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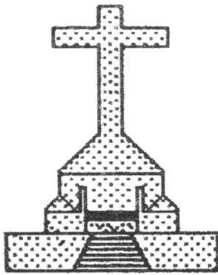
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# **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

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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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## MEDJUGORJE AFTERNOON OF PRAYER

*led by Fr. Martin Morris*

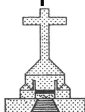
**2nd Sunday of the month  
4pm – 6pm**

**14th November 2021  
12th December 2021**

*(Future dates to be published when confirmed)*

St John Vianney  
Hillhead Parkway  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE5 1DP

**COVID19:** Subject to Government guidelines.



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

**ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO  
MEDJUGORJE 2021**

**Spiritual Director—Fr. Martin Morris**

**Depending on Coronavirus restrictions  
Our planned Pilgrimage date is**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022**

All Booked Pilgrims previously deferred from 2020 to June 2021 will be transferred to new date next year **2022**.

Further information: Kath Ash Tel :01670 733358

### Message from Aglow Pilgrimages

As I'm sure you can appreciate - it's been a long and tiresome 18 months for everybody within the travel industry. We're back in the office on 8th November 2021 to resume our pilgrimage operations and announce all our 2022 departures!

Please check back on our website then.

Wishing you every blessing.

**Jonathan Baylis**

Director

email: [travel@aglowpilgrimages.com](mailto:travel@aglowpilgrimages.com)

tel: 0800 689 4792



## OUR LADY'S MESSAGE—To the World

*Given 25th October 2021 to Marija Pavlovic*



“Dear children! Return to prayer because who prays is not afraid of the future; who prays is open to life and respects the life of others; who prays, little children, feels the freedom of the children of God and in joy of heart serves for the good for his brother-man. Because God is love and freedom, therefore, little children, when they want to put you in bonds and to use you, it is not from God. Because God loves and gives His peace to every creature; and that is why He sent me to you to help you to grow in holiness. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

### Reflection by Fr. Martin Morris

Spiritual Director of Medjugorje Centre NE

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Medjugorje North East and beyond, Our Lady begins this message with a firm resounding call,

**"Return to Prayer, because who prays is not afraid of the future."**

The one who prays opens their hearts to Divine Providence.

One of the fruits of prayer is Trust in God.

To pray is to give the response of Faith in our hearts to God, and make an act of Entrustment to his Providence.

Prayer enables us to overcome all fear, because when we return to Prayer, we return to the love of God.

Our Lady mentions '**Prayer**' four times in the first two lines of this message, and we should emphasise her opening word '**Return**' to prayer.

We can reflect, should we have relegated Prayer to a secondary place in our lives. Prayer in a spirit of Faith and love, is what will be our source

by which we can live our future days. No matter what happens Mary is telling us about the central place Prayer should have today. In St. Matthew's Gospel( , 6: 25-34) we hear Our Lord's teaching on Trust in Divine Providence.

In 1987 Our Lady asked the parishioners of St. James in Medjugorje to reflect on this passage of Scripture each Thursday evening after Holy Mass. We do well to reflect ourselves on this Scripture passage as it invites us to grow spiritually in Divine Providence. It concludes, '*Set your hearts on his Kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things shall be given to you too.*' (Matt: 6:33)

**"Who prays is open to life and respects the life of others."**

Prayer is contact with God, and when we are in contact with God we receive a promise.

On the last day of the great day of festival, Jesus stood and cried out, *"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me! Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink! From his heart shall flow streams of living water."*

Prayer opens our spirits to the life of God, and the life of our Neighbour too.

Prayer is the means by which the *'streams of living water'* flow into our world and the lives of others.

St. John Paul II often referred to *'The Culture of Death'* through the scourge of Abortion and Euthanasia.

But Our Lady calls us to the culture of Life.

Let us think of St. Luke's account of the *'Annunciation'* (Lk: 1: 26-35) and his account of *The Visitation*, (1:39-56) through Our Lady's openness to Prayer, she is also open to receiving the Life of God, and taking it to others. This too is asked of us!

**"Who Prays little children, feels the freedom of the Children of God, and in Joy of heart serves for the good for his brother-man."**

Again Mary mentions **Prayer!**

She tells us that prayer brings *'freedom and Joy.'*

This in turn makes us good for our neighbour-*'Brother-man.'*

Mary reminds us of our unity with all people, and that the spirit of prayer within us has an effect on others.

We may not always be aware of this, but we believe it.

Our Lady emphasises that, *'Prayer helps us to feel the freedom of the Children of God.'* Mary has spoken about **'Freedom'** much recently, and when the Visionary Maria Pavlovic was asked to comment on this by Sr. Emmanuelle, Maria said, *'It is referring to something like a*

*dictatorship that makes a Christian believer shy about their faith, and even unsure of their Faith.'*

The Freedom of the Children of God brings *'Joy in the heart'* as Our Lady tells us, it is the freedom from Sin and Death, won for us In Jesus Christ, in his Cross and Resurrection. It is the knowledge of Faith, knowing that we belong to The Father. *"Think of the Love the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children."* (1:John: 3:1) &

*"He came to his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him, he gave power to become children of God."* (1:John: 11-13) The key word is **'ACCEPT'**

Our Lady is encouraging us to accept the love of the Children of God.

**"Because God is love and Freedom, therefore little children, when they want to put you in bonds and to use you it is not from God."**

Our Lady is reminding us of the truth of the Revelation of our Faith. That God is love and Freedom, and that we are called into a communion of 'love and Freedom' with Our Heavenly Father.

Maybe we can ask ourselves, Is this the image I have of God when I turn to him in Prayer?

Celebrate a Sacrament? Open his Holy Word? Do we truly know the God of 'Love and Freedom'?

Mary then asks us to reflect on anything or anyone who may take us away from 'The love and Freedom of God.'

**"When they want to put you in bonds and use you."** This may refer to anything or anyone who takes away our Freedom as children of

God. This requires careful reflection especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Maybe we could reflect on St. Luke's parable of the Prodigal Son, (15: 11-31.) and think about what brought him back to the '*God of Love and Freedom.*' And apply it to our own lives?

**" These are not from God."** Stark words, powerful words from our Lady, and we should not take them lightly! Because Mary is concerned for our Salvation.

Our Lady concludes this message by telling us again why she is here for such a long time. **"And that is why**

**He sent me to you, to help you grow in Holiness."**

The gift of Holiness is about maturing in our relationship with the '*God of Love and Freedom.*' Authentic Freedom leads to authentic Holiness. Holiness is being free in God's love.

May each one of us be enlightened by The Holy Spirit, to help us see our true dignity as Children of God, and what may be the 'bonds' that we need to be freed from..?

God Bless, Fr. Martin

## New Books recommended by Halina Holman

### St Joseph the Silent Hero

*By Halina Holman*



As this is the year of St Joseph, This book highlights the importance of this wonderful man for our times and as an exemplar of many aspects of holiness...

Readable script and carefully illustrated, price of £5.99.

Payment via cheque to The host Apostolate or PayPal to The Host Apostolate

[Halina.holman@mail.com](mailto:Halina.holman@mail.com)

Contact us by email or letter stating name, address and number of copies required

Address; Goat beck Terrace, Langley Moor, Durham DH7 8JY

[thehostapostolate@gmail.com](mailto:thehostapostolate@gmail.com)

### Restless Waters

### A book of Prayers and Reflections

*By Celine Alexan-Brown*

I have been writing my poems, prayers & Reflections for over 20 year and it has helped me through difficult times .

By sharing them I hope they may be a comfort to anyone coping with a period of uncertainty, trauma or loss.

Both books also available at the Bookshop St. Mary's Cathedral  
(Pauline Books & Media)



## REPORT FROM SISTER EMMANUEL

*of The Community of The Beatitudes*

**[www.sremmanuel.org](http://www.sremmanuel.org)**

Medjugorje, October 15, 2021  
Saint Teresa of Avila

**Dear friends, praise be to Jesus and Mary.**

**1. A great gift for Mary.** Vicka, the visionary, once told me, "You see, *sorella*, we love Jesus and Mary so much that we always seek new gifts to give them."

The month of October is especially dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, and so I think a beautiful gift has been set aside for her. Here is the story of this gift, and I rejoice at the thought of all the hearts that will be touched by it, both young and old:

### **Medjugorje, 2018.**

A young girl from Canada, a student of mathematics, is doing her best to sincerely follow the school of Mary, with her deeply faithful parents and siblings. Katarina is 20 years old and hopes to marry and start a Christian family. She is very beautiful, the kind of natural beauty that comes from a heart that is simple and pure. Like her parents, she would not miss Sunday Mass or her daily Rosary for all the gold in the world. Of course, such a young girl stands out, and boys are attracted to her beauty.

Often in the evening, she would tell her mother about the events of the day, because they love each other very much and enjoy discussing things that arose for

them, both pleasant and unpleasant. We can guess that the mother cares about her daughter's future. Of course, she wants the best for her and prays ardently. Didn't Mary say: "Pray for young people, because they are in a very difficult situation all over the world." The young people of Medjugorje are no exception.

Often, Katarina would return home in the evening with a new story. "Mom, I was invited out on a date by a nice boy. On the first day, we exchanged smiles. On the second day, we had coffee together. On the third day, we had dinner together and went to the movies. Everything seemed to be going well, but at the end of the dinner.... bed. He wants me to go to bed with him. So I ended it".

For Katarina, this scenario happened more than once, because the boys were happy to approach her. Every time, she would wait for the surprise on the 3rd date to see what the boy had in his heart. One day, however, the 3rd day went by, then the 4<sup>th</sup> and so on, until the 7<sup>th</sup> day. However, at the dinner on that 7<sup>th</sup> day, there was a great disappointment for Katarina because, once again... bed. And again, she left. Could there be any boy out there who was not like the others, she wondered? Would she finally find the person who would want to live his faith with her and respect her values? She prayed and did not despair.

One morning in Canada, her mother heard Katarina's alarm clock ring at 5 a.m. She asked her, "Where are you going at this hour?" "Mom, my days are very busy with university studies and work. I have to find time for prayer before starting my day, and for that I only have the first hours of the day."

One Sunday, in Medjugorje, her sister suggested they both go and pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at the Blue Cross. There, she noticed a boy and felt in her heart that he was hers. But he himself did not see her. The next day, there he was again, they crossed paths and he smiled as he walked by her. Katarina said to herself: "He is surely a passing pilgrim, I will not see him again." But the next day, not far from the church, he was there, smiled at Katarina and invited her for a cup of coffee. She expected the usual 3rd day syndrome, but against all odds, the days passed by and this boy, *Mate* (Matthew) happened to have a different kind of conversation.

A friendship started to develop. So, one day Mate asked Katarina, "How can such a pretty woman like you be alone?" Katarina paused, thought for a moment and said, "Do you really want to know why I'm alone?" "Yes, tell me."

"Well, you see, I made a promise to God at a very young age. I asked Him for a Catholic husband who is a true believer, who knows how to respect and love me. And I gave Him my virginity until I got married. I kept my promise."

Faced with such a confidence, Mate remained speechless. Tears began to

flow down his face. Katarina saw that he was seized with a deep emotion. After a time of silence, Mate confided his own secret to her: "You know, I too desire the same thing as you, I too have promised God to live in chastity until marriage."



**Isn't this a beautiful gift for Mary** for this month of October, dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary? A true story, the kind that makes her Immaculate Heart jump for joy.

Today, Katarina and Mate are married and have 2 little boys. They form a beautiful Christian family. They simply love each other. As with all young couples, life is not always easy, but they pray the Rosary together every day, they founded their family not on the quicksand of ephemeral passions, but on Christ. Katarina did not compromise with her promise, she trusted in God and his plan of love for her. In the painful hours of loneliness

and temptations, in the succession of disappointments, she had the courage to wait for the hour of the visitation. It saved her.

May this amazing testimony touch the hearts of many. The Creator has a plan of peace for each of His children. Trusting Him and surrendering to his Providence is

always a source of deep peace. The greatest happiness for a human being is to fulfill God's plan, and with Him, it is never too late. So much suffering and drama would be avoided if our life choices stemmed from daily and trusting prayer, and not from conformity to the surrounding atheist world, which so easily tramples on God's commandments. Fewer divorces, fewer tears, fewer suicides... Being faithful to the evangelical precepts and to God's mercy places us under the divine blessing, which is needed more than ever. One day, seeing the refusal of some of her children to follow Christ, our Lady expressed her concern as follows:

"My children, do you think you can make it without God's blessing?" In these troubled days of great apostasy, may God's blessing rest upon each one of us and sink into our hearts that abundance of peace to which we aspire so much.

**2. Do not leave us.** Yes, we rejoice with Mary, and we thank the Most High for allowing her to **STILL** be with us. "STILL" is a meaningful word in this last message. Let us now remember our Heavenly Mother through the bonds of the Rosary. According to the visionary, Vicka, Mary's initial plan was not to stay that long. But many of her children abandoned her along the way, after experiencing her messages with enthusiasm for some time. If we persevere, if we beg her, who knows if she will be able to stay with us until the **New Time** that she has announced to us?.

In 40 years of apparitions, Mary has created thousands of small lights across the world. These are the "Apostles of the Last Times" of which St Louis de Montfort speaks, these small prayer groups, faithful and fervent, who fight against winds and tides, Rosary in hand, in a world that Mary does not hesitate to describe as "lost". We must read the messages of the last 2 years, where she presents us with her plan for us, which is also that of the Divine Father, in opposition to that of Satan, who wants to annihilate every one of us as well as the planet on which we walk". The fight is clear, "**It is time**" she tells us. Yes, it is high time to choose our side, and to whom we want to belong. I am sure that we all want to fight alongside our Mother, assured of the final victory and ready to do anything for her out of love.



**3. Do not forget, the Rosary is essential in our spiritual battle.** The power of the Rosary lies especially in the contemplation of Jesus and Mary. Every stage of their lives is actualized in our own lives. Everything becomes real. We enter with them in the stable at Bethlehem or in the Temple of Jerusalem, we walk with them on the roads of Galilee, we suffer with them in the screaming crowd of Pilate's palace,



we exult with Mary Magdalene before Jesus, conqueror of death...

By traveling with them in this way, we absorb the graces attached to each mystery, like children fascinated by what they are looking at, and we are transformed by those rays of light that emanate from the Gospel. In the face of such beauties, the evil one flees, he cannot stand the light.

The Rosary is therefore a gentle way to get rid of him. "Dear children, keep the Rosary in your hand, as a sign to Satan that you belong to me," Mary tells us.

Pray the Rosary with us here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfiDVjNunGOj-ajSSCVr-U43TGIhQRW2n>

**4. Fatima, October 13th, 1917.** An extraordinary day. 70,000 people are gathered at the *Cova da Iria* where the Lady promised the 3 shepherd children that she would appear. Torrential rain keeps falling, until Lucia asks the crowd to close the umbrellas, and the rain stops. They all pray the Rosary. Mary then appears on the oak tree like the previous times, brighter than ever. Lucia asks, "Who are you and what do you want from me?" The Virgin replies that she is "Our Lady of the Rosary" and that she wants a chapel to be built in her honor in that same place. She advises to constantly recite the Rosary and then concludes: "All must convert, ask forgiveness for their sins and no longer hurt Our Lord." After these words, she opens her hands that reflect off the sun. Then Lucia shouts, "Look at the sun." and the miracle happens.

### **Lucia tells what happened:**

"Unexpectedly and inexplicably, the whole crowd present was then able to look directly at the sun without the risk of burning their eyes or without being in any way inconvenienced. Before such a great miracle, defying all the laws of nature, there was a great silence. Then suddenly, the sun began to tremble with jerky movements. Then it started spinning round at a dizzying speed, throwing sheaves of light of every color of the rainbow. It seemed to approach the earth, in a rapid rotational motion, zigzagging, to the point where the crowd began to scream. Every person present fell on their knees, imploring heaven. Some fainted. Finally, everything stopped, and the sun resumed its normal and natural course. Within a few minutes, the rain-soaked clothes were completely dry. My Portuguese friend's grandmother was there, and she told the whole story: "People thought it was the end of the world and screamed in fear. However, those who prayed regularly remained calm..."

*Dearest Gospa, like Katarina, we once again express our total trust in God's plans for us, your children. We humbly beg you, continue to show us the way. Be patient, and above all do not give up on us, you are our most secure GPS.*

Sister Emmanuel +  
 (Community of the Beatitudes)

## Medjugorje comes from the Heart



The seer Marija:

“I always say that Medjugorje must start from our heart because the message of the Virgin must first live in our heart. Those who come here we see that they feel nostalgic to come back, because they say they feel the need to recharge. Like a car that doesn't run without fuel, so these people when they come to Medjugorje recharge themselves spiritually. When one feels the need to come to Medjugorje, no one can stop him. And to all those who can't come financially, for health or other reasons, I say: you can live the message of the Virgin because the Virgin speaks to you as she does to me, speaks to all those who want to welcome and live her messages with the which the Virgin Mary takes back what is already contained in the Holy Scriptures. Medjugorje is a great help to grow in faith, it is a great source of good for many people.”

## 21st Anniversary of Fr. Slavko Barbaric— Medjugorje

24th November 2021



Spiritual Father of Medjugorje  
and Founder of The Mother Village

A great inspiration to millions of  
Pilgrims—He travelled throughout  
the World spreading the message of  
‘Peace and Reconciliation’

“

*Your Brother Slavko  
has been born into  
Heaven  
and intercedes  
for you.*

Our Lady's Message—25th Nov, 2000

”

## To live with the heart – The life and work of Fr Slavko Barbarić

By Fr Marinko Šakota

*Who was Fr Slavko Barbarić? What Medjugorje meant for him? And who was he for Medjugorje?*

During next few weeks, before 21st anniversary of his death we will write to You about this great man and friar who, through his life and work is much alike to the well-known Assisi saint. The one whose habit he had proudly worn all his life. Fr Slavko was there from the very beginning of Medjugorje's apparitions, present in spirit and mind, with his body and sacrifice. With every fiber of his being. We will let him to talk through his books, those words that we need to hear and LIVE WITH THE HEART and at the end to die for. As Fr Marinko Šakota, the current parish priest of Medjugorje, writes in his book *Living with the heart- The life and work of Fr Slavko Barbarić*: "Isn't Fr Slavko's death as unique, as astonishing and as symbolic as his life? Isn't his death on the Cross Mountain on a Friday, after the prayer of the Way of the Cross, the very crown of his life? Doesn't Fr Slavko's passing show that death is truly our sister, as St. Francis of Assisi used to say?" Then he continues: "Really, at that moment, everything in this death was so holy, so mystical and so symbolical."

This book will be simply and wonderfully humble in getting to know Fr Slavko's character. Actually, Fr Slavko gives us signs even today, signs which lead us to the holiness. These signs are Our Lady's messages, which he gladly listened and happily spread over.

And as Fr Marinko's gaze then shifted from the hill of Križevac he stared into the distance and wrote these lines: "Then I looked towards the place of Our Lady's apparitions above Bijakovići. It looks like an inexhaustible source of an invisible river that for many decades now flows into the hearts of millions of people." That is our Medjugorje, an inexhaustible source, mystical sign and a guide mark to a holiness.

Fr Marinko's book, let's call it „a research work“ is based on real events, experiences and authentic descriptions with beautiful archival pictures. This amazing book with those inspirational quotes, where every line from the beginning of the “phenomenon” is the phenomenon. Every line makes that the gaze jumps from words to the picture and then back to the reality that creates questions, personal questions for which we all seek some answers. It looks like they had an agreement that made their efforts joined, one by his life and the other by his words to make a deed, which acts on us, today! And the Lady? He writes: „After having intensively observed and examined the visionaries and their behaviour before, during and after the apparition, and after having overcome his initial reserve, Fr Slavko was personally convinced of the authenticity of the apparitions, and he put himself completely at the service of Our Lady. Living the messages to the letter day in day out, he came closer and closer to Our Lady's heart and her plans.“ Just as then, Our Lady ask us now to put our lives in her

service and search for peace which we shall find, as Fr Slavko once wrote: “The human being is a pilgrim on this earth, and his life is a pilgrimage towards the eternal life. It is precisely renunciation that frees him from excessive attachment to all that is earthly and material, creates within him the attitude of expectation, and awakens the desire for what is eternal and everlasting.”

Let's be pilgrims of peace and love, let us be those who turn words into deeds, let us use the material objects

to reach the spiritual. Let us use this two-way communication that Fr. Slavko had with his pilgrims, he received pilgrims and made pilgrimages to them but do that with as he said: “Our own conversion!”

More of these beautiful quotes from the book *To live with the heart - The life and work of Fr Slavko Barbarić* by Fr Marinko Šakota will be continued on Saturday on October 30.

God bless You.

### **Pope: Crisis presents us with the opportunity to build together**

By Benedict Mayaki, SJ  
(COP26 Climate change conference)

#### **Extract from BBC 4 Radio "Thought for the Day"**

Pope Francis, offered some reflections on building together in the face of the climate crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic to listeners of the BBC “Thought of the Day” radio column, as world leaders prepare to meet in Glasgow for the UN COP26 Climate Change Conference.

“Climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic have exposed our deep vulnerability and raised numerous doubts and concerns about our economic systems and the way we organize our societies,” the Pope said in an audio/video message.

Pope Francis pointed at the impact of the many crises impacting society. He noted that “we have lost our sense of security and are experiencing a sense of powerlessness and loss of control over our lives.”

More so, “we find ourselves increasingly frail and even fearful, caught up in a succession of ‘crises’ in the areas of health care, the environment, food supplies and the

economy, to say nothing of social, humanitarian and ethical crises.” could rupture the bonds holding society together within the greater gift of God’s creation.

#### **Confronting crisis together.**

Stressing that we cannot emerge from a crisis alone, the Holy Father affirmed that the most important lesson we can take from the crises is our need to “build together so that there will no longer be any borders, barriers or political walls for us to hide behind.”

**COP26- Climate Change Conference in Glasgow,** Pope Francis urged the political decision-makers who will be present to “provide effective responses to the present ecological crisis and in this way to offer concrete hope to future generations.”

The Pope concluded his message by extending an invitation to all – whoever and wherever we may be – to play our own part in changing our collective response to the unprecedented threat of climate change and the degradation of our common home.



## **Medjugorje Annual Retreat at Minsteracres nr Consett**

Spiritual Director

**Fr. Martin Morris**

PP St. John Vianney, Newcastle

**15-17th October 2021**

The weekend was attended by approximately 30 people in the peaceful and beautiful surroundings of Minsteracres which is now so familiar to many of us.

The programme, as usual, centred on Holy Mass, The Rosary and Confession, punctuated by reflective and meditative talks.

However, this year, it was a retreat with a difference!

Unfortunately, Fr. Martin Morris, our spiritual director, was unable to join us on this occasion but his presence and words were very strongly in evidence with the support of Zoom!

Fr. Martin's talks were a diet rich with scripture references to lead us to a deeper relationship with Jesus. Our Lady addresses us as "little children"; she is guiding us, inviting us to receive strength from the Most High so we, in turn, can reach out to others to strengthen them. We were reminded of these words, Matthew 11; 28 "Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest". The parable of The Prodigal Son, Luke 15; 11-31 was highlighted as an example of one who is unable to enter the embrace with The Lord whilst the other son draws strength and has a child-like trust with The Father. We, too, must be "little children" and maintain that child-like simple trust in Our Lord at all times.

Through the words of Our Lady of Medjugorje, we are told that our world is "lost in sin" and this is a time of conversion. We must model ourselves on Our Lady who had great faith and trust as witnessed by all the main events in Her life; The Annunciation. Luke 1 "Let it happen to me as you have said"; The Visitation when Our Lady became the first missionary in the church, showing great abandonment and surrender to The Lord; The Nativity when Our lady both "treasured " and "pondered" the words of Our Blessed Lord; The Presentation when in Her silence She accepts the words of Simeon. The abandonment, surrender and trust of Our Lady in these events and many more, including The Wedding Feast of Cana, the upper room, waiting for Pentecost, and standing at the foot of the Cross, illustrate that Our Lady, too, had many challenges and uncertainties in Her life. She knew pain and suffering so we are invited to gather strength from this in the vicissitudes of our own daily life.

In the early days of the apparitions, Our Lady guided the children to reflect on this scripture reading, Matthew 6 24-34, which emphasises that we cannot serve both God and money. Again, we are called to trust; God will provide, just like the flowers that grow and thrive in the fields. With trust, comes peace and joy, heavenly gifts from on high.

The words of Christ from the Cross should echo in our hearts and help us to have courage and humility: “Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit”.

What is essential each day? What are our priorities?

We must have faith and confidence in all our situations.

As St. Ignatius Loyola said: “Pray as everything depended on God; act as if everything depended on us”.

Total trust in The Lord’s providence invites us to be responsible and conscientious in our daily lives.

Our Lady is constantly reminding us of total abandonment and surrender to The Lord; this is the road which leads to complete freedom.

Our Lady has referred many times to the “**Five Stones**”.

**Prayer:** Pray with the heart, which, essentially, is praying with faith, love and belief.

Apparently, Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta never wasted any time in prayer since she carefully pondered over every word.

**Holy Mass:** the power of **The Eucharist** is the power of the Risen Christ.

**Confession:** this sacrament is the key to recreating our hearts.

**The Holy Bible:** It is important to meditate on the Word of God to deepen our knowledge and love of The Lord.

**Fasting:** Fr. Martin acknowledged that most people find fasting difficult but we can start in small ways. We should pray for the gift of fasting which is essential for the purification of both bodies and souls. Our Lady said that with prayer and fasting wars can be averted.

Father Martin drew our attention to the geographical location of the three main focal points; Cross Mountain, a mount built in 1933 for the 1900th anniversary of Christ’s crucifixion; Apparition Hill where a statue stands of Our Blessed Lady; and St. James’s church where the Holy Eucharist resides. The centrality of The Cross, Our Lady and the Holy Eucharist is the blueprint for our Christian life.

The beautiful prayer of Blessed Charles de Foucauld, recommended by Fr. Martin, expresses abandonment, trust and surrender, encapsulating beautifully the spirit of Medjugorje:

*Father, I abandon myself into your hands.*

*Do with me what You will.*

*Whatever you may do, I thank You.*

*I am ready for all, I accept all.*

*Let only your will be done in me,*

*And in all your creatures.*

*I wish no more than this, O Lord.*

*Into Your hands, I commend my soul.*

*I offer it to You, with all the love of my heart*

*For I love you Lord and so need to give myself,*

*To surrender myself into your hands, Without reserve and with boundless confidence,*

*For You are my Father.*

Perhaps, we can include this to our daily prayers?

Anon.

**Thanks,  
Received from Friends of  
Medjugorje NE (Retreatants)**

Due to unforeseen circumstances Fr. Martin Morris was confined to home and unable to join and almost prevented him from leading the Retreat at Minsteracres as planned.

A special Thank you to Fr. Jenesh, Parish Priest and Rector of Minsteracres who provided an inspired daily Mass.

We appreciate the support of Minsteracres staff and community, especially the IT skills of Pavan Martin who 'saved the day', by setting up the Technology of Audio and Visual Link. Providing Zoom calls to Fr. Martin using a large screen and Audio link, which enabled Fr. Martin to successfully lead the Retreat from home.

A vote of sincere thanks from all Retreatants was given to Marian Fletcher, Retreat Organiser, Medjugorje NE for her calm perseverance, before and during the Retreat.

It is said that nothing happens by chance – especially in the presence of Our Lady Queen of Peace.



Therefore, we ask -was it a coincidence that Our own Bishop Robert Byrne was leading the early Sunday morning Mass at Minsteracres in Honour of the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Passionist Order!

Despite his busy schedule, Bishop Robert was delighted to be invited to come into The Dining Hall and meet

Retreatants. We were all impressed by his approachability.

We are all grateful that he led Grace and for his special Blessing.

We continue to pray for Bishop Robert and praise God for his Leadership in The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle.

Despite the turmoil of last-minute changes, with a threat of Cancellation, the power of Prayer prevailed and almost all of Our Medjugorje Retreatants were determined to spend their usual peaceful time of quiet prayer and reflection guided by Our Lady Queen of Peace. Bringing The Hills of Medjugorje to Minsteracres.

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

**Prayer Intention for  
NOVEMBER 2021**

**People who suffer from  
depression**



“

We pray that people who  
suffer from depression  
or burn-out  
will find support and a light  
that opens them up to life.

”

*Pope Francis*