:15pm  
At**

**St. Andrews Church, Worswick St., Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6UW**



## OUR LADY'S MESSAGE—To the World

*Given 25th September 2017 to Marija Pavlovic*



**D**ear children! “ I am calling you to be generous in renunciation, fasting and prayer for all those who are in temptation, and are your brothers and sisters. In a special way I am imploring you to pray for priests and for all the consecrated, that they may love Jesus still more fervently; that the Holy Spirit may fill their hearts with joy; that they may witness Heaven and Heavenly mysteries. Many souls are in sin, because there are not those who sacrifice themselves and pray for their conversion. I am with you and am praying that your hearts may be filled with joy. Thank you for having responded to my call. ”

### Fr. Martin Morris's Reflection

Spiritual Director of Medjugorje Centre NE

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Medjugorje North East and beyond, **Conversion** is the constant search for God and from this grows the part we have to take in the spiritual battle with evil, in choosing the good and truth. Our times are Marian times and these cannot be defined by anything else other than the decisive battle against sin and evil. This can only be done with a deep and radical decision for God with Mary, but also through Mary.

The call to renunciation is a clear part of this month's message, along with Fasting and Prayer.

The message is direct, simple and beautiful. We can help others through our little acts of sacrifices and charity.

Let us think of the little children of

Fatima who did small acts of fasting for the conversion of sinners. Mary always speaks about those who have not yet come to discover the love of God, and this is the point of renunciation. Mary reminds us that with our efforts of '**renunciation, fasting and prayer for all those who are in temptation**' we are doing something beautiful not for a stranger, but, *"because these are your brothers and sisters."*

To see everyone through the eyes of Mary is to see each person with profound love. *Because these are your brothers and sisters.* Only love can make a difference, our sacrifices arising from the depths of pure love, out of the human heart is a transforming love.

All humanity is special to Our Lady,

and every person is loved by her, she calls us to this same awareness. We are all part of the same human family, all interconnected as children of God, not strangers but friends, and our spiritual lives can have a profound affect on others by our love. Little acts of renunciations performed in love. Mary is here to help all of us stay on the path of Salvation to God, each of us is uniquely special to her. Let us see the pain in the eyes of our brothers and sisters who desire a new life, a clean heart, a pure spirit. Mary asks us to awaken to them, and to remember that our acts of renunciation carry grace for them our Brothers and sisters.

From the very beginning of the apparitions, Mary has called for Prayer for Priest's and Consecrated. She often speaks of *"The Shepherds"*

How Many Priestly and Religious Vocations have come from Medjugorje, and now Our Lady asks us specifically to pray for them **"That they may love Jesus still more fervently."**

Mary has spoken much in these times about the renewal of Faith and its link with the shepherds, even linking *the 'Triumph of her Immaculate heart to the Renewal of the Priesthood.* This surely is at the heart of this renewed call for the Clergy and Consecrated. **"So that through their Joy they may witness to heaven."** Let us not be critical about their weaknesses and failures, but let love be the response through heartfelt prayer and renunciation. The world needs their heavenly witness.

**"Many souls are in sin."** The world seeks God, and it opens itself to God, but still someone must be sent to

guide us in order to be with God, as Mary chose to be with God for this world. This is after all the deep reason for her coming and the apparitions. We not only change ourselves, but when we grow through Love, Peace, Hope, and Faith -it is for the whole world.

Mary sees all the problems, all the destruction in families, the destruction within each single person, all the wars, acts of terrorism, the innocent who suffer, those who cause the suffering. she does not ask us to judge the world, or talk about it, but she calls us to offer it God, and Gods love for it. We can make a difference, for our Brothers and Sisters.

*God Bless,  
Fr. Martin*

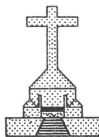
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*Pray for your shepherds.  
They belong to my Son.  
He called them.  
Pray that they may always  
have the strength and the  
courage to shine with the  
light of my Son.*

*(June 2, 2015)*

”

## Prayer For Priests



God our Father, we ask you to bless  
our priests  
and confirm them in their calling.  
Give them the gifts they need  
to respond with generosity  
and a joyful heart.

For our part, we pray  
that we may always be attentive to  
their needs  
and never take them for granted.

They, like us,  
need friendship and love,  
welcome and a sense of belonging,  
kind words and acts of  
thoughtfulness.

We pray, also, for the priests  
who have wounded priesthood.

May we be willing to forgive  
and may they be open to healing.  
Let us support one another during  
times of crisis.

We offer this prayer for our priests,  
They are our brothers  
and our friends.

Amen

## Our Lady's message to Mirjana

*2nd September 2017*



**“Dear children!** who could speak to you about the love and the pain of my Son better than I? I lived with Him; I suffered with Him. Living the earthly life I felt pain because I was a mother. My Son loved the thoughts and the works of the Heavenly Father, the true God. And, as He said to me, He came to redeem you. I hid my pain through love, but you, my children, you have numerous questions. You do not comprehend pain. You do not comprehend that through the love of God you need to accept pain and endure it. Every human being will experience it to a lesser or greater measure. But with peace in the soul and in a state of grace, hope exists; this is my Son, God, born of God. His words are the seed of eternal life. Sown in good souls it brings numerous fruits. My Son bore the pain because He took your sins upon Himself. Therefore, you, my children, apostles of my love, you who suffer, know that your pain will become light and glory.

My children, while you are enduring pain, while you are suffering, Heaven enters in you and you give a piece of Heaven and much hope to all those around you. Thank you.”



## REPORT FROM SISTER EMMANUEL

*of The Community of The Beatitudes*

***www.childrenofmedjugorje.com***

**Medjugorje, 14 September 2017**  
**Exaltation of the Cross**

**Dear Children of Medjugorje,**  
**praise be to Jesus and Mary!**

**1 - On September 2, 2017,** Mirjana received her monthly apparition at the Blue Cross in the presence of a very large crowd. After the apparition, she conveyed the message that Mary gave us (see page 4)

**2. Strange events!** During this apparition, a rather common phenomenon occurred once again. But on this day, it was on a scale I had never seen before. People in large numbers began to howl blasphemies and yell like animals as soon as the Blessed Mother appeared. This went on for some time, and then everything gradually calmed down. When people who are tormented by demons are in the presence of Our Lady these demons sometimes manifest their anger in this way.

A priest who was there with us told me at the end of the apparition that he had perceived the coming of the Mother of God within his soul, and the luminous cloud on which she stands. This cloud slowly moved downward, pushing the demons down into the abyss, which unleashed their revolt and even prompted them to fight against each other. This priest belongs to a team that works with an exorcist every week, and he has the gift of seeing in spirit what is

happening in the invisible realm. These realities are not new; the Gospel reveals a number of them to us. However in our days, with the growing number of harmful practices and the serious sins that are being committed, many people are opening their doors to Satan and his angels without being aware of it. Let us therefore pray a great deal to the Mother of God, because she was chosen by God to crush the head of the serpent. She is the best exorcist after Jesus! The Rosary prayer is a very powerful weapon against the forces of evil.

An exorcist from the diocese of Milano, Don Ambrogio Villa, reported what Satan said during a recent exorcism. Summoned to answer the questions which the priest asked him, Satan said: "For us (demons), Medjugorje is our hell on earth!" . No surprise there! Given the intensity of prayers surrounding the daily visits of Our Lady, given the evenings of adoration with people in their thousands, given the many sincere confessions, conversions and reconciliations, it isn't surprising that the enemy of humankind feels awful there. But we must keep watch! He is doing everything he can to oppose the plan of the Mother of God and to destroy it. This is why our Heavenly Mother is counting on us today more than ever. She asked us again this month at the Blue Cross with Ivan, to pray for the plans she has for Medjugorje and for her projects. "I need your prayers to help the world,"

she said at the very beginning of the apparitions. Let's not let her down, because a lot of what will happen depends on our prayers and our fasting! It actually depends on our good will to live her messages or to ignore them.

### 3. With whom are you suffering?

The Blessed Mother has given us an extraordinary message! Let me try to explain.

When we are seized by suffering, a wound opens up within us, and this wound makes us very sensitive and vulnerable. Delighted to see us so vulnerable, Satan takes advantage of this and tries to infect this open wound by injecting his own poisons, his own thoughts. He will make subtle suggestions to our consciences, with twisted words, using the weakness of our nature damaged by sin. He tries to make us believe that these suggestions come from us.

**For instance, despair:** "Considering everything you've already suffered, you just cannot endure this new blow, it's better to kill yourself!"

**Doubting God's love:** "You think God loves you? Not at all! Look at what he's doing to you! Don't bother going to mass or praying anymore, you're wasting your time, this God couldn't care less!"

**Revolt:** "Why did this happen to you? Why did God take away your young husband, while my unbelieving neighbor still has hers? How unfair!"

**Bitterness:** "Well now it's over, I'm shutting myself down, locking myself in. Leave me alone! My life is now meaningless,"

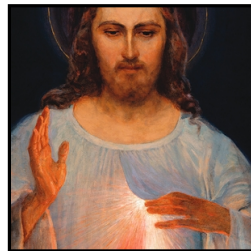
**Hatred:** "These people who hurt you so badly, they deserve your hate!"

Take revenge! They're going to pay for what they did, and it's going to be bloody!"

**Guilt:** "This trial fell on me because I deserved it! It is God's punishment, because I am no good."

The list could go on and on... Do not ever listen to any of these suggestions, even if they violently invade your mind! Satan always makes a lot of noise. If we listen to him, we suffer even more and lose peace completely. How can we discern this? By comparing these suggestions with the words of Jesus in the Gospel. Would Jesus say "You need to take revenge?" Or "You need to hate this person"? "You should shut yourself in"? "Kill yourself"? "Doubt the love of the Father"? Of course not! So we need to disconnect with those thoughts and tell Jesus "I don't want these thoughts, they are not mine. The enemy is after me, but I chose to be with you!"

Jesus himself comes into our wounds, but in a completely different way. In the silence of our heart he whispers "Don't be afraid! I am with you! Your suffering is also mine. Look at my hands, my feet and my side. I too have suffered. Together, you and I, we will make it."



And then Jesus asks us for a favor: "Give me your wound. Offer up your

pain!" If we offer up our suffering to Jesus, he receives it with deep gratitude. And then what does he do with it? He puts it onto his own wounds and makes it his own! And what came out of the wounds of Christ? Bitterness, hatred, despair? Definitely not! From his wounds came healing, consolation, peace, forgiveness, all the graces and even the sacraments. His suffering is redemptive. "By his wounds we are healed" says St Paul. Therefore our suffering, when bound to His suffering, becomes co-redemptive, and we take part in the work of Redemption accomplished by Christ. There is only one Redeemer and that is Jesus Christ. But having hidden our sufferings in the wounds of Christ, we help Him to extend the grace of salvation further still! Through Baptism, we really became the body of Christ. "I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the Church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions", says St. Paul (Col 1:24). We then become co-redeemers, just as the Mother of God is the co-redemptrix. That is when joy flows through us, not because of a love of suffering (which would be a perversion), but for the love of Christ, seeing the fruits of salvation achieved through our offering. The soul experiences its greatest joy when it is in deep intimate love with Christ and in our participation in His work. All the joys of the world are nothing compared to this joy. Because then indeed, "Heaven enters us!"

"Apostles of my love, you who are suffering, be aware that your pain will become light and glory. My

children, while you are enduring pain, while you are suffering, heaven is coming into your being, and you are giving a piece of that heaven, as well as a great deal of hope to all those who surround you."

This is the real question: when I am suffering, whose voice shall I choose to listen to? Will I suffer with the evil one who wants to destroy me, or with Jesus who wants to save me?

**4. On 8 September**, for the Nativity of Our Lady, Ivan received an apparition at the Blue Cross and Mary again invited us to pray for families, for young people and for holiness in families. "Dear Children, even today I would like to invite you to pray for families. Pray for holiness in families, pray for young people! My children have gone away. They have moved away from my Son Jesus. Pray, dear children! Know that I pray for all of you and intercede for you before my Son."



**5. This month**, just before the feast of St Padre Pio, I will be moving up from my 60s to my 70s. On this occasion, I thank my Creator for the gift of life, and for having called me to be consecrated to Him. The Spouse he gave me is my every joy. I ask Him for the ability to serve you, my dear friends, for a long time to come, if that is His will. May I ask you for a wonderful birthday present? Ask a



priest to celebrate a mass for Mary's plan to be fully accomplished. May her dream come true: may Medjugorje experience again the fervor of the early days of the apparitions! THANK YOU with all my heart.

***Dearest Gospa,***

*thank you for revealing a glimpse of  
your secret about suffering.*

*Yes, your children are suffering!  
Please come in person to collect our  
tears and offer them to your Son  
Jesus.*

*Console us and strengthen us in this  
spiritual battle against Evil.*

*Be by the side of those who suffer  
and make us angels of consolation  
and peace.*

**Sister Emmanuel +**

**October**

***The Month of the Holy  
Rosary***

“

*I ask all the priests &  
religious brothers and  
sisters to pray the Rosary &  
to teach others to pray.*

*(Our Lady's Message 25/8/97)*

*Let the Rosary always be in  
your hands as a sign to  
Satan that you  
belong to me.*

*(Our Lady's Message 25/2/88)*

”

**Vatican denies taking Control  
of Medjugorje**



ROME- Medjugorje Parish. It is rumoured that the Vatican wants to assert more direct control and a special administrator would be appointed in a statement from the Vatican spokesman, Father Federico Lombardi, said “It’s premature to speak of this as a path to take or as an imminent decision,” The report from Večernji List also said it’s “assumed” that the church currently in the location would become a shrine managed by the papal appointee.

The six visionaries see daily apparitions and up to this day, three of the six “seers” claim to still see the Madonna every day. Among other things, this is one of the points highlighted by observers as to why the Vatican has taken so long to address the legitimacy of the alleged apparitions.

When Bernadette Soubirous saw Our Lady of Lourdes in France, in 1858, it took Pope Pius IX four years to allow for the Marian devotion to be venerated, and it rapidly spread throughout the world.

In the case of the Marian apparitions in Fatima, Portugal, it took the Church 13 years to declare them worthy of belief. They occurred during a limited period of time from May 13 to Oct. 13 of 1917.

## ***The First Seven Apparitions in Medjugorje are Authentic.***

(www.total-croatia-news.com)

The first seven apparition of the Virgin Mary to the children in Medjugorje are apparently authentic. The news was reported by renowned Italian journalist and Vaticanist Andrea Tornielli on his Vatican Insider blog.

Tornielli known for having good sources in the Vatican, reportedly gained insight into the result of the Commission for Medjugorje led by Cardinal Camilo Runi. The



Commission was established by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010.

According to Tornielli, the Commission gave a positive opinion of the Authenticity of the first apparitions between 24<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1981.

Reportedly 13 members of the commission supported the recognition of the supernatural apparitions during that period, one member was opposed and one abstained from voting.

The commission also stated that the young visionaries were mentally healthy and that they were surprised by what had happened to them and were not influenced by the local Franciscans or anyone else. Also, regardless of the fact that the police questioned them, they did not change their testimony, even under threat of death. The commission also reportedly requested the thesis about demonic origins of the apparition.

However, the commission has

divided its findings on the apparitions in two parts and 'the second phase of apparitions' after the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1981 which are in doubt. The commission places them in context of a conflict between the local bishop and the Franciscans and the fact that the apparitions were supposedly announced in advance and programmed individually for each visionary. The visions continued despite the fact that the children announced they would end, but that never happened.

The Commission concluded and proposed to the Pope to lift the ban on organized pilgrimages to Medjugorje by Priests. Priests can only be part of Spiritual Accompaniment. It was proposed that the Medjugorje Parish should be under direct supervision of the Holy See and become a so called pontifical sanctuary. 'This decision is based on pastoral reasons and concern for millions of pilgrims but also on the transparency related to economic issues.

The Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith, led by Cardinal Gerhard Muller, who is opposed to the Medjugorje phenomenon, expressed doubts about Ruini's report. Pope Francis then decided to appoint a special envoy to Medjugorje, the Archbishop of Warsaw Krakow Henryk Hoser, to propose pastoral initiatives for the future. People in Medjugorje believe that Hoser, after his first visit, now has an excellent insight into the situation and that he knows what Medjugorje needs to improve pastoral activities.

## The Press Conference of the Special Envoy of The Holy See Mons Henryk Archbishop Hoser ([www.medjugorje.hr](http://www.medjugorje.hr))

*Polish Archbishop Hoser appointed by Pope Francis to investigate the pastoral situation in Medjugorje has said "all indications are that the apparitions will be recognised by the Vatican, perhaps this year. This movement will not stop and should not be stopped, because of the good fruit that grows out of it. It is one of the most lively places of prayer and conversion in Europe – and has a healthy spirituality."*

*Archbishop Hoser's report will be supplementary to the official commission into Medjugorje, headed by Cardinal Camillo Ruini.*

During the Press Conference he said:

Medjugorje is a very fertile land from a religious perspective. In these years we can count 610 religious and priesthood vocations born in Medjugorje. Most of them come from Italy, the United States and Germany. When we are aware of the crisis of vocations, particularly in the old Christian countries, and in Western Europe, it is clear that there is something new here, something remarkable.

If we calculate the number of the ministered Holy Communions, as this is the only way to establish the number of pilgrims, of course including the margin of error, there have been 37 million Holy Communions ministered in the period from 1986-2016. However, the number of pilgrims is even bigger, 2 500 000 per year as not all of them receive Holy Communion.

This parish, that has its own history, built a cross on a hill in Medjugorje in the 1930's, and has accepted today's phenomenon of Medjugorje. Part of

the history of this parish is also special, the personal history of those whom we call the visionaries.

Surely, this is a huge challenge for the priests who are here. This phenomenon has caused development of the existing infrastructure that needs to respond to the needs of pilgrims, and part of that is this Hall, the Adoration chapel, the open area for the celebration of Holy Mass outdoors.

People here come to the source; this is where they discern a thirst for the sacred, a thirst for God, a thirst for prayer which they discover to be an immediate contact with God. They feel, I would say the Divinity, thanks to the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In Medjugorje, the emphasis is on Mary as Queen of Peace. One could say this is nothing new, as there are churches throughout the world consecrated to the Queen of Peace, but if we observe the world context of our lives today, we can see something that Pope Francis refers to as the third world war in pieces. This means in fragments. Civil wars are the cruellest form, the one that destroys and hurts the most. You, who live here in the Balkans, have recently lived one such war. I lived in Rwanda during the genocide. Now you can see that Syria, in the Middle East, the country of the oldest Christian identity is being destroyed even with the use of chemical weapons. This is our landscape today. There are so many political conflicts in each country. So, in my opinion, it is important to pray to Our Lady of Peace. The specific role of Medjugorje is extremely important here.

You, my dear friends, should be the carriers of the joyful news. Say to the whole world that in Medjugorje we can find the light again. We need those special places of light in the world that is sinking into darkness. I

would also like to say to you that you can register for a seminar here, whatever the theme, you might discover things that you cannot even imagine.

Thank you!

### **Visit to the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the Relics of Ss. Francisco and Jacinta**

The programme began earlier this year at Westminster Cathedral London with Cardinal Vincent Nichol

and travelled to the North East and welcomed by Middlesbrough Diocese before reaching St. Mary's Cathedral Newcastle. On Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September Bishop Séamus Cunningham along with many Priests from across the Diocese celebrated Holy Mass and the visit of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the Relics of Ss. Francisco and Jacinta to Newcastle. To mark the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima.

The event was organised by the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF).

Several hundred people from the North East and elsewhere came to this colourful and inspiring event in St Mary's Cathedral Newcastle, to listen to the message of Fatima and to take part in the enrolment and investiture of the brown scapular, and praying the Rosary. It was an awe-inspiring day filled with prayer, respect and reverence to the Holy Mother of God. Reminding us that we are all on a Pilgrimage that lasts a lifetime and called to be Missionary Disciples of Jesus.

On Sunday The Act of consecration

and veneration of the Relics of Ss Jacinta & Francisco followed each mass.



By special arrangements a visit to St. Josephs, Sunderland took place following the visit to St Mary's Cathedral. The statue along with the relics is currently being taken around Catholic Cathedrals in England and Wales. It continued its journey to St. Johns the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich

#### **Homily by Fr Stephen Watson: (St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle)**

In his homily Fr. Stephen reminded us that we had all made a special effort to get to the Cathedral and we weren't there by accident. Life is a journey, a lifelong pilgrimage with One destination, to God.

"Some of us had come further than others. Oliver and the Custodians of the Fatima Statue had travelling many miles throughout England and Wales in this special year to mark the 100th Anniversary of Fatima.

In the Gospel of the day (Luke 2: 41 -51) Jesus was also on Pilgrimage to Jerusalem, when he was 12 years old. It was an important step with his family and relatives, perhaps it was his Bar Mitzvah, a Jewish custom, making a journey for Jewish boys

from childhood to adulthood. A journey to discern the Fathers will.

In May 2017 Pope Francis made a Pilgrimage to Fatima. In front of 500,000, he said we are all on Pilgrimage with Mary – But he asked the questions – Which Mary?

Mary of a plaster statue who answers favours ? OR

Mary of our own making, the making of our Spiritual Life, A woman Blessed?

Pope Francis said *'we are all pilgrims with Mary, she is a teacher of our spiritual life, the narrow way of the cross, a woman blessed. She is Mary of the Gospel first and the best disciple of Jesus. She is not a good Luck charm'*.

We are here to follow the example of the Mary as a person. Mary sets us an example of the Gospel and we are also here today to honour church's newest saints. Jacinta & Francisco."

Fr. Stephen explained that at the beginning of the 20th Century, the most violent Century of the history of humankind the three little shepherds of Fatima were called by Mary to be good Catholic Christians. They were Called by Mary to move from being good Christians to 'Mature disciples of Jesus'.

"Now at beginning 21 Century 100 years after Fatima, good practicing Catholics are called to become Missionary disciples of Jesus.

'Forward together in Hope' (see - [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)) in this diocese, is the Message of Fatima, it calls us to conversion and now is the time to mature into mature disciples.

SS Jacinta & Francisco teaches us that our God is a transforming God and God will always move us on to a different place.

Jacinta & Francisco were just normal Children, they loved dancing playing games building dens in the hills, they

did what children of their time did. But when they opened their hearts to the experience of God and their visitation from Mary, they changed and spent long hours in Prayer, Fasting and they became concerned for the salvation of the World.

If we are serious about living our faith. We must be prepared for change in our own life.

If we want to remain safe and play it safe, we can't be follows of Jesus.

God can transform anyone. Think of Francisco & Jacinta they couldn't read or write.

Therefore, we don't have to have great intellect. We don't have to have the wisdom of years. Jesus was only 12 old and the Elders in the temple were astounded by his wisdom.

We don't have to be important people, the simpler we are the better in terms of the Spiritual Life

If we are baptized. We are called for this transformation to take place. Baptism is our only qualification of our unification by God. The Children remind us, all Christian are called to be people of prayer. not with complex novena's or devotions, just be silent before God with an open heart.

A saint once proclaimed *'Prayer is being with the person we Love and who loves us'*.

A Simple Rosary in true contemplation opened their hearts and led the Children of Fatima to God Grace. We are all called to be contemplatives, but "not to be locked away in a monastery forever".

Fr. Stephen encouraged us to ask for our churches to be open, even if we have no resident Priest, so that prayer can be going on before Blessed Sacrament,

"Jesus is there for our prayer and our presence. The Children of Fatima loved the Blessed Sacrament, we

should follow their example, for Jesus gives us courage. St. Francisco would hide himself away in the church pulpit to be with hidden Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and pray:

*'Most Holy Trinity I adore you My God My God I love you in the Blessed Sacrament'*

Suffering is part of Human life but when we give our suffering to Jesus, it is a redemptive character. With Jesus sorrow is transformed We all share the cross and we can follow Jesus by taking up our Cross, but everyone's cross is different.

The Fatma children show us by taking up our cross we give our suffering to Jesus. And our Sorrow is transformed.

Follow and be open to Jesus.

St. Jacinta would ask to sit beside Lucia knowing she had been to mass and received Holy Communion that morning, just to be near a person who had received the Eucharist.

Lucia said, *'Our lady came to help ordinary people to pray'*.

The Children prayed when they suffered sacrifice:

*'Oh my Jesus this is for love of you For the conversion of sinner and in reparation for sins committed against the immaculate heart of Mary'*.

The children did suffer, they were ridiculed, suffered grinding poverty, emotional abused by local magistrate, imprisonment and even criticized by their own family.

SS Jacinta & Francisco suffered in the Spanish Flu epidemic in 1917 which swept the world.

They remind us that each of us have a unique vocation

My vocation is different from your vocation and special to each individual.



Life's important task is to find out what our vocation is and live it best we can. Discern and live it.

God is calling us to something.

Francisco, Jacinta & Lucia had the same experience but responded in three different ways.

**Francisco** was a true contemplative he consoled God whose heart is broken because humankind isn't interested

**Jacinta** became an apostle of Prayer for the Pope and she was told, the Holy Father and all Bishops would suffer.

She prayed for the conversation of sinners

**Lucia** became a lifelong messenger of Fatima she lived on into her 90's.

We are called not just to tick our weekend obligation but called to be like Mary and to continue life's pilgrimage, to become more and more mature in our faith and to be Missionaries of Christ in 21st Century."

***'Our lady of Fatima Pray for us.'***

## MIDDLESBROUGH CENTRE FOR PEACE

### MARIAN EVENING

Friday 13th October 2017  
Friday 10th November 2017

**7.30pm to 9.30pm**

***Rosary : Holy Mass : Talk :  
Witness***

**JOHN PAUL CENTRE  
55 GRANGE ROAD,  
MIDDLESBROUGH, TS1 5AU**

For further details please contact:

Mrs Marie Bedingfield  
Tel: 01642 530739



## RIP



### **René Laurentin, Investigator of Celestial Visions, Dies at 99**

We pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Rene Laurentin.

The Rev. René Laurentin, a prominent Roman Catholic theologian who devoted his career to investigating reports of supernatural religious visions, died 10th Sept. in Evry, a suburb of Paris. He was 99.

René Laurentin was born in Tours, France, in the Loire Valley, on 19th Oct. 1917 (the same year that three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, said they saw a vision of Mary). His father, Maurice Laurentin, was an architect; his mother was the former Marie Jactel.

Often compared to the French philosophers Henri-Louis Bergson and Jacques Maritain, Father Laurentin was one of the world's foremost students of Mariology, the theological exploration of the Virgin Mary; an expert on historic religious apparitions; and an investigator of celestial sightings reported everywhere from a hill in the Balkans to a Texas backyard.

He was more credulous than a number of his fellow clerics when six children in Medjugorje, a tiny village

in southwestern Bosnia and Herzegovina, reported in 1981 that the Virgin Mary had delivered tidings to the public and, eventually, secret messages to them.

In Medjugorje, he said, "the bishops chose not the second formula, which excluded the supernatural, but the first, which had an element of doubt." That doubt did not rule out a supernatural dimension, he said; rather, it indicated only that the supernatural was not yet possible to prove.

He offered guidelines for discerning an apparition: that the messages "conform to faith and good morals"; that the seer be "credible, disinterested, balanced"; that the message not deviate from church teachings or the instructions of prelates; and that conversions or healings result from the experience.

He was also a correspondent for *Le Figaro*, the French daily newspaper, and a consultant to the reformist Second Vatican Council, where he sought to strengthen a provision exonerating Jews for collective guilt for the crucifixion.

What strikes me in Our Lady's messages is that they are an echo of the Gospel," Father Laurentin said in 2003. "The messages from Medjugorje do not say anything new; they just repeat to our deaf ears what we have forgotten, what we do not want, or are not able to hear any more: to pray, to have a strong faith in God, to fast, to read the Gospel."

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*The Centre recognizes and accepts that the final authority regarding the apparitions at Medjugorje rests with the Holy See of Rome. We willingly submit to that judgement.*