

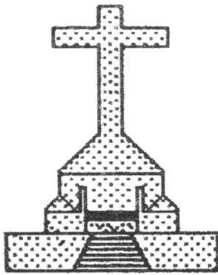
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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MEDJUGORJE CENTRE NORTH EAST

(Established since 1989)



www.medjugorjene.co.uk

Email: **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

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PRAY FOR US

**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-
Adrian Duffy

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General Information—**Standby List
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Kath Ash (Medjugorje Centre NE)
Tel: **01670 733358**

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
CELEBRATION**

(See page 8)



2.30pm 7th April 2024

Led by Fr. Martin Morris

Litany and Rosary,
divine mercy Prayers.

All welcome.

**Our Lady Queen of Peace
Station Road,
Penshaw,
Houghton-le-Spring
DH4 7JZ**

Jesus I trust in You

**MEDJUGORJE
AFTERNOON OF PRAYER**

led by Fr. Martin Morris

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

10th March 2024

Cancelled 14th April 2024

**** Resumes 12th May 2024 ****

*Cancelled 9th June 2024
due to Pilgrimage*

Our Lady Queen of Peace

Station Road
Penshaw
Houghton-le-Spring
DH4 7JZ



**OCTOBER PILGRIMAGE
TO MEDJUGORJE**

Sunday 13th Oct – 20th Oct 2024

**Cost £740 pp sharing
£860 pp for single room.**

Travel insurance available £60 pp

Newcastle to Dubrovnik

Includes: Return Flights,
airport duty and passenger taxes.

7 nights dinner, bed and breakfast in
4* hotel near church.

Full pilgrimage programme with
local guide. Priest travelling with
group.

Travelling with Northern Star Travel
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OUR LADY'S MESSAGE—To the World

Given 25th February 2024 to Marija Pavlovic



“Dear children! Pray and renew your heart so that the good which you have sown may bear the fruit of joy and oneness with God. Darnel has seized many hearts and they have become unfruitful; that is why, you little children, be light, love and my outstretched hands in this world which yearns for God Who is love.

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, Let us turn to Sacred Scripture to help us in our reflection on the words from Our Lady. In the Gospel of Matthew (13:24) Jesus tells a parable.

“The Kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed seed in his field. While everyone was asleep, his enemy came, sowed darnel among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the the darnel appeared as well. The owner’s labourers went to the landowner and said, ‘Sir, was it not good wheat that we sowed In the field? If so where does the darnel come from? He said to them, “Some enemy has done this. And the workers said to him, “Do you want us to go and weed it out? But he said, “No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest, and then I shall say to the reapers, First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.” (Matthew : 13 : 24-30.)

In this month’s message Our Lady emphasises the drama between the ‘Fruitful’ and the ‘Unfruitful.’ - The fruit of Joy, as opposed to the Darnel of the evil one. It appears with this message Our Lady is calling us to become more aware of the spiritual battle raging around us, but she also emphasises the power of the good seed which we have sown, **“That it may bear the fruit of Joy and oneness with God.”**

“Dear Children, Pray and renew your heart so that the good which you have sown may bear the fruit of Joy and oneness with God.”

It is in the joyful encounter with God in prayer that our hearts are renewed. The heart is the inner core of each person, the place where we come face to face with the living Lord. All renewal begins with prayer- the turning of our hearts to Him. Then Our Lady reminds us of the ‘Good’ we have ‘sown.’ In the parable the landowner – who is God, believes more in the good seed than in the darnel. The good will outweigh the bad. Our Lady is asking us to really

believe this at the current time when evil and the powers of darkness seem so strong. The good that each of us has sown will not go to waste, everything is noted by God. This is a call to believe in the power of the good seed, the sacrifices we may have made, the small acts of charity shown, the prayers offered. There may be a temptation to think it all has come to nothing. But our Lady is encouraging us not to think in such a way. But with Faith and love to believe in every good act and thought, and we can take Joy in this and union with God, because God is Good.

“Darnel has seized many hearts and they have become unfruitful, that is why you, little children, be light, love, and my outstretched hands in this world which yearns for God who is love.”

We are all aware of the terrible suffering currently experienced in the world, Palestine, Ukraine and Yemen. We are all aware deep in ourselves how much humanity is ‘yearning’ for Peace. This is why Our Lady is with us in Medjugorje to show the world the path to Peace, and peace begins in our individual hearts when we are close to God ‘Who is love.’

Let us note the phrase, **“Darnel has seized many hearts.”** The word ‘Seized’ is a powerful word, it tells us of the activity of the Devil, who is conquering hearts at this time. But Our Lady asks us to be ‘Light, Love, and her outstretched hands.’ Let us really take these words to heart and reflect on the invitation of our Blessed Mother to be Light where there is darkness, Love where there is hatred

and her loving hands in a world ‘yearning’ for the God who is love.

Our Lady has told us many times that without us her plans cannot be realised. So let us resolve to be **Light, Love, and the hands of Mary**, so that the darnel that has seized many hearts will be thwarted by the good of so many of our Lady’s children.

God Bless,
Fr. Martin.

Let us pray with the Holy Father:

**Prayer Intention for
MARCH 2024**

**‘For the Martyrs of our
Day, Witnesses to Christ’**



“

Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

”

Pope Francis



HIS WORDS.
YOUR JOURNEY.
TOGETHER.

"God is always close to us.

*God's attitude can be
expressed in three words:*

- ***closeness,***
- ***compassion***
- ***tenderness.***

*God makes himself close
to accompany us
tenderly, and to forgive
us.*

*Do not forget this:
closeness, compassion
and tenderness.*

This is God's attitude. "

Pope Francis
March 5, 2024

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis



- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words; be silent and listen



REPORT FROM SISTER EMMANUEL

of The Community of The Beatitudes
www.sremmanuel.org

Medjugorje, February 18, 2024

Dear friends, praised be Jesus and Mary.

Our Lady's message 25th Jan 2024

"Dear Children, May this time be a time of Prayer."

1. What are the two weapons that will remain? This last message from Our Lady on prayer summarizes, in a single sentence, the purpose of Medjugorje and Mary's immense desire for her children. Neglecting prayer has serious consequences. Let us think of the apparitions of Akita, in Japan, that have been recognized by the Church, where, through the visionary Agnese Katsuko Sasagawa, the Blessed Mother emphasizes the urgency of prayer in these apocalyptic times. Prayer is vital. It cannot be ignored. The future of the world depends on prayer. And yet, people's consciences are asleep in the darkness of materialism. Our Lady does not hesitate to say that **"the only weapons left to you will be the Rosary and the Sign that my Son left (the Eucharist)"**.

In Akita Japan, Mary strongly invites us to pray for the Pope, for bishops and priests, and to **"pray in reparation for the evil done by men"** (PS1).

She even announces a time when we will see "bishops against bishops, cardinals against cardinals."
 (13.10.1973).

Today more than ever, our weapons are prayer and the Eucharist. This is no longer the time for speaking and expressing opinions, this is the time for prayer, because a large part of humanity still does not know Christ, after 2000 years of Christianity.

"Without Jesus, Mary tells us, you have no peace, no joy, no future and no eternal life." (message to Marija of July 25, 2010). It is not too late.



*Miraculous statue
 of Our Lady of all Nations,
 who wept tears of blood, in Akita*

2. Restarting the first Saturday Devotions? Every one of us can actively work for peace, not only in our own hearts, but also in the world. At Fatima, the Virgin Mary gave us her program for peace, simple, clear and effective. In Medjugorje, she helps us to live this program concretely. She created this oasis of peace to achieve what she began in Fatima; this is why she teaches us at length to become bearers of peace in this world without peace.

Let's take a look at the highlights of this program. On July 13th, 1917, while the 1st World War was raging, Mary recommended to the little shepherds of Fatima certain concrete steps to practice on the first Saturday of each month (also called Saturdays of the Heart of Mary), in reparation for the offenses, blasphemies and ingratitude that wound her Heart and crown it with thorns. This practice means receiving holy communion in reparation for these offences, making a sincere confession of our sins and meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary for fifteen minutes.



Through the practice of this devotion on these first Saturdays of the month, we have a great opportunity to give Our Lady the totally free gift of our love. She did not fail to make a beautiful promise to those who would practice the first Saturdays, since she promises to assist us especially at the hour of death...that is no small thing. But let us freely offer her this prayer, out of pure love for her, to console her for the many offenses that are made against her. It will give her immense joy. Offering this free gift demonstrates our love for her. We do not love because we feel forced. We ourselves know well how to recognize a free gift, a true testimony of love... What is freely given goes straight to the heart.

3. I know a man more powerful than God, said the holy Curé d'Ars - Saint John Vianney - in a homily, to everyone's surprise. He explained, "It is the man who prays." Indeed, our prayer is powerful on the Heart of God and can alter His plan.



Father Matteo La Grua, from Sicily, whose beatification process is underway, is a good example of this. His heart was always praying. He radiated peace and love to all. Many of my friends knew him. Here are some facts from his life that can encourage us to pray endlessly:

Empty tank? One evening, Father Matteo was traveling with his driver to a town in Sicily to give a lecture. Along the way, his driver Franco warned the priest of a real problem: "We are almost out of gas. We are at risk of being stuck. There is little chance we can find a gas station before we get there. "Don't worry," said the father, "we will pray. Keep driving." Father Matteo put his head in his hands as usual and started praying in silence. The strange thing is that the fuel dial needle, instead of continuing to drop, gradually moved up, as if an invisible hand were putting fuel in the tank. When they got to their destination, the needle indicated that the tank was completely full.

God can do this, when he receives the prayers of his children. Such signs

were given to many pilgrims coming to Medjugorje in the 80s. Finding no gas station in Yugoslavia, they were still able to drive to Medjugorje.

"The Lord will think of it". Father Matteo was supposed to drive to a meeting in Agrigento to lead a retreat with *Vita Nuova*, some 200 km from Palermo. Four people were with him. In the afternoon, his driver said that it was impossible to leave because the 4 tires were worn down, and it would be dangerous and very unwise to drive in such conditions. In addition, the police could arrest them and fine them heavily. But Father Matteo was not impressed by the obstacle.



"Start the ignition, let's go. he said, and don't worry, it's up to the Lord to think about it. He put his head in his hands and started praying. The driver knew him well: he knew that father Matteo's prayer was astonishingly effective and that his faith could move mountains. So, he turned on the ignition and started driving. Father Matteo remained in prayer throughout the whole journey, his head in his hands. The 200 km went smoothly. The passengers remained serene, albeit a little puzzled. When they got to their destination, the driver rushed outside to see the condition of the tires.... When he saw them, he began to weep. He told Father Matteo: "Look, the 4 tires that were worn and

smooth, are now brand new. We can even see the rubber hairs on them as if they have just come out of the factory."

This was the man who got everything from the Lord. How did he do it? I believe the answer lies in this message from Mary: **"Dear children, I invite you to become prayer."** (July 25, 2017). Indeed, it is one thing to pray, it is another to become prayer. Then it is Jesus Himself who prays to His Father within us. "The Father and I are one," Jesus tells us (John 10:30-38), and Jesus invites us to be one in Him as He is one with the Father. **This is our Blessed Mother's dream for us,** through her visits to Medjugorje. This is the reason for her constant invitations to pray. She knows the path of sacrifice and happiness involved, and she has been telling us about it for so many years.

4. A suggestion for a good start to Lent. To answer the call of the Theotokos, the Mother of God, I wish to invite each one of us to show our gratitude to God. The aim is to dedicate the entire next day to giving thanks and being grateful to God. Pray only these prayers for 24 hours. **How much suffering would be alleviated** if we thanked God for everything He gives us instead of complaining. How many evil spirits would stop tormenting us. The enemy flees before a grateful and always joyful heart. **"The secret to happiness,** said Little Flower, is to find wonderful everything that the Lord sends us."

*“Dear children,” Mary tells us,
“Thank God for all that He gives you
and thank Him for all that He takes
from you.”*

Dearest Gospa, *we absolutely want to
enter into Eternal Life.*

*Your Son Jesus shed His Blood to
prepare a place for us and is
waiting for us.*

*During this Lent, give us your
courage to make the right choices,
at all costs.*

*In this way, at our great encounter
with the Father,
we will not regret it, neither we,
nor our children,
nor our children's children.*

Sister Emmanuel,
Community of the Beatitudes

PS:1 In April 1984, Monsignor John Shojiro Ito, Bishop of Niligata in Japan, declared that the events of Akita are of supernatural origin and - quoting the words of Cardinal Ratzinger - that Akita's message **is the continuation of the messages of Fatima.** In June 1988, Cardinal Ratzinger defined Akita's events as trustworthy.

THE CHAPLET TO THE DIVINE MERCY

*(for recitation on
ordinary rosary beads)*



Begin with: *Our Father ...Hail
Mary ...I believe in God*

On the five large beads:

*Eternal Father, I offer You the Body
and*

*Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your
dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus
Christ, in atonement for our sins and
those of the whole world.*

On the ten small beads:

*For the sake of His sorrowful
Passion, have mercy on us and on
the whole world.*

Conclude with (3 times):

*Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy
Immortal One, have mercy on us and
on the whole world.*

JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

***Divine Mercy Sunday
7th April 2024***

Divine Mercy Conference February 2024 – Dublin Ireland

(Extract from Report)



**"Jesus I Trust In You."
This is a call to trust in God.
Trust is the opposite of fear.**

We thank you most sincerely for your continuous prayer for all the participants of the Divine Mercy Conference over the past thirty-two years and for all those carried in their hearts

We thank you for your generosity in praying for us and all who attended the conference both in person and online from all parts of Ireland, USA, UK, Australia, South America, Indonesia, India, Eastern Europe and many other countries.

We, as apostles, have a special task of interceding with Jesus for ourselves, our parish, our country, and the whole world.

Prayer is needed now with so much unrest and crises in the world.

The theme of this year's conference is: "Jesus I Trust In You.". This is a call to trust in God. Trust is the opposite of fear.

February 2024 Speakers -

Rev Fr. Eunan McDonnell SDB (Spiritual Director)

**Rev Father Bishop Alphonsus Caullinan DD, Fr. Brendan Walsh SAC,
Fr. Pat Collins CM LA STL, Fr. Shaun Kelly OFM**

Sister Mary Clair Kenneally OLM and Sr Donate Foarbaniec OLM

Fr Jamie Twohig SAL

Our mission is to pray for Divine Mercy in every heart, in every home, in every parish, in every county, in every country. Please gather to pray for the conference, the Church and the world, in small groups, be it with family, friends or neighbours.

We again thank you for all your support throughout the years.

May Jesus the Divine Mercy bless you a thousand-fold.

(Conference Chairman – Decon Don Devaney)

Speakers for the Divine Mercy Conference include the following:



Rev. Dr. Eunan McDonnell, SDB is Spiritual Director to the Divine Mercy Conference Committee, Provincial of the Salesian Order in Ireland. He completed his doctorate on the life and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and has published a number of books and articles on Salesian Spirituality. He has lectured in theology and spirituality at All Hallows College Dublin, St.

Patrick's College Maynooth and the Diocesan Seminary Adigrat (Ethiopia) and is currently lecturing on the Salesian Youth Ministry and Spirituality Higher Diploma course in Maynooth. The themes of the call to holiness for all, and the mercy of God for everyone, are foundational to Fr. Eunan's own faith and spirituality.

Readers will be interested to know that Fr. Eunan is the brother of Deceased Fr. Ciaran McDonnell Spiritual Director of Medjugorje North East & PP Priest for many years for Hexham & Newcastle Dioceses.

During his Sabbatical Fr. Ciaran worked as Medjugorje Priest for The English Speaking Pilgrims,.

Bishop Alphonsus Callinan DD - former Primary School Teacher was ordained in 1994.

Bishop of Waterford & Lismore, Bishop Callinan, supports the Holy Family Mission a Residential Catholic Community for those who desire to become a Disciple of Christ to the world.

Sister Mary Claire Kenneally OLM born & educated in Co. Clare. She was professed in perpetual vows and assigned to Cracow.

She is currently based at The Sister of Our Lady of Mercy, Massachusetts. The Charisms, of the Sisters of Mercy is to cooperate with the Mercy of God by expressing Mercy in thoughts word & deed.

Sr M Donata Farbanec OLM Born Poland, Joined the Congregation of Our Lady of Mercy 1995 where Sister Faustina lived out her religious life. Sr. Donata works as a member of a

formation team accompanying candidates on the 1st stages of religious life, She also lectures internationally.

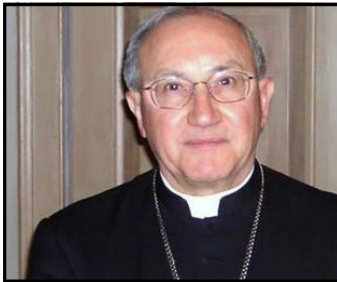
Fr Jamie Twohig SAC grew up in Limerick Cork.

During a Pilgrimage to Medjugorje 2005, he became convinced of God's Love for him Personally.

After experiencing the death of his Father and followed by a time of intense prayer, he joined Youth 2000 and was impressed by the teaching of the Catholic Faith with the gift of the Eucharist and the Joy that the Priesthood brought to so many Priests. He realised God was calling him to a priestly vocation and joined the Palatine Community at Thurles. He was ordained in 2016 and serves the parish of St Annes Shankill, with Youth 2000. Fr. Jamie is also a programme Host of Radio Maria.

Archbishop Aldo Cavalli:
Harmony between God and man is an essential act for world peace
 (06.01.2024)

Numerous pilgrims entered into the year 2024, by celebrating the Holy Mass in Medjugorje. With the concelebration of 102 priests, the Holy Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Aldo Cavalli, the Apostolic Visitor with a special role for the parish of Medjugorje, who at the beginning of his homily reminded that every year, on the first day of January, we celebrate the World Day of Peace.



"Peace! Peace! Peace! May peace reign between God and people! This profound message sets two clear starting points for peace: God and man, God and human-being. Harmony between God and human beings is an essential act for world peace", Archbishop Cavalli said, adding that "we begin this new year blessed by God".

"This blessing of God will never end. God is faithful. On our part, throughout this year, we should value this blessing with our efforts, with our will, with our generosity, with our lives," said Msgr. Cavalli, and looking back at the Holy Mass readings, he spoke about St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians, in which he says: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son: he was born of a woman ... and we receive adoption" (Gal 4, 4-5).

"This statement is very important. We live in time. St. Paul sees time in its entirety, both in its transience (time passes) and in its greatness (it was before us and continues after us). When the fullness of time comes, God sends His Son, Jesus, in whom, thanks to the Holy Spirit, we receive adoption", said Archbishop Aldo Cavalli, explaining that "In this whole development of God's initiative in time, Mary has her own, very important, share.

"God chooses her, by grace, to be the Mother of His Son according to the natural law, the incarnation. Mary accepts that choice in herself and gradually understands and realizes God's way, keeping and considering everything that happened. God's plan in each of us is always one step, gradual, and in development.

May God bless each of us in this year, which we begin this night, and may His blessing always protect us", Archbishop Cavalli concluded.

The Holy Mass was preceded by a prayer vigil, and a live nativity scene was also staged.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje
250 pilgrims from different parts of Croatia
travel to Medjugorje
 (Medjugorje-info.com)

Fr. Ante Barisic with 250 pilgrims from Croatia in Medjugorje.

This Friday and Saturday (February 16 and 17, 2024), a group of 250 pilgrims from different parts of Croatia came to Medjugorje (one bus is from Istria, one is from Zaprešić, and one double bus is from Slavonski Brod and Osijek, and several other personal cars)

gathered around their frequent guest for spiritual retreats they are organizing, Fr. Ante Barisic.

More than a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, this too will be a spiritual retreat for all participants at the beginning of the Lenten season.

The pilgrimage began on Thursday during the night drive to Medjugorje. Immediately from the bus they went to pray the Way of the Cross on Cross Mountain. After two-and-a-half hours of prayer, they settled down in their boarding houses, and then immediately rushed to the testimonies in Mother's Village. After lunch there was a short break and an evening prayer program with an emphasis on taking time for a good confession.

On Saturday morning, they go to pray on Apparition Hill, and then they go to witness with Fr. Cornelia. In the afternoon, Fr. Damir Pavic will come to them, who will give them an urging, Holy Mass and Adoration – a short spiritual retreat. And at night on Saturday they head back to their houses.



"This is a truly time of grace. Medjugorje is inexhaustible and I am happy with what I have personally experienced, so I want my pilgrims to experience it as well. We see what kind of world we live in and how difficult it is and how much we need the strength of the Holy Spirit. And that is why it is necessary to constantly stir up this grace. There is no better time than Lent, a time of conversion, prayer, penance and fasting—that is, a return to God! It will be difficult on the pilgrimage and there will be suffering, but the Lord bless it all. What makes me most happy is when we end up coming home, and they're already asking, "When are we going to do it again?"

There are a lot of young people in the group and a lot of families. We see in the world today satan is attacking families. One can hardly come across a family or community where people are united, where people are in communion, in love. Satan wants to destroy it. That is why it is impossible to go on without conversion, without forgiveness, without prayer, without the power of the Holy Spirit. That is why we are here and we pray and feel that this is a great time of grace. – Fr. Ante told us.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Feast Day 11th February

Throughout the shrines of the world Our Lady's message is the same, from Lourdes 1858 to Medjugorje 1981 until Present

Our Lady's message of Love is for mankind to turn back to God

For Catholics, Lourdes is one of the world's beloved

Shrine. Nestled in a valley in the south-western part of the Hautes-Pyrenees France, it is the scene of pilgrims gathering from all over the world.

On February 11, 1858, the Virgin revealed herself to a poor shepherd girl, Bernadette Soubirous born January 7, 1844. Eighteen such apparitions were reported.

At the Grotto of Massabielle the Virgin Mary appeared 18 times to Bernadette between February 11 and July 16, 1858.

She asked for a chapel to be built on the site of the apparitions and when asked who she was, she replied: "*I am the Immaculate Conception.*"

Our Lady asked Bernadette to wash her face at the fountain but there was no fountain, '*Go and drink at the spring and wash there*' so Bernadette dug a hole in the ground, and with muddy water washed her face while people ridiculed her, however from there sprang the famous fountain of water that has healing attributes. Many sick people have bathed themselves in that water and there have been at least 64 reported miraculous healings.

At the back of the Grotto, is the Miraculous Spring that spouted on February 25, 1858, during the ninth

apparition. The water from this spring is collected in several reservoirs, from which you can drink.



Millions of people from all over the world go to Lourdes in the hope of obtaining help from the generous Mother of God.

Bernadette became a nun. She died in 1879 aged 35. She was beatified in 1925 and Canonized in 1933. Her body remains incorrupt.

“

*I am
The Immaculate
Conception*

Our Lady of Lourdes

”

Dates for your Diary

March

18th St. Patricks Day
19th St. Josephs Day
24th Palm Sunday
29th Good Friday
30th Holy Saturday
31st Easter Sunday

April

7th Divine Mercy Sunday

FR. JOZO'S EYES WERE HEALED WITH LOURDES WATER.

On the 14th July 1962, Fr. Jozo Zovko received his Franciscan Habit.



Fr. Jozo Medjugorje Parish priest, during Apparitions in 1981

It was reported: A couple of months later in the Autumn, he was conscripted into the army and his novitiate had to be interrupted. He started his military service in Kosovo, but could not complete the full term as he was having difficulty with his eyes. He was sent for some eye examinations to Prestina where he was temporarily discharged from the army. Sometime later he was declared 'unfit for service'.

Fr. Jozo's eye sight began to deteriorate and one of his teachers sent him to Sarajevo to a famous doctor who said that his cornea should be replaced but it would be a very difficult, complicated operation. The procedure did not take place.

One of Fr. Jozo's professors was very concerned about him, he went to Lourdes and prayed for him there, that he would not lose his sight. He brought back some Lourdes Water to him and told him how to bath his face with it and to turn especially to God and Our Lady with faith.

Doing exactly as he was told and placing all his trust in God and Our Lady, his eyes were healed, he could see properly again.

RIP



**Fr Mark Whelehan CP
Minsteracres
died 29th February 2024**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Mark Whelehan CP, late of Bridge St. Kilbeggan and Minsteracres Monastery and Retreat Centre, Durham, in North East England.

Fr Mark was ordained into the Passionist Order on February 28, 1954 and died on 29th February 2024 in his 98th year. Peacefully in Weardale Community Hospital.

Fr Mark seemed ageless and will be sadly missed by Medjugorje North East.

At Minsteracres Retreat Centre he supported and reassured us, he would always be there to support us and hear our Confession and serve each one of us.

Every year he was waiting for Medjugorje North East to arrive to give us his usual warm welcome; he knew most of us by name.

He had great Faith and a wonderful devotion to Our Lady of Medjugorje. He loved the music.

We praise God for his 70 years of Ordination into the Priesthood sadly just days before his died .

Funeral arrangements to follow.

May he rest in peace.