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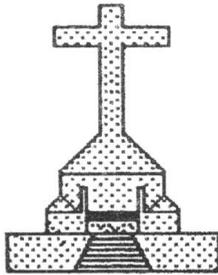
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# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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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.

**PRAYER, FASTING**

**HOLY-SCRIPTURE, CONFESSION**

**EUCCHARIST**

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

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**The Vicariate for Faith & Mission  
Pope Francis –  
Prayer to Mary for Protection  
during the COVID-19 Pandemic.**



O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,

as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,

through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test –

and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



**MEDJUGORJE  
AFTERNOON OF PRAYER**

*led by Fr. Martin Morris*

**St John Vianney**

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

**Cancelled until further notice  
due to guidelines on the Coronavirus**

**Date for your Diary**

**Medjugorje Centre (North East)**

**MEDJUGORJE RETREAT AT  
MINSTERACRES**

**Spiritual Director—Fr. Martin Morris**

**9th—11th October 2020**

Further information will be given  
when available.

**COVID19:** Subject to Government  
guidelines for the Hospitality industry.

**ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO  
MEDJUGORJE 2021**

**Spiritual Director—Fr. Martin Morris**

**Due to Coronavirus -  
Medjugorje Pilgrimage  
deferred until 2021**

**\*\*\*\*\* NEW DATE\*\*\*\*\***

**Wed 9th - 16th June 2021**

## OUR LADY'S MESSAGE—To the World

*Given 25th June 2020 to Marija Pavlovic*

*39th Anniversary of the Apparitions*



“Dear children! ” I am listening to your cries and prayers, and am interceding for you before my Son Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Return, little children, to prayer and open your hearts in this time of grace and set out on the way of conversion. Your life is passing and, without God, does not have meaning. This is why I am with you to lead you towards holiness of life, so that each of you may discover the joy of living. I love you all, little children, and am blessing you with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

*On the 24th June 1981, The Feast of St. John the Baptist, a beautiful and illuminous young woman with a child in her arms appeared to some young people—Ivanka, Mirjana, Vicka, Ivan, Marija and Jakov, on what is now known as Apparition Hill. They immediately understand that this is the Virgin Mary.*

*On the 25th June Our Lady spoke to them, saying “ Praised be Jesus”.*

In 39 years Millions of Pilgrims have travelled to Medjugorje.

### Reflection by Fr. Martin Morris

Spiritual Director of Medjugorje Centre NE

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Medjugorje North East and beyond.

We live in a situation that is confusing and bewildering to many. We live in unprecedented times and many people are wondering where all this will lead. But Our Blessed Lady is Mother of the Church, and our Heavenly Mother and she never stays far from us.

**“Dear Children, I am listening to your cries and prayers,”**

Mary is a real Mother to us, she accompanies each one of us through our lives, she is close to us and shares our situation. Her very presence with us is consoling and strengthening.

A good Mother listens to the cries and the prayers of her children, so Mary begins this message by reminding us of her maternal role in each of our lives. St. Luke’s Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual help comes to mind, so we should be like the Christ Child, who in the embrace of his Mother finds refuge and solace. Or St. Bernard’s beautiful prayer, “*The Memorare*” “*Remember, O Most Loving Virgin Mary.*”

She does indeed! Each one us, as her, **“ Dear Children.”**

So we really must go to her and entrust our situation to her, because she is **‘listening’** she is attentive to each of our situation.

**“And am interceding for you before my Son Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.”** Our Lady does something more than ‘listen’ there is another step. She intercedes before her Son.

To intercede means to ‘bring before’ to intervene, to make a difference. She is praying for each one of us at all times. *“MY soul Magnifies the Lord”* ( Luke: 1: 46) To Magnify something means to make greater. So too with Our prayers and cries to her, Our Lady brings them to her Son, and makes our prayers more burning, more radiant. *“Who is she that comes forth as the morning Sun, bright as the moon, fair as the sun, terrible as an army set in Battle array.”* ( *Song of Songs: 6:10* )

Then Our Lady quotes her Sons words as recorded in St. John’s Gospel. Words that show us the identity of the Son of God. **“My Son Jesus, who is the way, the Truth and the Life.”** This is one of the few occasions in Our Lady’s messages that she quotes Sacred Scripture.

Our Lady in Medjugorje has always pointed us to her Son Jesus, never to herself, and in quoting John: 14 6, Our Lady underscores the reasons for her coming in these times. Our Lord spoke these words to St. Thomas who was doubting the way forward after Jesus’ resurrection.

“Jesus, said, “ I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the *Father except through me.*” ( John: 14: 6) In using these words, Our Lady is showing us *‘The Way’*- Jesus Christ.

*‘The Way’* to be walked,  
*‘The Truth’* to be received,  
 and *‘The Life’* to be lived.  
*‘Way, Truth and Life’* –

Jesus Christ the one true saviour of the World.

Please take time now to go to the Sacred Scriptures and turn to St. John’s Gospel, Chapter 14. 1-7 and prayerfully pray the words Our Blessed Mother uses in this month’s message. Pray to the Holy Spirit to be enlightened and guided to the Truth, who is a person- Jesus Christ.

**“Return, little children, to prayer and open your hearts in this time of grace** and set out on the way of conversion.” Friendship with Christ is always turning to him, like the Prodigal Son. He is *‘The Way’* so we need to return to Him who shows us the way forward. Every single moment of each day is an opportunity to ‘return’ to Christ because Our Lady tells us “ This is a time of Grace.” So rather than look upon these times in a negative way, we should interpret the signs of the times as Mary has constantly asked us through the lens of Faith and Prayer.

**“Your Life is passing, and without God, does not have meaning.”** All our individual worlds will pass. We are a pilgrim people; Mary does not wish to see us consumed by this world. She points us to the eternal life, to Heaven and to heavenly realities. She is bothered about our eternal Salvation.

Only in God, Our Way, Truth and Life, does life have ultimate meaning. **“This is why I am with you to lead you towards holiness of life, so that each of you may discover the Joy of Living.”**

This is the meaning of the Faith. This is the whole point of The Church-to lead us towards Holiness of Life. It is rare today to hear the word **“Holiness”** but Our Lady calls us to

**‘Holiness of Life’** which was at the heart of the second Vatican Council. The call to *Holiness* is to every member of the Church.

Mary calls us to Holiness, and repeats so many times that we should decide for Holiness. The word *‘Holiness’* appears more than one thousand times in the Bible. The Semitic word *-kodesh* indicates the separation from the sacred and the profane. Being Holy depends not on living up to external ideals, rules or laws, but an interior state or fervour in possessing Jesus Christ. We are already Saints by Baptism, so Mary asks that the foundation of our lives of Faith will be a Living Closeness to her Son.

*Dear Friends of Medjugorje North  
East and beyond,  
let us thank the Heavenly Father for  
sending us The Blessed Mother  
Queen and Mother of Peace,  
and calling each of us to Holiness of  
life.  
Let us be filled with the Joy of living  
in him who is Our Way, Our Truth  
and Our Life!*

**God Bless  
Fr. Martin**

“

*‘Your Life is passing,  
and without God,  
does not  
have meaning’*

Our Lady 25/6/20

”

## **ANNUAL APPARITION TO THE VISIONARY IVANKA**

**25th June 2020**

[www.medjugorje.hr](http://www.medjugorje.hr)

After the apparition, Ivanka said: Our Lady gave the following message:

**“Little children,  
Pray, Pray, Pray”**

*Our Lady Blessed us all*



The visionary Ivanka Ivankovic-Elez received her regular annual apparition on June 25th 2020

At her last daily apparition on May 7, 1985, Our Lady confided to Ivanka the 10th secret and told her that she would have an apparition once a year on the anniversary of the apparitions. It was that way also this year.

The apparition, which lasted 5 minutes, took place at Ivanka’s family home. Only Ivanka’s family was present at the apparition.

25.06.2020



## REPORT FROM SISTER EMMANUEL

*of The Community of The Beatitudes*  
[www.childrenofmedjugorje.com](http://www.childrenofmedjugorje.com)

**Medjugorje, 22 June 2020**

**My dear friends, praised be Jesus and Mary.**

**Extract from Sr. Emmanuel's report**

**On the Feast of Corpus Domini.** It was a truly joyful occasion to be able to follow Jesus, exposed in the Blessed Sacrament, through the village of Medjugorje. Many Croats came to participate in this procession, which warmed our hearts. To finally be able to get together again was beautiful.

**Approaching the 39th anniversary of the apparitions.** The visionaries, Marija and Ivan arrived. As the borders of Bosnia-Herzegovina will only open on July 1st to non-nationals, this will be a very modest Anniversary celebration, but we know that so many of the Gospa's devotees in the world are in communion with us, and lovingly prepare Mary's favourite gifts to offer her during this novena. Our prayers are especially necessary today, for on the summer solstice (June 21), all over the world, the enemies of the Lord and his Church joined together in their cults and other 'ceremonies' to glorify their miserable master. Let us pray that the "Woman clothed with the Sun" will protect us and hasten her Son's victory over all evil.

**Fear... a positive springboard.**

During these past months, fear has

increased significantly in many people around the world. If, as St. Paul says, "love banishes fear," it is worth examining this issue, because we want to live with love, and not fear.

In reality, fear is innate in man, it is part of our nature, ever since the eruption of sin. Adam was the first to express it, after the Fall: "I was afraid, because I was naked and I hid myself" (Gen 3:10). And what did God do? He placed a barrier between evil (the snake) and man: He made the snake "crawl on his belly", preventing it from attacking man head-on, and made an incredible promise to man: "I will put enmity between you (the snake) and the woman. This one will crush your head." (Gen 3:15). Fear, which henceforth became part of the human condition, is therefore at the same time a constant call to take refuge in the goodness of God who is Father. So it is not a matter of denying fear or feeling guilty about it, but of using it wisely and channeling it in order to subject it to the grace of God. In short, let us not allow fear to dominate us to the point of it enslaving us. It would be terrible to let it determine our choices and poison our existence.

We currently have many reasons to be afraid, we just have to look at the world and the many threats hanging over it. My point is not to list these threats and failures of all kinds - they are already quite visible to everyone.

My point is rather to look with you at how the Saints managed to direct their fears and turn them into victories. The Saints are magnificent in their teachings, and the Holy Mother of God urges us to read their lives for a reason.



From the beginning of his pontificate, Saint John Paul II told us, 'Do not be afraid'. He was a mystic who saw the threats that we are much more acquainted with now. But he never stopped giving us reason to hope, for 'Jesus conquered the world'.

**We may have good reasons to be afraid**, but we have no reason to give in to fear. That is the genius of the Saints, they remained free from all fear. They refused to remain frozen in the web of fear and become slaves to it. And this freedom of heart is a treasure that Jesus wants to give to every Christian, to all those who want to follow Him in truth. It is up to us to accept this treasure - as Mary says, to decide - and to work on it day by day, with humility and tenacity. It is really a matter of following the Shepherd, the best of shepherds, the One who came to make us free.

**One of the great temptations**, when one is afraid, is to withdraw into oneself; but cutting oneself off from others prevents love from flourishing. When training the young people in the prayer group, the Blessed Mother

strongly emphasized this point. When you withdraw into solitude, you may think that you are protected, but this is an illusion. What happens is just the opposite, you cut yourself off from the source of love, you start to wither and risk sinking into sadness. Our hearts are created to love, so if the oxygen of the Holy Spirit is lacking, then we risk asphyxiation. From there spring so many evils... What a pity to miss the great happiness of forming one body together, the body of Christ where love circulates.

**How should we react when we are scared?** The Saints teach us to look at Jesus, the source of our life, our peace and all true love. That is the key. Jesus himself looks at us constantly, with a gaze that is full of life and overwhelming love, and if we respond to His gaze, then we let His own soul transform us and little by little, we regain peace and courage. This is the fruit of prayer. Instead of being fixated on the raging storm, we lift it up to the One who has the power to calm the storm. "Why are you afraid?" asked Jesus to the apostles who were in real danger of perishing at sea. That was their mistake. They were looking at the huge waves instead of looking at Jesus who was with them. To be or not to be with Jesus, that is what makes the difference. Jesus may test us - and He does - but it is always for a greater good, for our salvation. He does not want to see us sink.

**Trusting in his love** is what will drive this change for us, moving us from a visceral fear (humanly justified), to a liberation of the heart.

God only wants our good, in all circumstances. When we turn to Him with trust and total faith, He raises our hearts in such a way that we no longer depend on our visceral reactions, but on a supernatural grace - above the natural - that allows our soul to taste a deep peace, that "peace of God that surpasses all understanding," as St Paul describes it. We let the Holy Spirit take over and that is how this evil thing called fear becomes a real springboard that can lift us up to God, enrich us through Him and sanctify us.



**You may be afraid without knowing why.** In that case, instead of hiding from it, it is better to face your fear directly, and to ask: what am I afraid of? Becoming ill? Experiencing hunger? Being betrayed by a friend/ relative? What would happen if this fear came true? What damage would that do? This is an opportunity to entrust to the Lord your real fear, very precisely and concretely, so that this reality now belongs to Him, not you. That is also what it means to confidently consecrate our whole being to Him. And what a relief that is."

**When we fully surrender to God in our trials, we overcome all fear.** God allows us to be tested (whether we are Christian or not), because in every trial experienced positively with Him and offered up, we grow in holiness and we help the Savior to save many souls that walk

in darkness. Furthermore, by offering our sufferings, we give God the deep joy of preparing new diamonds for our eternal crown. In other words, we allow him to cast upon us the waterfalls of his love and the infinite happiness that comes with it, in this world and in the next. Aren't Saints the happiest of all people? Why? Because even in the midst of their tribulations, their hearts rested in God, and remained united to the One who is love itself. This love is the dream and full realization of every human being created in the image of God who is Love.

Here are some examples:

**Sister Faustina was fearful by nature.** She herself wrote in her Little Diary that she was afraid of people. But she did not back down from the obstacles, focusing her gaze on Jesus.

*"Oh! I am not afraid of anything. If God sends to the soul such a great torment, He sustains it with an even greater grace, even though we do not realize it. In such moments, an act of trust restores to God more glory than all the hours spent in prayer, filled with consolation."* (St Faustina, Diary, 78)

*"I am not afraid of anything when I am with You, O Jesus, for nothing can harm me".* (Diary 306)

*"I am not afraid of blows, for God is my shield. It is the enemy who should be afraid of us, not us of him. Satan only wins victories over the proud and the cowardly, for the humble are strong. Nothing will confuse or frighten a humble soul. Such a soul is*

*flying straight for the blaze of the sun and nothing will stop it. Love does not allow itself to be imprisoned, it is free as a king." (Diary 450)*

These words remind me of a conversation with Don Gabriele Amorth, a prominent exorcist from Rome: "Don Gabriele", I asked him, "when faced with serious cases of possession, are you not afraid that Satan will jump on you and hurt you?" "No," he replied, "I have never been afraid of Satan, he is afraid of me."

**When fear wants to impose itself**, the way out is to give this fear to Jesus. Give it away, again and again...

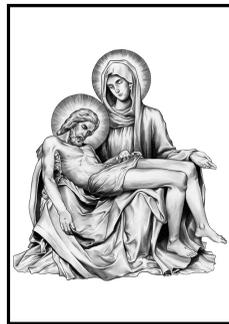
*"What are you afraid of? If you are with me, who would dare touch you? However, I am very happy that you are giving me your concerns. My daughter, tell me about everything, very simply, you will please me greatly. I understand you because I am God and man. This simple conversation of your heart is more pleasant to me than hymns composed in my honor. Know, my daughter, that the simpler your words are, the more you draw me to you." (Diary, 796)*

**Afraid of the unknown?** Afraid of an uncertain future? Afraid of losing what we care about? Jesus did not give us any false consolations by saying that we will not lose anything, but He promises we will never lose the only true treasure, Himself, if we dive into Him, "*Sin will reign, Mary told us recently, but if you are mine, your refuge will be the Heart of my Son Jesus!*" (25 /8/19)

**The only fear we must have** is that of being separated from God, of not loving. That of not following Jesus and finding ourselves without a shepherd. That of missing out on the incredible treasure set aside for us if we decide to follow Jesus, humble and poor, and to live his Word and to trust Him. That of not accepting what His Providence places on our path. Because then the danger we face is real.

*The Blessed Mother knows our fears. "Dear children, in these days you have felt how Satan acts. I am always with you. Do not be afraid of trials because God is always watching over you. I have given myself to you and I empathize with you, even in the smallest temptations." (19/8/84)*

How can we not think that Mary, seeing her Son leave for His Passion, did not experience fear? How could she not have trembled? She knew in advance what was going to happen to her, for she knew the Scriptures, and Jesus himself had hidden nothing from her.



But this fear did not stop her, for she had offered everything ahead to the Father, for the fulfilment of the Son's mission: to save humanity from the power of death. She may have felt

fear, as we do, but she offered it to the Father, and in doing so she helped Jesus in his mission. She overcame her fear, which became a springboard for more love and power in her vocation as Co-redemptrix. Having given everything to God, she had nothing to lose.

*"Dear children, today I invite you to total surrender to God. Everything you do and everything you own, give it to God so that he may reign over your life like a King over everything you possess... Little children, do not be afraid, for I am with you, even when you think that there is no way out and that Satan reigns. I bring you peace. I am your Mother and the Queen of Peace." (25/8/88)*

**"He who prays is not afraid of the future, and he who fasts is not afraid of evil."**

"Love, and do not be afraid, because, my children, there is no fear in love. If your hearts are open to the Father and they are full of love for Him, why be afraid of what is coming? Fear those who do not love because they are waiting for punishment, and they know how empty and hard they are. As children, I guide you to love, to the dear Father. I guide you to eternal life. Eternal life is my Son. Receive Him and you have received love. (25 Sept 2001)

"I look into your hearts, I see in them pain and suffering; I see a wounded past and an unceasing search; I see my children who wish to be happy, but who do not know how. Open up to The Father. That is the path to happiness. God the Father never leaves his children alone, especially

not in pain and despair. When you understand this and accept it, you will be happy and your search will end. You will love, and you won't be afraid..." (2 Jan. 2012)

Jesus experienced anguish, to the point of sweating blood! At Gethsemane, Jesus saw in advance all those who were not going to grasp the eternal salvation He would offer them, and the loss of those souls tortured Him, to the point where he said, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death." (Matt 26:38) It is out of compassion and love for us sinners that He lived this bitter anguish, long before His passion, when He said, "But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I will be until it is accomplished!" (Luke 12:50) He took upon Him all our anxieties in order to deliver us from them. Henceforth, even our anxieties can be changed in the path of holiness, united with those of Jesus in the Garden of Olives.

*Dearest Gospa, what a joy it is for us to know that you are with us. Your Immaculate Heart is truly our safe haven.*

**Sister Emmanuel +**  
Community of the Beatitudes

“

*'Little Children  
do not  
be afraid'*

Our Lady 25/8/1988

”

## The Spiritual Significance of the Coronavirus Pandemic

April 13, 2020

While so many are rightly anxious about the medical, social and economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, there is not so much evidence of consideration of its spiritual significance. The virus can be interpreted as a prompt to us to reflect on our mortality and the mortality of our loved ones and of all around us. While it is always true that we do not know the day nor the hour of our death, are we not being specially reminded to reflect spiritually upon our existence in the present circumstances?

This where God comes in. While it is good to pray for his protection from the virus it is at least as important to ask him how we are to understand it, what conclusions he wants us to draw, what specific actions or changes he wants from us. Is it not reasonable to conclude that this is a time for seriously considering what needs changing in our world and in our lives? In fact we already know what we have to do. It is there in the Gospel. It is just that we can be hard of hearing, proud of our own autonomy, and too trusting in our own capabilities to be able to decide for change. So we are being prompted. Will we hear? Will we respond? Will we humble ourselves enough to ask for God's help, not merely in lifting the threat of the virus but in bringing us to new thinking and conversion of heart.

All of this is only to echo what the Blessed Mother keeps saying in her

messages in Medjugorje. We are called to return to God, to conversion through prayer and penance, and to be more faithful to the Mass, the Rosary and the Sacraments. We are to trust in God rather than in ourselves. If we truly listen to Our Lady's caring messages, we can see the pandemic as a corroboration of the warnings she has been giving us in Medjugorje. We can also reflect that Our Lady is a special resource for Catholics in England, which our bishops have just re-dedicated as her dowry. We can turn to her as our intercessor for conversions and for a renewal of Catholic faith and devotion. The pandemic is nothing less than a message in itself.

Dudley Plunkett  
Posted by MedjUK

**Let us pray with the Holy Father:**

**Prayer Intention for JULY 2020**

**OUR FAMILIES**



“

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

”

*Pope Francis*

## Sr Brieghe McKenna and Fr Kevin Scallon RIP “a little miracle” story

By Geraldine Dobson

12th June 2020

Dear Readers

In the long days of lockdown I, personally, have found the postal service to be particularly important. The Medjugorje May Monthly Newsletter, therefore, was so welcome and actually one of the ‘highlights’ of my day. As I write I’m more than a little aware that this week I should have been enjoying the Holiness, Peace and Joy of Medjugorje along with other pilgrims from the Medjugorje Centre North East. Sadly, due to the pandemic the pilgrimage has had to be delayed and is a great penance for many of us. Sister Emmanuel’s update was, therefore, particularly welcome and so very interesting. On page 7 of Sister’s update I spotted the so familiar and beautiful picture of Our Blessed Lady shrouding children with her cloak, painted by artist Bradi Barth. It reminded me of a story by Sister Brieghe McKenna which I’d like to share, but first a little about the artist.

Bradi Barth was born in 1922 and died in 2007. She was a remarkable Catholic artist, born in Switzerland but lived most of her life in Belgium. Her art style is immediately recognisable as being clear and colourful whilst at the same time conveying a sense of peace. To quote, ‘It is rich in tradition, amazingly unique and awe-inspiring’. Now to the story which relates directly to Bradi Barth and one some time ago I ‘accidentally’ discovered on one of Sr Brieghe’s McKenna’s ‘You-Tube’

talks telling about a most awe-inspiring miracle. She and Father Kevin Scallon (RIP) toured the world praying for Priests and promoting the Rosary

### **Sr Brieghe McKenna and Fr Kevin Scallon - talk during Healing Mass at Portlaoise, Ireland immediately before the vote in Ireland on abortion 2018.**

The account below is part verbatim and part paraphrase.

Sister Brieghe asked the audience to view the screen, ‘You see here on your screen this unusual picture and, before I say a little about tonight, I’ll say a few words about the power of prayer and especially in light that in a few months we here in Ireland will be facing probably one of the greatest challenges for us as a people, i.e. to show that in a democracy and in a country with Christian roots and Catholic roots, the denial of the secular world those who try to enshrine laws (supporting abortion) we individually will stand for **LIFE**.

I want to tell you one of the great privileges Father Kevin and myself have had. We’ve had the privilege over the last 45 years to travel all over the world and Fr Kevin spoke this morning about meeting Saints. There are many things we do that don’t make the press so we don’t talk much about it but a family that we know very well, and his nephews said to me recently about the man I’m going to speak of in a moment. They said that they were praying for Ireland, really praying that the Irish people get the

courage to do what their uncle had to do and what we have to do as young Catholics. That ‘uncle’ was the former King of Belgium, King Baudouin.

‘For many, many years, I and Father Kevin had the privilege of being with King Baudouin in Belgium ministering to him and his wife and also many of his family. One of the things people didn’t know was that when King Baudouin became a young King, the King of Belgium, he was already on a journey of great holiness. He told me himself, and I knew it from the many years of knowing him personally, that he spent hours every day in adoration in the palace and that he’d go early in the morning’. ‘Way back in the seventies, I was invited there to pray over the King’s hands. This was so that every citizen of Belgium that he would shake hands with he’d be able to transmit Christ. As King of every little background non-believer and believer, he couldn’t speak freely about Christ. As he watched the changes in the countries and, you know, in the European Union, he said he had one thing in his mind’.

‘In the very beginning he began to see and to feel in his own heart that one day as a Catholic King he may be asked to do something that would be against his conscience and, of course, what was looming was abortion. In the early 90’s the Belgium government pushed and said they were going to give the people what they wanted, and that was abortion’.

The people didn’t have the opportunity to vote but, as head of state, the King was the one who had to sign abortion into law. Before this happened, we prayed with King Baudouin and I remember saying to him at the time. ‘You know, you are going to come under fierce pressure’ and he said, **‘I know but nobody is going to be able to tell me to do something that I know is wrong’.**

The day came and King Baudouin went to the government buildings and they [government ministers] spent hours telling the King, ‘We know it is your personal conscience that you don’t believe in abortion but you’re not representing yourself you’re representing the country’.

*‘We Prayed  
with  
King Baudouin’*

*Sr Briege McKenna prayed  
with King of Belgium*

King Baudouin told us that he sat there listening and every time they tried at every angle he would say, **‘But I’m not the King I’m only on earth, I can’t do this’**, and it got to the point where he said, **‘I’ll abdicate, the throne means nothing to me compared to what you’re asking me, I’m not going to do this’.**

At 10 o’clock that night after a long day of breaks, he abdicated and signed the abdication.

He came back to the palace and in the palace apartment there was this painting that had been presented to him by very famous artist from Belgium but he’d never opened it; it had been two months in the foyer of the apartment.

That night as he walked into the apartment he was prompted to walk over and pull off the wrappings and when he pulled the wrappings off there in front of him was the image by a famous artist called Bradi Barth. She'd painted it during the debate on abortion. The King told us himself he felt radiant and so free. He said he walked over to look at the picture,



**'I looked at the picture and the four faces turned around and looked at me and said, 'thank you'. 'As I gazed at the image, I realised that an unborn child, John, was the first one to adore the Saviour.'**

Sr Briega said, 'I'll never forget the King saying,'

**'I don't care', 'how can I say that yesterday it is murder and today it's legal.'**

Geraldine Dobson

The above picture was sent to me by Sr Briega McKenna in 2018

*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy spirit ...She exclaimed, "As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy (Luke 1:42-43)*

## **A personal message from the Visionary - Marija Pavlovic**

(MaryTV)

Marija spoke in English:

"Great Joy to speak to you in English with a big heart to say:

Dear Pilgrims,

We are praying for you, we pray that Medjugorje will be open soon to unite with you.

Be brave, be the the Joy of Our Lady, be Joy and Testimony. Pray in a special way for all non-believers. I am with you. Every morning while you are sleeping, we are praying a Novena, praying for you. Be strong in faith and joyful in your testimony.

Our Call is to us.

Christian people have a call.

Also in this dark moment of our Life, Our Lady is the sunshine of our Life, she is joy for us.

She invites us to be love to others.

I pray for you with Our Lady in union of Prayer."

## **Mirjana will continue to pray at the Blue Cross**

April 10, 2020

The French Medugorje website Chere Gospa reports that the visionary Mirjana and her husband will continue to pray at the Blue Cross on the second day of each month when the coronavirus pandemic is over, even though she will no longer receive Our Lady's apparition.

This news was provided earlier this month by Annalisa Barozzi-Colo, wife of Jakov Colo.



## Medjugorje Centre North East

www.medjugorjene.co.uk

### Cathedral Church of St Mary, Clayton Street West, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5HH

#### Mass times

Monday to Friday 12.05pm

Saturday morning Mass 10am then Vigil Mass at 4pm

Sunday Masses 8am, 10am, 11.30am and 6.30pm

The Cathedral will remain open Monday to Friday 11.30am to 2.30pm for private prayer and Mass.

Saturdays from 9.30am until 12 noon then again from 3.30pm until 6pm.

Sundays from 7.30am until 12.30pm and again from 5pm until 7.30pm.

The numbers of people able to enter the Church for Mass will be strictly limited according to the 1 metre plus rule. Benches are clearly marked and with the possibility of some family benches we should be able to accommodate around 130 people. Once this number is reached then no one else will be able to enter the Church. Please ring the Cathedral Office any time after 9am on 0191 2326953 or email [office@stmaryscathedral.org.uk](mailto:office@stmaryscathedral.org.uk) and register for the Mass

Please enter the Church through the side door and exit through the main doors at the back. Please sit in the seats which are clearly marked to adhere to social distancing.

Candle stands are available at various locations around the Church.

Please sanitise hands when entering and leaving the Church with the gel provided.

Holy Communion is served at the end of Mass

The Cathedral will continue to live stream Daily Holy Mass.

Please bring a face covering – required for all attending Mass & entering church.

### Hexham & Newcastle Diocese

Bishop Robert Byrne CO, announced the planned reopening of a further twenty churches for individual prayer:

St. Paul's Church, Alnwick

St. Bede's Church, Bedlington

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, Billingham

St. Mary's Church, Bishop Auckland

SS. Joseph, Patrick and Cuthbert Church, Coxhoe

St. Augustine's Church, Darlington

Our Lady of Mercy and St. Godric Church, Durham

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Gateshead

St. Charles Church, Gosforth

St. Aloysius Church, Hebburn

St. Mary's Church, Hexham

St. Teresa of the Infant Jesus Church, Heaton Newcastle

St. Bede's Church, Newcastle

St. Mary's Church, Newton Aycliffe

The Sacred Heart Church, North Gosforth

St. Bede's Church, South Shields

St. Joseph's Church, Ushaw Moor

Our Lady and St. Columba Church, Wallsend

St. John Boste Church, Washington

St. Anne's Church, Winlaton

Further information -  
[www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)

*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.*