

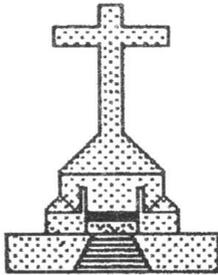
NUMBER 417: February 2026 : FREE

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

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 March 2026

***** Cancelled 19th April 2026 ******

Replaced with

Divine Mercy Sunday 12th April Event

See page 10 (back page)

17th May 2026

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



Important Notice About the Future of the Newsletter

After producing and posting this newsletter since 1989, the time has come to make a necessary change. Preparing, printing, folding, and posting over 175 copies each time has become increasingly difficult to manage.

To ensure the newsletter can continue, we are planning to move to an email-only version starting from the May 2026 issue.

It can also be read and printed from our web site. Medjugorje Centre Northeast (www.medjugorjene.co.uk)

If you currently receive a printed copy, please send us your email address as soon as possible to medjugorjene@yahoo.co.uk so we can keep you on the mailing list via email.

We are genuinely sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, and we appreciate your understanding and support as we make this transition.

Thank you for being part of the newsletter community and supporting Medjugorje Centre North East through the years.

OUR LADY'S MESSAGE—To the World

Given 25th February 2026 to Marija Pavlovic



"Dear children, in this time of grace, anew, I am calling you to offer your lives to God that He may lead you towards the resurrection through your personal conversion. Little children, God is near to you and heeds your prayers, but you are lulled to sleep, and that is why He sent me to you to awaken you, and that you may shine holiness like a spring flower.

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, Our Lady is with us, and even though we are in turbulent times, we should not fear, because Our Lady once said, "All those who pray are not afraid of the future." (2025) For forty four years now Our Lady has been with us in a special way, she comes as Mother and Queen of Peace, to show humanity the way to peace. Our Lady has also told us that she is coming because she is concerned for our Salvation. In this month's message she tells us that she is coming, because we are "*lulled to sleep*" and that God has sent her to "*Awaken us.*" We have entered into the liturgical season of Lent, - the word 'Lent' means, 'Springtime' - 'Springtime' of the soul.' So Our Lady asks us to, "*Shine holiness like a spring flower.*" The universal call to holiness is for everyone, let us strive for that grace, by listening to Our Lady.

Our Lady begins this month's message, "*In this time of grace anew, I am calling you to offer your lives to God, that he may lead you towards the Resurrection.*"

The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ is what we all strive for, a share in Our Lord's triumph over sin and death. We say this each time we recite the Apostles creed, or the Nicene Creed, "**I believe in the Resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.**" So the season of Lent leads us towards Easter day, when we renew our Baptismal promises, and so enter more fully into the triumph of our Saviours, life, death and Resurrection. How often Our Lady has told us that she wants all of her dear children with her in heaven. Heaven is our goal. Let us think about Our Lady at the moment of the Annunciation. St. Luke says Our Lady said, "*Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be*

done to me according to your word.” (Luke : 1:38) In giving her free response to God, in complete trust and loving abandonment to his will, Our Lady opens the doors of the hope of Salvation for all humanity. So let us take Our Lady’s example in offering our lives to God each day, as a humble offering acceptable to the Father. We pray in Eucharistic prayer three ‘ *May he make us an everlasting gift to you.*’ This work of the Holy spirit , inviting our co-operation leads us towards the Resurrection, the pledge and promise at the heart of the Mass. Our Lady asks us to always remember that each one of us is an offering to God, as she was at the Annunciation.

Then Our Lady says, “ *through your personal conversion.*” Lent is a penitential season, when we decide for God in greater measure, and in service of love of neighbour. The decision for our personal conversion , should include a good celebration of the Sacrament of Confession, when we receive the grace to die to sin and live for holiness. A good Confession prepares us well for the Resurrection. Above all we need to decide.

“ *Little children, God is near to you, and heeds your prayers, but you are lulled to sleep.*” St. Augustine said, “ *God is closer to us than we are to ourselves.*” We can become so pre – occupied with so many things and events, that we forget the supreme truth that God is near, and heeds our prayers. He is a loving Father , who always is listening. Our Lady calls us to live in this awareness of his loving presence. What causes us to be lulled into sleep ? The answer lies in Jesus’ parable of the seed, in Matthew 17. “

As for the wheat that was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, chokes the word, and is unfruitful.” (v. 22)

Jesus always calls us to spiritual vigilance in the Gospels, “ *So stay awake, for you do not know the day nor the hour , when the Lord is coming.*” (MT: 24.22) Our Lady is with us , because we need ‘ waking up’”. She says God has sent her to us to do just that. So may the remaining time of Lent be for our spiritual awakening.

Let us pray more, and have the courage to renounce and fast. This will then be the sign, that we are Our Lady’s children, that we belong to her, and follow her messages without hesitation, because Our Lady is asking us to , *BE READY!*

A Blessed Lent,
Fr. Martin

“ *‘Shine holiness
like a
spring flower.’*
Our Lady”



REPORT FROM SISTER EMMANUEL

of The Community of The Beatitudes

www.sremmanuel.org

Medjugorje, February 17, 2026

Dear Friends, praise be to Jesus and Mary!

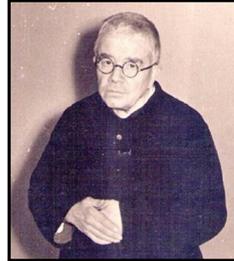
1. An unexpected paradox! Don Dolindo Ruotolo, ‘the saint of Naples’ has a surprising question for us today:

“What is the best way to pray? I would dare to offer a paradox: **you pray well when you pray badly.** That is to say, when you find prayer tiring, full of constraints, and yet, you pray; you thus render to God great glory and honor.

“But... if your aridity stemmed from your own weaknesses and difficulties, you wouldn’t pray at all. If you have the strength to say all your prayers, it’s a sign that you live for God, and that you love Him above all else.”

Thank you, Father Dolindo, for these words! They have already comforted so many people who have decided to pray at all costs, even if they sometimes encounter internal or external obstacles, to the point of being tempted to abandon prayer. God forbid!

For what pleases God is our willingness to meet Him in prayer, regardless of the obstacles that arise. Satan does not want us to pray—absolutely not; he knows all too well that when we do, he loses ground and his evil plans crumble.



One day, after spending her holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, Sister Faustina was very sad because she had been constantly tormented inwardly by distractions and thoughts that had nothing to do with the faith. No matter how hard she tried to concentrate on the Lord’s presence, it was no use; her mind wandered in every direction. **As she complained to the Lord, He said to her:**

“Your prayer is extremely pleasing to me!” (§ 691) Indeed, with every distraction that came to her mind, she did everything she could to return to the Lord! This is what makes our prayer precious: **the firm will to be with God, to take time for Him, despite the difficulties caused by our fatigue, our worries, or our imagination.**

The visionary Mirjana told us that she too experiences distractions during prayer. So, she entrusts the cause of her distraction to the Blessed Mother and calmly resumes her prayer.

2. Saint Joseph will exceed our expectations! At home, we venerate Saint Joseph by offering him a 33 day Novena: we pray his litany for 33 days, from February 15th to March 19th (PS2). Indeed, Saint Joseph is called to play a very important role in these troubled times of ours. Blessed is he who befriends him; Saint Joseph will exceed his expectations!



3. After death, where do you want to go? One day, someone asked me, "Sister, does Hell still exist?" It's true that modern life could make us forget our ultimate end, and yet, after death there is eternity! As for hell and purgatory, yes, it still exists.

Why talk about this today?

To **warn us**—who dares speak of such a thing? — **and also to reassure us!** Indeed, "after death, there is eternity," Mary tells us. "It is wrong to believe that after death, there is nothing." Ignorance about our final destiny can prevent us from making the right choices during life. We allow ourselves to be dominated by the surrounding, and so disappointing, materialism, while our Creator and Savior surrounds us with His immeasurable love and calls us at

every moment to open our hearts to Him! **He has prepared a place for us beside Him to eternally enjoy His love**, in His presence. Every person longs for this ineffable happiness that will never end. For each person bears within them the seal of their Creator, who is nothing but love and light. In creating the world, God intended it to be a love story.

"Dear children! **Do not forget that you are here on earth on the way to eternity** and that your home is in Heaven. That is why, little children, be open to God's love and leave egoism and sin..." (25/07/2000)

"**My children, your life is only a blink in contrast to eternal life.** And when you come before my Son, he will see in your hearts how much love you had." (02/08/2014)



"Love covers a multitude of sins," St. Peter tells us. (1 P 4, 8).

"I bless you with my Son Jesus and call you not to lose hope; and **for your gaze and heart to always be directed towards Heaven and eternity.** In this way, you will be open to God and to His plans. (25/12/2016)

Who goes to hell? We have all received freedom from God. Who goes to hell is the one who decides to go there, **the one who stubbornly refuses God's mercy**, always offered, even to the most hardened of sinners. Here we touch upon the mystery of iniquity. **The key word for hell is the deliberate will to say no to God.** The first sin stems from doubt. The last is choosing hell through the **categorical rejection of God's mercy.** But a stubborn sinner can repent at the last moment. His loved ones must know this and pray fervently at his bedside! Our Christian faith is clear about the ultimate ends of humankind.



The visionary, Vicka, often recounted fragments of her "guided tour" of heaven, purgatory, and hell with the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1981. She and Jakov were taken by Mary to see these three places, and their bodies disappeared for 20 minutes. Upon their return, **Mary instructed them to tell everyone what they had seen.**

"Hell is a terrible place. In the middle, there is a great fire, but it is not a fire like the one we know on earth... **We saw perfectly normal people throw themselves into this fire. No one pushed them.** When

they came out, they looked like ferocious beasts, shouting their hatred and rebellion, and blaspheming. They were disfigured. Faced with this, we were terrified. Our Lady then explained to us." **These people go to hell of their own free will.** It is their choice, their decision. Do not be afraid! God has given everyone freedom. On earth, everyone can choose to be for God or against God. Some people on earth always do everything against God and against His will, consciously. These people then begin a hell in their own hearts. And when the time of death comes, if they do not repent, that same hell continues... God cannot force anyone to love Him. He does everything to save us. **Jesus died on the cross in order to save each of us,** and His love is great for all. He always invites us to draw closer to His Heart, but what can He do when faced with someone who doesn't want His love? Nothing! Love cannot be forced..."

(I will tell you about Vicka's visit to Heaven and Purgatory later; it was necessary to warn every one of the worst part first.)

"Most souls go to Purgatory, very few go directly to Heaven, and many go to Hell". (Interview with Mirjana Dragicevic, by Fr. Tomislav Vlastic, January 20, 1983)

Here are some excerpts from the Diary of Saint Faustina:

§1698 "Oh, how beyond comprehension is God's mercy! But – horror! – there are also souls who voluntarily and consciously reject and scorn this grace!

“Although a person is at the point of death, the merciful God gives the soul that interior vivid moment, so that if the soul is willing, **it has the possibility of returning to God.** But sometimes, the obduracy in souls is so great that consciously they choose hell.



§741 **“I am writing this at the command of God,** so that no soul may find an excuse by saying there is no hell, or that nobody has ever been there, and so no one can say what it is like.

“I, Sister Faustina, by the order of God, have visited the abysses of hell so that I might tell souls about it and testify to its existence. I cannot speak about it now; but I have received a command from God to leave it in writing. The devils were full of hatred for me, but they had to obey me at the command of God. **What I have written is but a pale shadow of the things I saw.** But I noticed one thing: that most of the souls there are those who disbelieved that there is a hell. When I came to, I could hardly recover from the fright. How terribly souls suffer there! Consequently, I pray even more fervently for the conversion of sinners. I incessantly plead God's mercy upon them. O my Jesus, I would rather be in agony until the end

of the world, amidst the greatest sufferings, than offend You by the least sin.”

Dearest Gospa, you never cease to intercede for your children. Thank you for reminding us of this so often in your messages, it reassures us so much! As you invite us to do, we want to join you and your powerful, fervent prayer, so that none of your children will be lost, but that all may find you in Heaven, in the eternal embrace of the love of your Son Jesus.

Sister Emmanuel,
Community of the Beatitudes

Let us pray with the Holy Father:

**Prayer Intention for
March 2026**

**‘For disarmament and
peace’**



“

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence. .

”

Pope Leo XIV

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”

Fr. Leon Pereira OP
is stepping aside from this role as
‘Chaplain for English Speaking Pilgrims in Medjugorje’
 (Facebook– 206Tours)

NEWS *** Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, pilgrims of Our Lady Queen of Peace- Medjugorje

It is with grateful hearts and a touch of bittersweet emotion that we announce a change of 'guards' for the English-speaking groups in Medjugorje.



After many years of devoted service, filled with love, wisdom, and tireless pastoral care, Fr. Leon Pereira OP is stepping aside from this role. Fr. Leon has touched countless

pilgrims' lives with his deep faith, powerful homilies, gentle guidance, and unwavering dedication to Our Lady's messages. He will always hold a special place in our hearts, and we thank God for the abundant blessings he brought to so many through his ministry here. We understand that Fr Leon will stay in Medjugorje and will work with MaryTV.

We now joyfully welcome Fr. Jason Lewis MIC as he takes up this beautiful mission as of March 1st, 2026!

May Our Lady wrap him in her mantle and grant him every grace, strength, and joy as they accompany English-speaking pilgrims in Medjugorje.

We wish Fr. Jason abundant blessings, peace, and fruitfulness in their new role. May they be instruments of God's mercy and Our Lady's love, just as Fr. Leon has been.

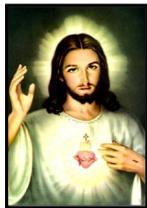
Attached is a cherished photo of Milanka, 206 Tours president with visionary Ivan Dragicovic and Fr. Jason Lewis, taken during a retreat in Texas last December.

It reminds us how Our Lady continues to draw hearts together across the world!



Let us pray for all involved in this transition, and continue to respond to Our Lady's call: prayer, fasting, conversion, Confession, Eucharist, and Scripture.

In the love of the Queen of Peace.



*Jesus
I trust in
You*

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY CELEBRATION

2.30pm 12th April 2026

Led by Fr. Martin Morris

Litany and Rosary,
divine mercy Prayers.

All welcome.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate,
Village Lane, WashingtonTyne & 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**