

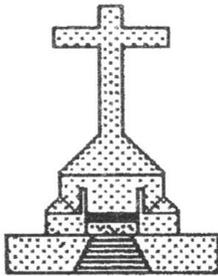
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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

EUCHARIST

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PRAY FOR US

**MEDJUGORJE
AFTERNOON OF PRAYER**

led by Fr. Martin Morris

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

15th February 2026

15th March 2026

**Our Blessed
Lady Immaculate**

Village Lane,
Washington,
Tyne & Wear
NE38 7HS



MEDJUGORJE CENTRE NORTH EAST PILGRIMAGE

in conjunction with

NORTHERN STAR TRAVEL LTD

(Tel: 0161 773 2115)



ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE 2026

led by Fr. Martin Morris

Important Information for Pilgrims – Medjugorje 2026

This pilgrimage follows the safeguarding guidance from the Hexham & Newcastle Diocese. Please note:

- **No medical or care support is provided.** All pilgrims must be over 18 and able to care for themselves or attend with a carer.
- **Wheelchair users are welcome** but must book with an able-bodied helper and inform Northern Star Travel of all needs in advance. Wheelchairs not pre-advised may be refused by the airline.
- **Mountain climbs** (Apparition Hill & Cross Mountain) involve risks—participants climb at their own responsibility, and should ensure their travel insurance covers such activities.

Sunday 7th—14th June 2026

**Cost per person: £815 sharing, £955 in single room
(Deposit required £200)**

Earlybird discount £15pp for bookings made before 31st October 2025

**Flying from Newcastle to Dubrovnik
Half Board
Hotel Orbis3—Close to St. James' Church**

For Booking forms and information please contact-

Adrian Duffy

Northern Star Travel Ltd

46-48 Long Street, Middleton, Manchester, M24 6UQ

0161 773 2115

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

OUR LADY'S MESSAGE—To the World

Given 25th January 2026 to Marija Pavlovic



“Dear children, today, I am calling you to be prayer and a blessing for all those who have not come to know God's love. Little children, be different from others and be positive people of prayer and love towards God, that with your lives, you may be a sign of God's love to others. I bless you with my motherly blessing and intercede for each of you before my Son Jesus. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

(With Ecclesiastical approval)

Reflection by Fr. Martin Morris

Spiritual Director of Medjugorje Centre NE

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Medjugorje North East and beyond, from the start of the Apparitions of Our Lady in Medjugorje, Mary has always emphasised the importance of Prayer. We call Medjugorje, ‘The school of Our Lady’ because it is a place where Our Lady teaches us foremost to ‘Pray with the heart.’ That is with faith and love. So many pilgrims to that holy place have received the gift of a renewed prayer life, deepening their Faith and love for God and neighbour. For Our Lady everything begins and ends in prayer, for it is in prayer, where all genuine renewal begins, and all spiritual and pastoral renewal too.

So with this in mind let us begin our reflection on this month's message.

“Dear Children, today I am calling you to be prayer and a blessing for all those who have not come to know Gods love.”

Our Lady is asking us to think about others, and their spiritual situation. What does it mean to **‘be prayer ?’** In St. Luke's gospel (18:1) Jesus teaches the parable of the persistent Widow and her determined search for justice. It begins, *“Jesus taught them a parable about the need to pray continually and never loose heart.”* **To ‘be prayer and a blessing’.** – ‘or to pray continually, doesn't mean to be always saying our prayers, this would not be possible. Rather it means to always carry within us the grace and the power of prayer. If we are in regular contact with God in prayer, then we should always have an awareness that we carry a presence with us. St. Terese of Lisieux describes prayer as ‘spiritual sunbathing.’

In other words we reflect the rays of the sun on our faces when we have been in the sun. so too in Prayer.

Gods presence goes with us. We take into different situations the Lord's presence because we have encountered him in prayer. Prayer is effusive. Encouraged by the example of my parents, I too desired to pray. St. John 23rd, saw his Grandfather praying in the fields of Northern Italy one early morning, and he too desired to speak to God. *'Let your light shine.'* (Mt; 5: 16.)

The one who prays becomes prayer and a blessing for others.

On many occasions Our Lady has told us that she is coming to teach us the way of prayer. This is an inner process of the spirit, our growth in prayer requires generosity of heart, so that we do not remain on a superficial level in the spiritual life.

'Christ lives his new life in every Christian, who grows until he reaches Christian adulthood. Christ grows in the Christian as faith and love grow stronger, as the Christian becomes more and more aware of his Christianity, and takes on his Christian responsibility more deeply.' N (Romano Guardini.)

“Little children, be different from others and be positive people of prayer and love towards God, that with your lives you may be a sign of Gods love towards others.”

Our Lady wants us to stand out as her “Dear Children.” Children who are not persuaded by worldly values and trends. But those who are truly with her Son, and his commandments. The difference is we have said ‘yes’ to God, as Mary did at the annunciation. Negativity and cynicism are in plentiful supply today, and they have a corrosive effect on the human spirit. Our Lady asks us to

be ‘Positive people of prayer and love towards God.’ People who ‘Await the Blessed hope’ of the coming of our Saviour Jesus. As we begin this New year let this be our attitude, - a true sign of Gods love towards others in all our words and actions.

“Little Children, you speak much about God, but you bear witness little with your life. Therefore, little children, decide for conversion, for your life to be true before God, so that in the truth of your life, you may bear witness to the beauty that God gave you. (25th July, 1996.)

Every Blessing for 2026.

Fr. Martin

Let us pray with the Holy Father:

**Prayer Intention for
February 2026**

**‘For children with
incurable diseases’**



“

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

”

Pope Leo XIV



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

Medjugorje, January 18, 2026

Dear Friends, praise be to Jesus and Mary!

Our Lady's message to Jakov on December 25, 2025:

“Dear Children, today, on this day of grace, in a special way I am calling you to complete surrender to Jesus. **Little children, surrender to Him your wounds and pains, your past and future,** and permit Jesus to begin to rule in your lives. My children, only with complete surrender, Jesus gives Himself in your life, and this is the greatest gift that you can receive.

Pray that you may comprehend how precious you are for Jesus and how much He loves you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

(With Ecclesiastical approval)



2. It's not so easy!

The message entrusted to Jakov and Mary's invitation to total surrender to Jesus touched many hearts! Her request is precise: to surrender completely to Jesus our wounds, our pain, our past, our future... Who doesn't find this call challenging? But true surrender is not easy, it is demanding, very demanding. It has nothing to do with passivity, for

it requires great vigilance of heart and mind; it requires a strong decision on our part.

What powerfully helps us in this choice of surrender is prayer; **for in prayer, Jesus listens intently to our hearts,** he hears and takes upon himself all that we experience, and this intense loving presence of his makes us feel safe. Even without feeling anything, we offer Him our complete trust, knowing that He guides our lives and desires in the best way for us. He is closer to us than we are to ourselves; nothing escapes Him of what we feel, and it is He who takes the steering wheel in His own divine way, not us. Thankfully!

Prayer from the heart and trust that is what allows us to calmly relinquish the helm into His hands! Then we make Him smile; He is happy to be able to do His job.

Persevere in total surrender to Jesus is setting oneself on the path to Heaven, even amidst external and internal waves.

I remember a couple who came to visit the French Mystic, Marthe Robin (PS4), in the 1970s. This couple was going through a very difficult time in their family life, and they came to Marthe seeking guidance to overcome this overwhelming ordeal. Marthe told them, **"You must surrender!"** But in their distress, they replied that it was impossible for them to surrender. Then Marthe—who was experiencing the Passion of Christ every week—directly showed them the only path that could truly help them, and she told them:

"When one cannot surrender, one has to surrender anyway!"

They had not expected such an answer! However, thanks to Marthe, they understood that this was heaven's answer and that there was no other. **It is about surrendering oneself into someone's hands, and that makes all the difference. And if that someone is my Creator and my God, in other words, love itself, that changes everything.** It's as if I were saying to Jesus, **"I'm done, I can't do anything more, you, do something!"** And in that moment, true love wins.



Little Thérèse of Lisieux, who was not spared from hardship during her short life, reveals to us the secret of her holiness:

"Now I have no desires except to love Jesus madly. (...) Now only abandonment guides me; I have no other compass! I can no longer ardently ask for anything except the perfect fulfillment of God's will for my soul, without creatures being able to hinder it..."

3. Parental pain.

Years ago, a family opened their hearts to me, expressing their grief over one of their sons who was going astray in many ways and, moreover, had rejected the faith. Since they sometimes came to Medjugorje and were fed from the words of the Blessed Mother, they began to pray and fast

fervently, knowing that through fasting and prayer, so much could be obtained (PS2). Their waiting lasted for years, and their pain did not cease. However, they did not abandon their good intentions, entrusting their son to the Heart of Jesus and that of Mary, trusting that, despite appearances, God was not deaf to their cries.

The day of their son's conversion finally arrived! But what a surprise it was for them! Heaven had bestowed its graces, exceeding their expectations! Indeed, **their son was not content with simply converting radically, but he wanted to involve his parents in his conversion.** Smiling, they told me how things had turned out in their family life... Their son spoke to them of the urgent need to pray, but he had planned such an intense prayer schedule that his wonderful parents had trouble keeping up! **"We've prayed so much for him,"** they told me, "So now is not the time to tell him he's praying too much, and that it's too much for us! With work, we are tired, but so happy!" In short, they obediently followed their son's busy plan.

He married sometime later a very good person; they had several children and strongly testify to the blessings promised by Our Lady to all those who take seriously the words of grace and salvation that she has given to the world since 1981 in her messages...



Abandoning one's future? Fear of the future is commonplace today, stirred up by the Enemy. It also includes the fear

of death or the death of our loved ones. But let us remember this word from our Heavenly Mother, who already knows our future very well, inscribed in the Heart of her Son:

“If you surrender yourself to me, you will not even notice the passage from this life to the next. You will begin to live the life of heaven on earth.” (To Jelena Vasilj’s prayer group, 1986). The Blessed Mother has tirelessly invited us to have complete trust in her, for if she appears in Medjugorje, it is to guide us, to accompany us on the path that leads to Heaven, where her Son Jesus awaits us.

And let us recall this saying of St Thérèse: “You know, O my God, that to love you on earth, I have nothing but today.”

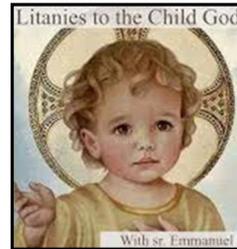
4. Welcoming the Infant Jesus within us.

When Joseph and Mary were looking for a place to live in Bethlehem, they found only an abandoned cave that had been used as a stable! It was empty and cold, completely inhospitable. But when the **Day of Joy** arrived, Jesus was born, and everything changed! This stable became the most beautiful palace in the world, hidden yet magnificent, thanks to the presence of the Creator made flesh.

But this stable is each one of us! On Christmas day, 2022, the Blessed Mother told us: “I pray that **every heart may become the stable in Bethlehem where my Son will be born!**” (message to Jakov). What a wonderful hope this gives us! When we feel lonely and empty, when we don’t see the meaning of our lives, then it’s time to make invitations! Let us ask

Joseph and Mary to come to us and to allow the Child Jesus to be born in this humble stable that is our heart. Yes, our heart can become that humble dwelling that Jesus so passionately seeks, he who has nowhere to lay his head!

5. Many saints have experienced a special intimacy with the Infant Jesus. In his monastery, **Padre Pio** was often seen speaking to him and caressing him with the most tender words. He would enter into ecstasy while holding him in his arms. But he could not forget that, in his boundless love for us, this wondrous Child-God had come to save the world through his death and resurrection! Indeed, **Padre Pio saw the stigmata of the Crucified appear on the little body of the Child.**



Mother Yvonne-Aimée of Malestroit (France) was sometimes surprised to find the Infant Jesus in her cell, lying on her bed and playing with her scarf. These impromptu visits filled her with the deepest joy. After these encounters, Mother Yvonne-Aimée would begin to feel the pains of the Passion, as if Jesus wanted to tell her: “do not forget that I was born out of love for you, and that I saved the world through my death and resurrection. My love for you had to pass through the crucible of suffering, so that none of my children would suffer without me being intimately united to them.” This is **how the Mystery of the Nativity is**

linked to the Mystery of the Passion, to allow the Mystery of the Resurrection and the full victory of love to dawn.

January is the month of the Infant Jesus; let us not leave him idle, we need him so much! **His presence dispels the darkness;** his innocence disarms Satan who constantly prowls around seeking our downfall. I wish to **invite each of us to let the Infant Jesus be born in our hearts!** He comes as our Savior, how could He not answer such a call?!

Dearest Gospa, since your Son Jesus made you the mother of each one of us, you never stop giving birth to us, in joy and in sorrow. We fervently pray to you: please do not abandon us in difficult times! Continue to accompany and guide us with your motherly presence and wise words, until our encounter with the Heavenly Father! There, we will be judged on love, by Love itself!

Sister Emmanuel,
Community of the Beatitudes

**Archbishop Aldo Cavalli
presided over the Midnight Holy Mass in Medjugorje:
“God became man out of love.”**

“Out of love for each of us, He took our sins upon Himself in order to erase them and grant us grace, it is not our merit but grace.”

The Midnight Holy Mass in the Church of St. James in Medjugorje was presided over by Archbishop Aldo Cavalli, the Apostolic Visitor with a special role for the parish of Medjugorje. Before this Holy Mass at 6 p.m., the Holy Mass of Christmas Eve was celebrated, then a live nativity scene was staged in front of the church by the members of the Cenacolo community, and the prayer vigil began with adoration of Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar at 10:30 p.m.



"Why did God become one of us? Why did God become man?" Archbishop Cavalli asked at the beginning of his homily, in which he reflected on the mystery of the incarnation, and invited

us to reflect on this mystery together through the Bible because it is the best way to explain God, to explain Jesus.

He then explained that the Holy Bible's first answer to the question of why did God become man is - Out of love!

"The Gospel of John says that God so loved the world that he became one of us. He became one of us because he loves us. He became one of us because he loves me and you, my friend. That is the first great motive, but to love a person means to wish them well. To love a person means to bless them, to speak well of them. To love a person means to help them. All these verbs that we have mentioned – to love, to serve, to speak well of them, to bless... – have a common denominator in one word that in the Bible we call to serve. He who loves, serves," said Archbishop Cavalli. In explaining what it means to serve in the Bible, he used Chapter 13

of the Gospel of John, which speaks of the beginning of the Last Supper when Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, which he said was impossible at that time, because at that time only slaves who were worthless washed their feet, so Peter's reaction when he said that the Master would not wash his feet is understandable.

"He who loves, serves! But in order to serve, we need to have something to give. If I remain half-hearted, average, I do not love. In order to love, I need to grow in all human and spiritual qualities," said Archbishop Cavalli, repeating that God became one of us because he loves us and serves us "like a slave," and continuing that the cross is the Bible's second answer to the question of why God became one of us?

"Jesus died on the cross like the two thieves who were crucified with him," said Monsignor Cavalli, emphasizing Mary's greatness in front of her tortured son.

"People passed by, insulted him, belittled him, but Mary was there," said Archbishop Cavalli, explaining that Jesus died like the other two thieves, but that His death was understood only with the Holy Spirit.

"With the Holy Spirit, they saw with different eyes. That body that was worthless in the eyes of others was the body of the Son of God. There was the body of the Son of God among us. And they understood within the Holy Scriptures the great thing that Jesus did and they summed it up in one word of that time – Redeemer. That body is the body of my Redeemer", said Archbishop Cavalli and explained that at that time Israel was divided among

large families that owned land, and when someone in the family did the wrong thing, sold land, went into debt, the head of the family was supposed to take over his debts, pay them in order to enable that person and make him worthy as before. The head who would pay that debt, take it upon himself and release that person from debt was called a redeemer and here we understand the meaning of that word.

"The apostles in the Holy Spirit looked at the cross with the eyes of God. He died like the other two, but he was not like the others, and he died like that because he did a great, immeasurable thing, because he took our sins upon himself. They understood that He took upon Himself the sins that I have committed, that I am committing and that I will commit," said Archbishop Cavalli, emphasizing that He forgives our sins as soon as we look at Him, but we need to ask for forgiveness in our freedom.

"And here is confession. I kneel in the confessional, I ask for forgiveness and His death on the cross is present, this mystery is present over me," said Archbishop Cavalli, who at the end asked himself once Why did God become like us, why did He become one of us?" He then

At the end of the Holy Mass, the parish priest of Medjugorje, Fr. Zvonimir Pavičić, wished all the faithful a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Prayerful Welcome to 2026 in Medjugorje 'A Night of the New Beginnings'

Along with the parishioners of Medjugorje, far from the noise of the world, thousands of pilgrims from Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Italy, Spain, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine, Hungary, the USA, Korea, Poland, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the New Year by celebrating Holy Mass in Medjugorje...



While fireworks marked the beginning of the new year and the beginning of celebrations for the entry into 2026 for much of the world, for thousands of pilgrims who welcomed the New Year in Medjugorje, the fireworks in their hearts were ignited by Our Lady, who has been doing this in this small but world-famous place for almost half a century.

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The Holy Mass with which they entered the new year was presided over by the Provincial of the Herzegovina Franciscan Province, Fr. Jozo Grbeš, and before this Mass at 6 p.m., a Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated at the end of the civil year, presided over by the parish vicar in Medjugorje, Fr. Ivan Sesar. It was preceded by the Rosary, and after the Mass, a Live Nativity Scene was performed by members of the Cenacolo community. Adoration began at 10 p.m., followed by the Holy Mass celebration that ushered in the year 2026.

In his homily at this Mass, Fr. Jozo Grbeš said that this night invites us to reflect on time and ourselves, and that we are all pilgrims on a journey for which we must "prepare well, because tomorrow belongs to those who prepare today."

"A better way of life means a new way of thinking, and a new way of thinking is the fruit of the power of the Spirit, or as the wise man said: 'Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and may each new year find a better man in you.' As we reflect on time tonight, on the mystery and greatness of time, eternity, life and God, then we can understand that only with a humble, not arrogant, attitude do we understand all of this. Before the power of time, the speed of the passing,

one must be humble, because departures speak of eternity, and arrivals speak of love," said Fr. Jozo, and asked himself, "What does life teach us?"

Answering this question, he said that he believes that life teaches us love, because love is the center of Christianity, but also the center of life in the universe, of past and future times, and that its opposite is selfishness, which is the source of all the evils of this world...

He also said that "through love, man comes to believe, to know the one God," and then, quoting Benedict XVI, he said: "To believe is nothing other than, in the darkness of the world, to touch the hand of God and in that way, in silence, to hear the Word, to see love."

He called on us not to remain the same, because "the status quo is not a friend of man's journey or his wisdom."

He also spoke about how much "we spend our energy being distant from each other", and we can become those "who unlock doors, open, connect, share and make the world more beautiful, better, different, more perfect, a world with more love..."

Fr. Jozo warned that we are too much in the past and that "the past has only one mission; to be a teacher of the future" and that the past, no matter what it is, must not become a burden to us.

In his reflection, he also called for gratitude, because "people who are grateful make the world beautiful and pleasant, and those who are not grateful, they complain about everything and everyone and that "they do not see the big picture of life but the small need for interest".

"Tonight, on this night of the transition

of time, we ask ourselves: What traces shall we leave behind us this new year? What is important and what is not important in our lives? What I am and who I am, and what I am not and who I am not? Am I a copy or an original? The difference between the original and the copy is the difference between the essential and the inessential, the good and the bad, the right and the wrong," said Fr. Jozo Grbeš, explaining that every attitude and opinion is a view from a certain point and that everyone has a point from which they see the world, and that the only question is: Who shapes our point?

"If we allow Christ to shape it, everything will change. Therefore, tonight is the night of the new beginnings. We know that believing means seeing and that seeing means believing! Mary, that ordinary, gentle, humble mother, Our Lady teaches us that this is so, simply so often in silence and without words. If we decide to travel with her tonight, we will be grateful to Christ and we will truly be people of love. We Christians desperately need this in this country.

Also in every country on this continent, and on every continent. Let us start anew!", concluded Fr. Jozo Grbeš, and many in Medjugorje, for 45 years, have been starting anew. They will continue to set out. They set out on this New Year's Eve as well. Numerous pilgrims testify to this. Both those who are returning, as well as those who - on the recommendation of those who left Medjugorje again - were in Medjugorje for the first time.