

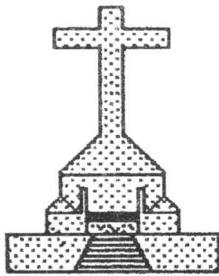
NUMBER 408: May 2025 : FREE

Published Monthly

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 AFTERNOON OF PRAYER

led by Fr. Martin Morris

**3rd Sunday of the month
4pm**

15th June 2025
(Including 44th Anniversary of
Apparitions)

20th July 2025

NOTE: Change of Church

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate
Village Lane,
Washington,
Tyne & Wear
NE38 7HS



Medjugorje Centre (North East)

MEDJUGORJE RETREAT AT MINSTERACRES

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

Cost is £195 pp

Fri 10th –12th October 2025

£48 Deposit required

Booking forms available from

**Marian Fletcher
Telephone 0191 4174413**

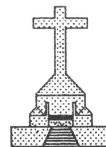
MEDJUGORJE CENTRE NORTH EAST

Invites you to celebrate the
**44th Anniversary of
The Apparitions at
Medjugorje**

**Sunday 15th June 2025
4pm**
in conjunction with the Medjugorje
afternoon of prayer

Led by **Fr. Martin Morris**

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate
Village Lane,
Washington,
Tyne & Wear
NE38 7HS



Medjugorje Youth Festival 2025

4th—7th August

“ Let us go to the house of the Lord”
(Ps 122:1)

First established in 1989 by Franciscan priests, the Medjugorje Youth Festival (also known as '**Mladifest**') is a yearly celebration to mark the birthday of the Virgin Mary for young Catholics.

OUR LADY'S MESSAGE—To the World

Given 25th May 2025 to Marija Pavlovic



“Dear children, in this time of grace, I am calling you to be people of hope, peace and joy, so that every person may be a peacemaker and a lover of life. Pray, little children, to the Holy Spirit to fill you with the strength of His own Holy Spirit of courage and surrender. And this time for you will be a gift and a walk in holiness towards eternal life. I am with you and I love you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

(With Ecclesiastical approval)

Reflection by Fr. Martin Morris

Spiritual Director of Medjugorje Centre NE

Dear Brother's and Sister's of Medjugorje North East and beyond, Our Lady begins this message by reminding us **‘we are in a time of Grace.’** All time is a time of Grace; from the moment of the Annunciation to Our Lady, with the Incarnation of the Son of God, humanity entered into a time of Grace. “For from his fulness we have all received grace upon grace.” (John ; 1; 16.)

Each time we turn to the Lord in prayer, in Faith, we are receiving the gift of his grace. Grace is God's favour, his blessing, his life. “Hail full of grace,” said the Archangel to Mary at the dawn of our Salvation. (Luke 1: 28.)

With the coming of Our Lady to Medjugorje since June 24th, 1981, we have entered a special time of

Grace for the Church and the world. With Mary's presence and her words to Guide us, Our Lady is reminding us that now is the time for conversion and renewal. So let us truly respond to this **‘time of grace’** in seeing each day as an opportunity to grow closer to the Lord, and to our neighbour too.

‘I am calling you to be people of hope, peace and joy, so that every person may be a peacemaker and a lover of life.’

We see today so many attacks on human life, in so many forms. St. John Paul II called it ‘the culture of death.’ Human life has become so disposable today, attacks on the sacredness of life are many, that is why Our Lady asks us to **‘love life.’**

We are in the Holy Year of Jubilee. The theme for the year is ***‘pilgrims of hope.’*** Our Lady calls us to be people of **‘hope, peace and joy.’** Each of us are invited to cultivate the seeds of hope, peace and joy within us. We begin by deciding for these gifts, and renouncing all bitterness and negativity. Forgiveness is at the heart of this, and asking God in prayer for an increase especially for the gift of Hope is something that should be on our lips often. So many today are tempted to give up hope, but we should remember the prayer we say just before Holy communion. ‘As we await the Blessed Hope.’ Let us ask God for this gift of Hope with renewed fervour.

“Pray little children, to the Holy spirit to fill you with the strength of his own Holy Spirit of courage and surrender.”

The Spirit of God is a spirit of holiness. The Holy Spirit inspires, works wonders, transforms hearts, and guides us on the path of truth and salvation towards eternal life. Our Lady particularly asks that we pray to the Holy spirit for three gifts:

- Strength
- Courage
- Surrender

The spirit comes to help us in our weakness, (Rom. 8:6) The spirit transforms us with courage like the apostles on the day of Pentecost ,

and like Our Lady at the moment of her surrender at the Annunciation. “The Holy spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with his shadow.” (Luke 1: 35.)

We need to be courageous today, both in the Church and in the world. Jesus prayed that we be consecrated in the truth (John 17: 21.) The gift of Holy courage is truly something that comes from God, something that was evident in the lives of all the saints and Martyrs. When our Lady asks us to pray for the gifts of courage and surrender then it is an invite to be the witnesses of God’s love today. Let us remember Our Lady at the moment of the annunciation, “Let it be done to me according to thy word.” (Luke: 1: 37.)

“And this time for you will be a gift and a walk in holiness towards eternal life.”

All those who live by the spirit, Our Lady tells us receive a gift. A gift that enables us to live the life of holiness. In this beautiful phrase Mary tells us about our **‘walk in holiness towards eternal life.’** A walk that is straight and uncomplicated, where she accompanies her children towards Heaven. The goal is eternal life. Our Lady is concerned for our eternal salvation, and she is showing us the path to walk. The Holy Spirit speaks in Mary, who was the first and best disciple of Jesus. As she walked her path of holiness

towards eternal life, let us too open our hearts to the courage and surrender she showed, and pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit to lead us in the ways of God.

Our Lady concludes this message by reminding us that she is with us, and that she loves us.

“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ Let everyone who listens answer. ‘Come’ Then let all who are thirsty come: all who want it may have the water of life, and have it free.” (Rev. 22:17)

God Bless,
Fr. Martin

Medjugorje Pilgrimage 1st —8th June 2025

Jet2 Newcastle to Dubrovnik Croatia, to Medjugorje

(Further articles to Follow in June Newsletter)



A warm friendly welcome awaited us at Dubrovnik Airport by our Northern Star Guide – Julia

An atmosphere of Prayer prevailed throughout the week maintained by Our Spiritual Director Fr. Martin Morris, Parish Priest of Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington, supported by Fr. Paul Kilduff, St Mary's, Hexham.

Medjugorje is a place where the Veil between Heaven and Earth is lifted we are truly in the presence of ‘Our Mother Mary - Queen of Peace’.

During our Pilgrimage Holy Mass was Offered for all Deceased Priests and ‘Friends of Medjugorje’ and Pilgrims who were unable to make the Pilgrimage.

We were privileged to attend Holy Mass Offered for the English-Speaking Pilgrims led by Fr. Martin Morris in **The Parish Church of St. James Medjugorje**

Holy Mass was led by Fr. Martin I & Fr. Paul in:

The Divine Mercy Chapel at Surmanci - where we also venerated the Relics of St. Faustina and Saint John Paul II

Mass was offered in The Immaculate Conception Parish of Tihaljina which displays the Statue of Our Lady of Grace, we were all consecrated to Our Lady.

We attended a talk at **The Shrine of St Anthony of Padua at Humac**, given by **Fr. Petar Ljubcic**. He is the priest to whom the Medjugorje visionary, Mirjana, will give the Secrets, ten days before they occur so that he announces them to the world .

On our return home to board the aeroplane from Dubrovnik – Newcastle, We Followed the new Coastal Route. Our Pilgrimage, continued to the end, with more historic information from Danjela Northern Star Guide.

Candles burned brightly for all Pilgrims who were unable to make the Pilgrimage, they were carried in our hearts & prayers.

Medjugorje Centre (North East)



REPORT FROM SISTER EMMANUEL
of The Community of The Beatitudes
www.sremmanuel.org

Medjugorje, May 17, 2025

Dear friends, praise be to Jesus and Mary!

2. In this “month of Mary”, I would like to tell you a beautiful testimony about the incredible power of the Rosary, a miraculous event which affects me personally because it happened to my father.

During the Second World War, he was arrested by the Gestapo because of his activities as part of the Resistance and was deported to Germany. His mother was a widow, and my father was his only son. This woman of faith entrusted everything to the Virgin Mary who she loved so dearly. This deportation lasted for three long years. What did my grandma do when she had no news? She prayed rosary after rosary and believed with her whole heart and soul that her son would come back. **Her faith in Our Lady was unshakeable.** Out of the 10 men who were arrested alongside my father, he was the only one to come home.

Here is one of the most remarkable fruits of this tireless prayer:

One day, when my father, like all his fellow prisoners was tired and

exhausted, the SS on guard duty asked the prisoners to transport some rocks from a quarry to a building site. Every prisoner was given a rock to transport. When my father saw the rock which had been allocated to him, he knew that his time had come because it was impossible for him to lift this enormous rock. He also knew that if he didn't carry the rock, between the dogs and the weapons of the SS, death would be his end, as this had happened to some of the other prisoners.



Standing near his rock, in distress, he lifted his eyes and saw a nearby house. On the façade, there was an alcove from which presided a statue of the Virgin Mary. As soon as he saw this statue, he silently cried out “Mary, save me!” At that very moment, the rock was no longer heavy, and as my father told us, it became “as light as a piece of confetti!”

This extraordinary instance of divine protection, amongst others, has allowed me to be born. My father never omitted to pray his Rosary every day. He always forgave those who wished him harm in the concentration camps.

3. How immense was our joy as we welcomed Pope Leo XIV on the evening of May 8th on the feast of the Virgin of the Rosary of Pompeii! Numerous prayers and sacrifices were offered to God during the Conclave after the passing of Pope Francis, praying that, with the Holy Spirit, the Cardinals would choose the new vicar of Christ for our time.



The nomination of Pope Leo XIV has kindled great excitement and I am the first to share this enthusiasm for many reasons! One being that **Pope Leo XIV is open to Medjugore** and has advised several people to come here. Day by day, we are going to learn more about this Pope, who has already proven himself as a good Shepherd through the ministries that have previously been entrusted to him.

Our excitement should not mean we forget to pray. We need to continue to pray with all our hearts and raise up to God a particularly intense prayer, because the enemies of Christ and the Church are many and they never rest!

The Gospa's strong exhortation resonates with us today more than ever. It helps us to enter into the spirit and the heart of Mary with regard to the Church:

"...Through love, Jesus seeks unity between Heaven and earth; between the Heavenly Father and you, my children - **His Church.** Therefore, it is necessary to pray much, to pray and love the Church to which you belong. Now, **the Church is suffering** and needs apostles who by loving unity, by witnessing and giving, show the ways of God. The Church needs apostles who by living the Eucharist with the heart do great works; it needs you, my apostles of love. **My children, from the very beginning the Church was persecuted and betrayed,** but day by day it grew.



It is indestructible because my Son gave it a heart - the Eucharist, and the light of His

resurrection shone and will continue to shine upon it. Therefore, do not be afraid..." (2 Dec, 2015)

4. A field of daisies for Pope Leo XIV!

To respond to this urgent call from Mary, I am proposing a very simple and concrete action which has already proved effective in the past. The goal of this initiative is to surround the Holy Father with fervent prayers and to **create a wall of protection around him.**



See this design? This beautiful daisy has 7 petals, one for each day of the week. In the centre, on the yellow flower head, Pope Leo XIV's name is written. On each petal, we will write the name of someone who is willing to pray a Rosary for the protection of the Pope on a particular day of the week. **To do this, we need 7 volunteers** so that the seven rosaries are prayed each week. This initiative is not cumbersome, because each volunteer is simply saying one Rosary each week for the protection of the Pope.

But of course, you have to commit to it! This demands faith and perseverance - two very Marian virtues. If a family cannot gather 7 people, they could link up with another family or with members of a prayer group. When there is a will, there's a way! You will not regret taking part in this wall of protection!

Dearest Gospa, we join our humble prayer to yours, for your son Leo XIV, our dear Pope! Bless him, protect him, inspire him, accompany him in all his ways, hold him constantly to your maternal Heart, surround him with good people wherever he will go, grant him the ability to discern dangers and to proclaim without fear the Words of your Son to all men of good will. Enable him to give his life day by day to the Bride of your Son Jesus, the Church.

Sister Emmanuel,
Community of the Beatitudes

The Jubilee Plenary Indulgence

One of the conditions required to gain a Plenary Indulgence is to pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. Usually this can be attained by simply praying one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Now, what does praying for the intention of the Pope or bishop or anyone else mean? It does not mean that you are to pray for the Pope himself, but for whatever he is praying for or wishes you to pray for.

Let us pray with the Holy Father:

**Prayer Intention for
JUNE 2025**

**‘That the world might grow
in compassion’**



“

Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

”

Pope Francis (RIP)

Prayer for Priests



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

For our part we pray that we may
always be attentive to their needs
and never take them for granted.
They, like us, need friendship and
love, welcome and a sense of
belonging,
kind words and acts of
thoughtfulness.

We pray, also, for the Priests who
have wounded the priesthood.
May we be willing to forgive
and may they be open to healing.
Let us support one another during
times of crisis

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

Amen

MARY'S MEALS

(Founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow)

Early beginnings

In 1983, a pilgrimage to the Marian shrine of Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina renewed Magnus and his family's Catholic faith and led his parents to convert their guesthouse into the Craig Lodge Family House of Prayer, a Catholic retreat centre.

Magnus started his career as a fish farmer in Argyll, Scotland. In 1992 during the Balkan conflict, he and his brother Fergus were so moved by scenes of the conflict on television that they took a week's leave from their jobs, loaded a jeep with aid and joined a convoy travelling to Medjugorje to distribute it.

On their return, donations continued to flood in, resulting in Magnus eventually driving from Scotland to Bosnia-Herzegovina a total of 23 times to deliver vital supplies. Magnus never returned to his old job and instead set up a registered charity called Scottish International Relief (SIR).

The history of Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals grew out of a charity called Scottish International Relief (SIR), which was set up after Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow and his brother Fergus took aid from their home in Scotland to Bosnia-Herzegovina during the conflict in 1992.

Over the next 10 years, SIR

expanded. It began building homes for abandoned children in Romania, helped returning refugees in Liberia by setting up a mobile health clinic, and continued to deliver material aid to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as funding many additional projects.



Initially, the charity relied heavily on the generosity of local people in their village of Dalmally in Argyll, Scotland, who diligently donated food, blankets and other items of aid, which were then

stored in the family shed. That same shed still serves as the global headquarters of Mary's Meals – and Magnus' office as CEO – to this day.

Mary's Meals was founded in 2002

The Mary's Meals campaign was born in 2002 when Magnus visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When Magnus asked her eldest son Edward what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: "I want to have enough food to eat and to be able to go to school one day."

That moment was a key part of the inspiration that led to the founding of Mary's Meals, which began by providing school meals to around 200 children in two primary schools in Malawi.

The charity is named in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty.

2010

400,000 Meals

Children receive Mary's Meals every school day.

Magnus is presented with a CNN Hero award by our friend and global ambassador, Gerard Butler.

Gerard praises Magnus for our work, saying: "Every day Magnus lets children know that they matter, that someone thousands of miles away cares about them."

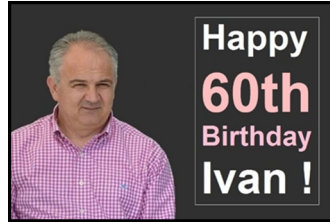
2023

2,429,182 Meals

Children receive Mary's Meals every school day.

In 2023, nutritious school meals were more vital than ever for the more than 2.4 million children receiving Mary's Meals, amid a global cost of living crisis. With support from donors and our trusted local partner in Aleppo, we also activated an emergency response to provide emergency meals to thousands of children and vulnerable adults affected by earthquakes in Syria.

THE BIRTHDAY OF IVAN DRAGICEVIC



Ivan turned 60 on Sunday, May 25, 2025. For him and for all his intentions: "Hail Mary..."

The visionary Jakov of Medjugorje:



"What is happening here in Medjugorje is a plan of God."

"God wanted it this way. What we have to do is something very simple: to thank God.

In order to understand Medjugorje, to be able to accept the invitations that Our Lady has been making to us for a long time, we have to take the first step: to have a clean heart. To free ourselves from everything that disturbs us in order to be able to accept Our Lady's messages. This happens in confession. As long as you are here in this holy place, cleanse your heart of sin. Only with a clean heart can we understand and accept what the Mother is inviting us to."

Medjugorje Apparitions and The Six Visionaries

Apparitions of Our Lady Today

On June 24, 1981, at about 6pm, six young parishioners from Medjugorje: Ivanka Ivankovic, Mirjana Dragicevic, Vicka Ivankovic, Ivan Dragicevic, Ivan Ivankovic and Milka Pavlovic, saw on the hill Crnica (on the place called Podbrdo) an apparition, a white form with a child in her arms. Surprised and scared, they did not approach.

The next day at the same time, June 25, 1981, four of them, Ivanka Ivankovic, Mirjana Dragicevic, Vicka Ivankovic and Ivan Dragicevic, felt strongly drawn towards the place where, the day before, they saw the One who they had recognised as Our Lady. Marija Pavlovic and Jakov Colo joined them. The group of Medjugorje visionaries was formed. They prayed with Our Lady and talked to Her. From that day onward, they had daily apparitions, together or separately.

Milka Pavlovic and Ivan Ivankovic have never seen Our Lady any more.

Medjugorje Visionaries

Visionary Mirjana Dragicevic-Soldo



Mirjana was born on March 18th, 1965, in Sarajevo.

She had daily apparitions until December 25th, 1982. On that day, entrusting to her the tenth secret, Our Lady told her that for the rest of her life she would have one yearly apparition, on March 18th.

Since August 2nd, 1987, on each second day of the month, she hears interiorly Our Lady's voice and prays with her for unbelievers. Sometimes she also sees her. Mirjana is married, she has two children, and she lives with her family in Medjugorje.

The prayer intention that Our Lady confided her: *for unbelievers, those who have not come to know the love of God.*

Visionary Ivanka Ivankovic-Elez



Ivanka was born on June 21st, 1966, in Bijakovici, in the parish of Medjugorje.

She was the first one who saw Our Lady. She had daily apparitions until May 7th, 1985. On that day, confiding to her the tenth secret, Our Lady told her that for the rest of her life, she would have one yearly apparition on June 25th, the anniversary of the apparitions. Ivanka is married, she has three children, and she lives with her family in Medjugorje.

The prayer intention that Our Lady confided her: *for families.*

Visionary Jakov Colo



Jakov was born on March 6th, 1971, in Sarajevo.

He had daily apparitions from June 25th, 1981 to September 12th, 1998. On that day, entrusting to him the tenth secret, Our Lady told him that for the rest of his life he would have one yearly apparition, on Christmas Day.

Jakov is married, he has three children, and he lives with his family in Medjugorje.

The prayer intention that Our Lady confided him: *for the sick*.

Visionary Ivan Dragicevic



Ivan was born on May 25th, 1965 in Bijakovici, in the parish of Medjugorje.

He still has daily apparitions. Our Lady entrusted nine secrets to him.

Ivan is married and he has three children. With his family, he lives in the USA and in Medjugorje.

The prayer intention that Our Lady confided him: *for young people and for priests*.

Visionary Vicka Ivankovic-Mijatovic



Vicka was born on September 9th, 1964, in Bijakovici, in the parish of Medjugorje.

She still has daily apparitions. Our Lady entrusted nine secrets to her. Vicka is married, has one child and lives in Krehin Gradac near Medjugorje.

The prayer intention that Our Lady confided her: *for the sick*.

Visionary Marija Pavlovic-Lunetti



Marija was born on April 1st, 1965, in Bijakovici, in the parish of Medjugorje.

She still has daily apparitions. Through her, Our Lady gives her message to the parish and the world. From March 1st, 1984, to January 8th, 1987, the message was given every Thursday, and since January 1987, on every 25th of the month. Our Lady entrusted nine secrets to her.

Marija is married and she has four children. With her family, she lives in Italy and in Medjugorje.

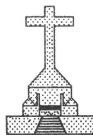
The prayer intention that Our Lady confided her: *for the souls in purgatory*.

FR JOZO ZOVKO'S SUSPENSION IS LIFTED

Father Jozo Zovko received a resolution from Cardinal Fernandez, head of the Dicastery of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, revoking the decree of Bishop Ratko Perić prohibiting him to work in the diocese of Mostar.



Fr. Jozo meeting Msg. Aldi Cavalli



Pray, fast and confess regularly. If receiving my Son in the Eucharist is the centre of your life, then do not be afraid, you can do everything.

June 2, 2012

THE 'FIVE STONES' OF MEDJUGORJE

1. PRAYER,
2. FASTING (Wednesday & Friday)
3. HOLY SCRIPTURE. (daily reading)
4. CONFESSION, monthly at least.
5. EUCHARIST, Frequent celebration

Carmelo Puzollo



Carmelo Puzollo, whose works decorate Medjugorje, died on Saturday, May 24 this year. at the age of 91 years.

He was born in 1934 in San Pietro in Bagno, 35 km from Florence. Carmelo left a beautiful mark in Medjugorje.

He created :

The flat sculptures of the Way of the Cross on Mount Križevac, dedicated to Good Friday in 1988. In addition, he is the author of **flat sculptures of the rosary secrets in Podbrdo.**

The figure of a Saint Leopolda Mandicia, located next to the confessions.

The monument to Slavko Barbarica in the Matczyna Village.

Carmelo Puzollo also painted a **picture of the Queen of Peace**, which was based on an accurate description of visionaries.

The image hangs in the halls John Paul II

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul rest in eternal peace. **Amen.**



2025 Jubilee Year *'Pilgrims of Hope'*

The Holy Father
has declared 2025
to be a Jubilee Year
with the motto and theme

“Pilgrims of Hope.”

The Holy Father has decreed that the
**Holy Doors are opened on Sunday
29th December.**

**The Holy Doors will be closed on
6th January 2026.**

OCTOBER PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

Sunday 12th Oct – 19th Oct 2025

**Cost £799 pp sharing
£949 pp for single room.
Half Board**

Newcastle to Dubrovnik

Booking Forms from:

**Adrian Duffy
Northern Star Travel
46-48 Long Street
Manchester M24 6UQ
0161 773 2115**

**General Information:
Deacon Peter Barrigan (Peterlee)
Tel: 0191 586 4731**



Pilgrims at St. James Church—Medjugorje