

**NUMBER 392: January 2024 : FREE**

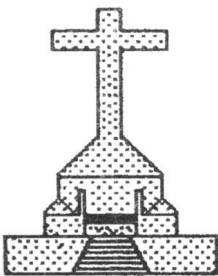
Published Monthly

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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.

**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**



**11th February 2024**

**10th March 2024**

**Our Lady Queen of Peace**

Station Road

Penshaw

Houghton-le-Spring

DH4 7JZ

## **MEDJUGORJE CENTRE NORTH EAST PILGRIMAGE**

in conjunction with

**NORTHERN STAR TRAVEL LTD**

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## **ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE 2024**

**Sunday 2nd—9th June 2024**

## **PILGRIMAGE FULL**

**Flying from Newcastle to Dubrovnik**

**Half Board**

**Hotel Orbis—Close to St. James' Church**

For information please contact-

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## OUR LADY'S MESSAGE—To the World

*Given 25th January 2024 to Marija Pavlovic*



“Dear children! May this time be a time of prayer.”

### Reflection by Fr. Martin Morris

Spiritual Director of Medjugorje Centre NE

Brothers and Sisters of Medjugorje North East and beyond, let us turn to the Holy Scriptures to help us in our reflection on this month's message.

In St. Luke's Gospel (18 : 1:) Our Lord tells the parable of the unjust judge and the Faith of the persevering widow who does not give up in seeking justice. The Parable begins, “Jesus told them a parable about the need to pray continuously and never loose heart.

“Persevering prayer is emphasised in this parable to help us understand there is real grace in the heart of the one who does not lose Faith in coming before God in the humility of Prayer.

Since the beginning of the apparitions Our Lady has mentioned prayer in all of her messages. At the very start of her coming Mary recommended the daily recitation of the Apostles Creed, and seven Our Fathers, Hail Mary's and Glory be's. Later she mentioned the daily prayer of the Rosary. Then Our Lady asked us to read the Holy Scriptures, to pray the Holy Mass with the heart, with a firm Faith and

love for Jesus. In April 2001, Our Lady asked us to “Take the Rosary and pray until prayer becomes a joyful encounter with your Saviour.” So the purpose of prayer is clear: a joyful encounter with our Saviour. Our Lady wants us to discover that sacred meeting with her Son in prayer, so Prayer should never be a ritual, boring, but an act of love, an entrustment of ourselves to God in loving trust. All true prayer springs from the heart of the one who loves God.

In the Gospel of Matthew, (Chapter 6) Jesus says, “*When you pray , do not imitate the hypocrites, they love to say their prayers standing on the street corners and in the synagogues. They have had their reward. But when you pray go into your private room, and when you have closed the door, speak to your heavenly Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who see's all that is done in secret will reward you.*”

Saint Mother Teresa used to say, “Whoever wants to pray better, let them pray more.” Immersing

ourselves in God's presence every prayer we say, is a way that deepens all future prayers and our life in the Holy Spirit. "Pray that the Holy Spirit inspires you with the spirit of prayer. I tell you, you pray too little. If you knew how many graces God grants to you, you would pray unceasingly." (November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1984.)

In this month's message, **"Dear Children, May this time be a time of prayer for you."** Is clear and to the point. We could say it is the summary of all Our Lady's messages in Medjugorje, to take time to pray. Because in Prayer great graces are received. The starkness and brevity of this message is concise and striking. Even the customary, **"Thank you for having responding to my call is omitted."** Why is this? To emphasise the simple spirituality of Medjugorje! Our Lady has come to us to show us how to Pray, in her school of prayer which is the path that leads to the life of Blessedness with her Son. This message is clear and uncomplicated, Our Lady teaches us in simple and few words. Such was the life of Our Lady. Mary wants our whole lives to be in full harmony with God, then all our thoughts, words and works become a prayer. Just as her life was.

God Bless,  
**Fr. Martin**



*"And thinking of that historic gesture of fraternity in Jerusalem, let us pray for peace, for peace in the Middle East, in Palestine, in Israel, in Ukraine, all over the world. So many victims of war, so many deaths, so much destruction..."*

*Let us pray for peace. I express my closeness to the Iranian people, in particular the relatives of the many victims of the terrorist attack that occurred in Kerman, the many who were injured and all those who were affected by this great suffering." witness to Him as Saviour."*

*Pope Francis*

Jan 12 2024

## Favourite Prayers of St. Teresa of Calcutta



**St. Teresa of Calcutta is such a beautiful inspiration to us all!**

St. Teresa had many favourite prayers, including the Holy Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, the Litany of Loreto, and the Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. According to the Missionaries of Charity's official website, Mother Teresa also loved another set of shorter prayers.

### Radiating Christ

(By Bl. Cardinal John Henry Newman)

Dear Jesus, help us to spread Your  
fragrance everywhere we go.  
Flood our souls with Your Spirit and  
Life.  
Penetrate and possess our whole being  
so utterly  
that our lives may only be a radiance of  
Yours.

Shine through us and be so in us  
that every soul we come in contact with  
may feel Your presence in our souls.  
Let them look up, and see no longer us,  
but only Jesus!

Stay with us and then we shall begin to  
shine as You shine,  
so to shine as to be a light to others.  
The light, O Jesus, will be all from  
You; none of it will be ours.

It will be You, shining on others  
through us.

Let us thus praise You in the way You  
love best, by shining on those around  
us.

Let us preach You without preaching,  
not by words but by example,  
by the catching force, the sympathetic  
influence of what we do,  
the evident fullness of the love our  
hearts bear for You.

Amen.

### St. Francis of Assisi's Peace Prayer

Lord, make me a channel of your  
peace,  
That where there is hatred, I may bring  
love;  
where there is wrong, I may bring the  
spirit of forgiveness  
where there is discord, I may bring  
harmony;  
where there is error, I may bring truth;  
where there is doubt, I may bring faith;  
where there is despair, I may bring  
hope;  
where there are shadows, I may bring  
light;  
where there is sadness, I may bring joy.  
Lord, grant that I may seek rather  
to comfort than to be comforted;  
to understand than to be understood;  
to love than to be loved;  
For it is by forgetting self that one  
finds;  
it is by forgiving that one is forgiven;  
it is by dying that one awakens to  
eternal life.  
Amen.



## REPORT FROM SISTER EMMANUEL

*of The Community of The Beatitudes*

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

Medjugorje, January 17, 2024

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

**1. Our Lady continues to surprise us.** To everyone's amazement, on December 31st, during the daily apparition to the visionary Marija, which lasted a long time, Our Lady invited us to go to the hill of Podbrdo, the place of the first apparitions, the next day, January 1<sup>st</sup>, at 3 p.m., and to pray there until the time of the apparition, that is to say at 5:40 p.m. (winter time). In other words, she asked us to pray there for 3 consecutive hours. It was unique. The reaction was very beautiful and immense, not only in Medjugorje, but also abroad. Many prayer groups, families and parishes decided to join in the prayer that rose from Podbrdo on the Solemnity of the Mother of God.

### **Three hours of rain, cold and mud.**

Many pilgrims arrived early to ensure they were as close as possible to the statue of Our Lady. At that time, the weather was clear. But at 3 p.m. sharp, the rain began to fall, only to stop a few minutes before the apparition, which was the just the amount of time it took to pray 10 *Hail Marys*... Climbing down the hill took a long time for this huge crowd, because the stones were slippery and it was already dark.

And yet, during all those hours of discomfort, whether standing or

sitting uncomfortably, soaked by the rain, the wonder of wonders was that **no one uttered a single complaint.** On the contrary, joy could be seen on their faces. This was the joy of the sacrifice requested by Mary and generously performed together. An unforgettable experience.



**7 minutes of Heavenly joy.** In the evening, at 5:40 p.m., Marija went into ecstasy and her voice was suddenly inaudible, as Our Lady appeared to her. The crowd then fell completely silent. The Blessed Mother was joyful and remained for 7 minutes. With her hands outstretched she prayed at length over the thousands of people gathered around her and Marija entrusted to her all of our petitions, and especially those who are sick.

Then she said, "Thank you for answering my call and praying for my intentions. **You will not regret it, not you, nor your children, nor your children's children.**" This message was the gift she promised, because in these troubled times, it has comforted many people who anxiously wonder

about their future, about that of their children and their grandchildren. Mary enables us to understand that our future is in her Motherly Heart, the best refuge ever, along with that of Jesus, her Son. She invites us to trust, and not fear.

These are the facts, but let us try to look deeper, as **this message has a precedent**. On October 27, 2001, in Syracuse (Sicily), in the presence of the religious authorities and the Governor, Mr. Cuffaro, Sicily responded to Mary's call given at Fatima and, during a large gathering, the island was consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The visionary Marija had gone especially for the event and, during the apparition that followed the consecration, Our Lady gave the same message. She thanked those present for doing this consecration, and then added, "You will not regret it, nor you, nor your children, nor the children of your children."

Less than a year later, on September 6th, 2002, **a devastating earthquake raged in the Province of Palermo** (magnitude 5.6), but it was confined to the sea, so that the city was spared. The very holy priest, Father Matteo La Grua, a prophet who also performed miracles, soon-to-be-beatified, had received in prayer that **the Blessed Mother had moved the epicenter of the earthquake towards the sea**.

The sea was literally boiling. Without this special protection from Mary, the entire city of Palermo would have been destroyed as well as most of the province. Yes indeed, the Sicilians did not regret consecrating their

island to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**Another precedent, more hidden:** A French couple decided to consecrate themselves as a family to the Immaculate Heart of Mary after a long preparation of 33 days. This preparation was to be completed in Medjugorje. On the 33rd day, they were able to visit the visionary Marija and during the apparition, they prayed their consecration. After the apparition, Marija turned to them and told them that the Gospa was happy about their consecration, that she thanked them and that they would not regret having done it, neither they, nor their children nor their children's children. No need to describe their joy.

**This testimony may be less spectacular than that of Sicily, but it will certainly inspire many other families.**



In Medjugorje, in more than 42 years of apparitions, Our Lady has never made such a surprise summons, engaging thousands of her children in a long prayer lasting 3 hours, under very uncomfortable weather conditions.

**Why did she ask for that?** Shall we get the answer before we see her in heaven? What great disaster did she want to avoid? What destructive plan

of the enemy was cancelled thanks to the prayer and sacrifice of her children who, on this 1<sup>st</sup> of January, celebrated her as the Mother of God? She did not hesitate to ask for a lot, so one might think that she gave a lot, given the immense power of prayer. Let us recall here this often-repeated message: **"Dear children, only through prayer and fasting can you prevent wars, stop wars and suspend the laws of nature"** (Example: *natural disasters*). In her various apparitions - think of Lourdes or Fatima - the Virgin Mary always asks for penance, sacrifice, offering, in connection with prayer because there is no true love without self-giving.

**2. Is your home blessed?** In January, the Franciscans keep this beautiful tradition of blessing parishioners' homes. They go from house to house, greet families, recite certain prayers, and sprinkle holy water around the family home. From the beginning of the apparitions, Our Lady recommended the use of holy water and asked that we carry on ourselves blessed objects, small crosses, medals or other Christian objects blessed by a priest. These simple articles are signs of our faith and also a protection against evil and the influences of evil. **They are neither good luck charms, no amulets or talismans.** It is important to stress that, because many people are not aware of the danger of harmful superstitions.

In addition, every Saturday, many Croatian mothers go around the house and property to sprinkle holy water. I asked Vicka the reason for this, and she said, "But because we are

Christians." Yes, in an anti-Christian or Christianophobic context, Christians need these signs, as constant reminders of their belonging to Christ and the Virgin Mary.



**3. He's come a long way.** In his teenage years, Vittorio, from Italy made the typical kinds of bad choices. It would take too long to describe them all. His father was quite cold, indifferent, and absent. He did not listen to his son, and Vittorio suffered deeply from this emotional emptiness. **Feeling unloved, he had left his parents' house and started taking drugs** to help him forget his pain. Without fully realizing the seriousness of his choices and their dangers, he connected with a group of Satanists who practiced black masses, drugs, alcohol, pornography, orgies, etc. This group had a kind of headquarters in an apartment, where Vittorio went often because there he could meet up with women and get drugged up with Marijuana, hashish, cocaine... This life lasted several years.

But one day, on the street, he met a childhood friend, a girl, who asked him, **"Vittorio, how are you doing?"** This friend was praying a great deal, and was living Mary's Medjugorje messages. She continued, "I see you're not well; I'm going to pray for you." This word touched Vittorio at



the time, but he did not lend it much importance. He did not see this friend again for 4 months.

**Then one morning, as he woke up,** he said to himself: **"I'm tired of taking drugs, that's enough, I'm done.** He said it and he did it: he stopped taking drugs that very day. The most surprising thing is that he did not have to suffer the pains of withdrawal that usually follow when you suddenly stop taking drugs. This was an immense grace. He later explained that he had an inner strength that he had not known before. He stopped hanging out with this group at its HQ. When he went out into the city again, he met the same friend who told him clearly: **"Since we met, I have been praying the Rosary for you every day."**



Vittorio then remembered their meeting and this promise of prayer. On that day, a new life began for him. He found a priest who helped him in his journey of conversion and who supported him in difficult times. Vittorio now works in his father's business and is very good at computers.

He has been doing well for four years now. His beautiful journey of faith includes daily Mass and regular confession. He lives in chastity and is rebuilding himself by following Jesus as best he can. He was recently in

Medjugorje, for the New Year, so he was on the Podbrdo on January 1st in order to respond to Our Lady's invitation.

**However, despite this life change,** Vittorio still harbored a deep anger towards his father, and this anger caused him anxiety and insomnia. He was going to an exorcist, hoping to be cured of this. But it was to no avail because nothing changed.

**Forgiving your father?** In Medjugorje, he met a layman, Francesco, who had experienced a deep liberation after years of suffering. Francesco said to him, "There is no point in receiving further prayers of liberation, for you must first forgive yourself and forgive your father."

Vittorio did not expect this answer and he remained silent for a few seconds to think. Francesco seized this opportunity to tell him, "With sincere forgiveness on your part, you will find peace of heart, because in forgiveness, it is the Lord who acts. This is the key to your inner healing. **Satan does not want you to forgive, because then he will no longer be able to torment you.**"

Vittorio trusted this word and understood that he had to forgive his father. But it was very difficult for him, like a huge mountain to move. The solution was found: "Go back home," Francesco told him, "and first try not to judge your father. Try to be close to him and try to make yourself useful in the little details, also with your smile and your way of doing

things. Don't expect a good answer right away from your dad. He'll need to understand your change."

Vittorio decided to follow this advice. **This simple and firm decision to forgive his father brought him great inner serenity**, as if this old conflict were beginning to melt into his heart. In Medjugorje, Vittorio opened a new door to Jesus, he is ready to live in harmony with this extraordinary divine Host, in accordance with the Gospel.

We will pray for Vittorio and for all those who, like him, fight with courage to choose life, at all costs. To testify that Jesus is alive and ready for all miracles in order to save us.

*Dearest Gospa, what would we do without you.? What a wonderful Mother your Son Jesus gave us from the Cross. O dearest Queen of Peace, may all men come to know you, love you and live with you. May they receive through you that special peace that only your Son Jesus can give, the divine peace, so rare today and yet so desired.*

Sister Emmanuel,  
Community of the Beatitudes



## The Christian Custom of Chalking and Blessing Our Front Doors

By Geraldine Dobson

The feast of the Epiphany has only just been celebrated and, effectively the Christmas period is over! According to the Oxford English dictionary, the word epiphany means ‘a great revelation or understanding’ and, in essence, celebrates the travels of the Magi. These Magi, or three wise men, as they are more commonly known to us, reputedly came from all over the world.

We are told that they were inspired to follow a bright star in the sky which led them to find the newly born baby Jesus lying in a manger in a stable in Bethlehem. Most of us already know this and that the Magi, or three kings, arrived to see the baby Jesus bearing gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

‘**Chalking the doors**’ at Epiphany is a centuries long tradition which we celebrate as an invitation and reminder that we too mark God’s blessing on our houses for the coming year. Using blessed ‘Epiphany chalk’ people mark the architrave (chief beam) of the front door with C+M+B and the corresponding year date i.e., this year it reads 20 + C + M + B + 24.

The letters stand for the Latin words, ‘*Christus Mansionem Benedicat*’, meaning, “**May Christ bless this house.**” The letters also stand for the customary names of the Magi who visited Christ i.e., Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

I became aware of this tradition a number of years ago when visiting relatives in Germany and spotting the blessing on a house door. Once I learned of the custom, I decided to use it on my family home and each year since have ‘chalked our front door’. In this way we invite God’s presence into

our homes and ask His blessing upon all those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year.

In many parts of Europe, including Austria, Germany, and Switzerland, the Christmas celebration does not end until this date, now considered the arrival of the three "kings of the orient" in Bethlehem -- and the end of the "twelve days of Christmas" between Christmas and January 6.

**This ‘chalking’ on my front door has often raised curiosity and questions from visitors or passers-by about why, what, when etc.** Never ever, has it been more scrutinised, however, as when about four years ago one January evening two police officers, one male one female, arrived at my door!

They apologised profusely for interrupting my evening but stated that ‘someone’ had reported concerns to the Police that my house may have been targeted! Never even thinking of my ‘marked front door’, I puzzled as to why would anyone have such serious concerns as to report them to the Police? On questioning this the Officers then pointed to the markings above my front door, ‘Oh’, I replied and began to explain the custom of the ‘Chalking of the doors’ around the feast of the Epiphany!

“You see” I said, “...the only one who has targeted me is God”

Both officers looked somewhat mystified but thanked me for the explanation and went away stating very clearly, “Well, we’ve both learned something”!

*God bless and a very happy New Year to everyone.*

## Christmas in Poland with The Missionaries of Charity, 2023.

(Story by a pilgrim)

*The Missionaries of Charity, is an international organization to help the extremely poor.*

*The Missionaries of Charity was founded in Calcutta on 7 October 1950 by Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, an Albanian and former Sister of Loreto, who became universally known as Mother Teresa.*

For most people, spending Christmas with family is the norm. You don't have to think about it. It is expected; it is what people do.

However, for some of us, including myself, every year there is a sense of uncertainty, wondering about the options involved and the best way ahead.

It may have been around last October when I thought to myself that I would like to spend Christmas away from home, in a completely different setting, really experiencing the true meaning of Christmas, free and undisturbed from all material distractions. Mother Teresa said that we don't have to go to Calcutta to help the poorest of the poor; we can find our own "Calcutta" wherever we are. That is very true. However, Mother Teresa also said that "love is giving until it hurts". It is quite a challenge to go to another country where you can't speak the language, meeting sisters, volunteers and others for the first time; getting used to new surroundings, a new culture, different food and sleeping in a bed not of your choice.

Yes, I was ready for the challenge!

I was prepared to go anywhere!

Being heavily involved with The Missionaries of Charity, I have visited

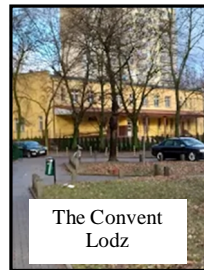
Armenia, Portugal, Spain and Ireland; I have worked alongside the sisters and other volunteers so I have a good knowledge of the structure of the day, which is a beautiful synthesis of work and prayer.

After contacting the relevant sister in London, I was directed to the country of Poland, in a town hitherto unknown to me, Lodz! Apparently, the sisters there needed help.

I travelled to Poland, via Amsterdam and Warsaw on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December. I stayed in Warsaw overnight at the convent, then with the sister's help, took a train to Lodz where the sisters met me.

The convent building in Lodz stands out amongst the gloomy high-rise flats that are all around. It is a bright regular rectangular building, deep yellow in colour, on 2 floors, that had formerly been a school.

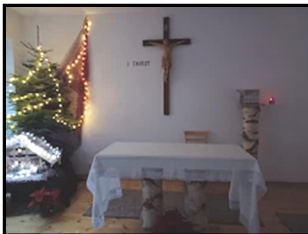
There are 7 sisters resident in Lodz, with the focus on a soup kitchen, providing for as many as 100 people in one setting. There is also a home for men with medical complaints, that otherwise might be on the streets. The sisters provide support, with the aim of integrating them back again into society.



Over the next 2 weeks, my day was very different from how it usually is, with set routines. There was daily

Mass, usually at 7am in the convent. Apostolic activity started at 8am after the Morning Prayer to Our Lady of Czestochowa, before a beautiful painting that adorns the stairway.

My duties covered a wide range of activities; brushing and mopping large rooms, preparing food-one morning I peeled 91 hard-boiled eggs; washing dishes; decorating Christmas trees and the rooms with festive ornaments; helping with theatre props; fetching step ladders; cleaning shelves; filling shopping bags; stacking shelves; and cleaning windows. There was obviously set times for prayer, both at lunch time, in the afternoon and in the evening. Sometimes, I had some free time so I would visit the local supermarket for a few groceries and snacks. Polish is a difficult language but I managed to learn a few stock phrases so I could relate to all I met.



The Polish celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve; we had Mass in the big hall for everyone, followed by dinner for approximately 100 people. The food is quite an acquired taste with cabbage-based dishes, called “kapusta” and a beetroot dish by the name of “buraczki”. All who came that night ate heartily. The volunteers served food and hot tea and coffee. Afterwards, they filled those who came for a meal, their flasks with tea or coffee and their canisters with any food that was left-over, to be taken away.

We also served a big meal to everyone again on Christmas Day. People were given the opportunity to stay overnight in the big dining room, if they so wished. Mattresses were distributed for this purpose.

I learnt so much whilst I was away; a few key words in Polish; the joy of the sisters in their prayer life and carrying out their daily tasks; the care and thoughtfulness of assembling the cribs, the Christmas trees and nativity props; the humility and reverence of those who came to the sister’s house for food; the absence of materialism and how the presence of God brings an abundance of joy.



Whilst in Poland, some of Mother Teresa’s famous quotes came to mind:

*“Love begins with a smile”;*

*“What you can do, I can’t do; what you can’t do, I can do but together we can do something beautiful for God”;*

*“I must accept whatever He gives me and give whatever He takes with a big smile”*

*“How can we love Jesus in the world today? By loving Him in my husband, my wife, my children, my brothers and sisters, my parents, my neighbours, the poor”*

*“It’s not how much we do but how much love we put in the action that matters to Almighty God and that is love for God...”*

*“You are God’s good news; you are god’s love in action”*

*“The more we are in love with Jesus, the more we love poverty and the more*

*we love poverty, the more we will know that freedom, that freedom of heart... the more free you are, the more Christ like you will be and the more Christ like you are, the more loving you will be..."*

Mary is the Queen of heaven and earth, the mediatrix of all graces. The Missionaries of Charity Society is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Cause of our Joy and Queen of the World.

The Society was founded to spread the kingdom of the Immaculate Heart among the poorest of the poor. Mary was the first Missionary of Charity; She received Jesus physically in her body and she is the one to carry Jesus to John. Mary went in haste. She is the first one to nurse Him, to clothe Him, to feed Him, to look after Him, to take care of Him, to teach Him. Mary heard the words uttered from Jesus on the Cross. "I thirst" so that with her and like her we learn to stand by the distressing disguise of Jesus in the world today, especially in the lives of the poorest of the poor, both materially and spiritually and thus satiate His thirst to love and be loved.

***"Whatever you did to the least of Mine, you did it to Me". (Matt:25)***

Mother Teresa acknowledged not only the material poverty that exists but also the poverty of being unwanted, uncared for, having no one to call your own, having no one to smile at—they are hungry for love.

Maybe, that kind of hunger is in your own home, your own family, maybe there is an old person in your family, maybe there is a sick person in your family; maybe, there is a neighbour that needs some support?

Have you ever thought that your love for God can be shown by giving a smile, maybe just giving a glass of water, maybe just sitting there and talking to someone for a little while?

*The Missionaries of Charity have homes all throughout the world, in different countries. Here in England, there are houses in London and also, a house in the west end of Newcastle.*

**Anon.**

### **St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta**

believed in Medjugorje, prayed to Our Lady of Medjugorje, and once said, *"I asked Our Lady of Medjugorje to come to my first home for the dying in Calcutta, and she did!" Praise God.*

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

### **Prayer Intention for FEBRUARY 2024**

### **‘For the Terminally ill’**



“

Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

*Pope Francis*

”



## RIP



**Fr John Gibbons**  
**died Saturday 23 December 2023, aged 85.**

Please pray for the repose of Fr Gibbons's soul.

Fr John's body was received into Sacred Heart Church, Boldon Colliery on Tuesday 9 January at 6.30pm and Holy Mass was celebrated.

Bishop Stephen Wright celebrated his Requiem Mass at 12.45pm on Wednesday 10 January at Sacred Heart Church, followed by burial at Jarrow Cemetery.

**May he rest in peace.**

Many of you will recall The Gibbons brothers, Fr. John & Fr. Eddie from Stockton who were part of The Hexham & Newcastle Diocese.

Fr Eddie Gibbons spent many years working in the African Missions.

He was parish priest in many parishes throughout the Diocese.

He travelled to Medjugorje on Pilgrimages many times .

Fr. Eddie died October 2012.

Fr John described Medjugorje as one of his Brother Eddies most favourite place on earth. Where heaven meets earth. The place between the hills.

For many years Holy Mass was offered in Medjugorje for Fr. Eddie.

Fr. John would always acknowledge this and send Medjugorje (North East) a special 'Thank You Card' , for the Mass Offering.

## Dates for your Diary

### February

14th Ash Wednesday

22nd The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle

### March

1st St. Davids Day

18th St. Patricks Day

19th St. Josephs

24th Palm Sunday

### March (cont)

29th Good Friday

30th Holy Saturday

31st Easter Sunday

### April

7th Divine Mercy Sunday