

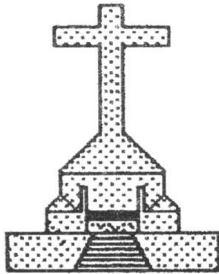
NUMBER 419: April 2026 : FREE

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**

17th May 2026

21st June

In conjunction with 45th Anniversary of
the Apparitions in Medjugorje

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



**MEDJUGORJE CENTRE NORTH
EAST**

Invites you to celebrate the
**45th Anniversary of
The Apparitions at
Medjugorje**

**Sunday 21st June 2026
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

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 April 2026 to Marija Pavlovic



"Dear children, I am praying for you and encourage you to a new life, a life in joy and prayer. May the Holy Spirit fill you, little children, with joy so that you may be like a spring of pure and drinkable water; that you, little children, may be in God and with God missionaries of love and peace. Your life is short here on earth and that is why I am with you to lead you towards Heaven. 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,

Let us turn to the holy Scriptures for guidance and encouragement, as we reflect on this message from Our Lady.

In the days following our Lords Resurrection St. Luke tells us in the Acts of the Apostles (1; 14.) "the Apostles, together with several women, including 'Mary, Mother of Jesus' joined together in persevering prayer." There in the upper room in Jerusalem, the place of the Last supper, the first believer's, united in a cenacle of prayer, around Our Lady, as they devoted themselves to preparing the way for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Our Lady continues her Motherly role of Intercession for all her children in heaven. She begins this message saying, "**I am praying for you and encourage you to a new life, a life of 'joy and prayer.'**" It is a great consolation to be reminded that Our Lady is praying for us from heaven. We are assured of her prayers, because as Mother of the Church, and the first disciple of the Lord, she does today what she did for the Church after her Son's Resurrection, devotes herself to prayer, for us her children. We are

accompanied by the prayers of Our Lady, she is with us in a special way, through the power of prayer.

Mary, encourages us '**towards a new life of Joy and Prayer.'** This new life is the life of her Son, the Risen one. We all need encouragement in the living out of her Faith, Our Lady understands it is not always easy, but the key is 'Joy and Prayer.' The two are interconnected, the fruit of prayer is Joy, Joy is a gift of the Holy spirit, the Joy that flowed into the heart of Our Lady, and the Apostles after the Lord's Resurrection. The Scriptures tell us, "They were filled with 'Joy' when they saw their Lord.' (John : 20:20)

So in encouraging us towards a renewed spiritual life, the invitation to decide for prayer is ours. For the source of all 'Joy' is the Risen Lord. This is why Our Lady from the start of the apparitions has emphasised 'prayer.' Beginning with the recitation of the Apostles creed, seven Our Father's, seven Hail Mary's, and seven Glory be's, Mary, Queen of Peace, has led us along the path of 'Joy and prayer.'

Our Lady continues, "**May the Holy Spirit fill you little children with Joy, so that you may be like a spring of**

pure and drinkable water, that you little children may be in God, and with God, be missionaries of love and peace.”

An image of the Holy Spirit is that of a fountain, or a spring. The Holy Spirit is the source of the new life, to which Our Lady invites us. The Holy Spirit is the one who cleanses, purifies, refreshes and makes clean. In professing our faith in the Creed, we say of the Holy Spirit, “The Lord and giver of Life.” Our Lady invites us to be ‘filled’ with Holy Spirit, and so become living ‘springs’ ‘in God and with God’ for others. When Our Lady invited St. Bernadette to ‘go and wash in the spring’ Bernadette firstly had to scrape through mud and soil, in order to reach the cleansing pure water. So too for us, conversion of life, leads us towards the new life of the Holy Spirit, to which Mary reminds us.

“You will receive power, when the Holy spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses” said Jesus, before his Ascension. (Acts: 1:18) We have not received the spirit of the world, but the spirit that comes from God. (1: Cor: 2: 12) Our Lady has called us many times to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit, for enlightenment, for understanding,, for conversion and renewal. On one occasion, Our Lady said, “In silence, may the Holy Spirit speak to you, and permit him to convert and change you.” (July, 25th , 2006.) This is how we allow the Holy Spirit to act within us, and so make us like a ‘spring of pure and drinkable water.’ The Sacrament of Confession is also an important source in our journey of conversion.

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scriptures say, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water. “Now, he said this, about the Spirit, , through those who would believe in him, they would receive.” (John: 7: 37-39.).

“Little children, be in God, and with

God, missionaries of love and peace.”

The spring of living water has a source, and it is God – the source of all life and love. Contact with this source is prayer, for prayer means nothing else, but contact with God., the eternal spring. For those who do everything out of love for God, this contact is not only being realised in formal prayer, like Holy Mass and Rosary, but also through every action and word of ours. The awareness to co- operate with God, the source of all life, make it possible for our lives to become a living prayer. The main condition for this is ‘love.’ Without love, our prayers remain just words. Like the first Apostles at Pentecost, it is prayer that filled them with the love and peace of Christ. So let each of us decide in prayer to be the missionaries of love and peace, Mary calls us to be.

Our Lady is the queen of prophets, and she is Mother and Queen of peace. In these times when so many have chosen the path away from God and his saving truth, Our Lady shows us the path to ‘new Life’ and invites us to decide for renewed holiness of life. There is a goal in Our Lady’s call, and she mentions this at the very end of her message.

“life is short here on earth, and that is why I am with you to lead you towards Heaven.” This is our Lady’s goal, our eternal Salvation. Jesus tells us in the Gospels that it is better to enter into eternal life without a hand or a foot, or an eye, than to have all limbs and enter into eternal damnation. (Matthew 5: 29-30) The point is to decide for conversion, for the ‘new life.’ Because this life is short. So let us permit ourselves to be led by Our Lady, with her, to listen to her, and stay on the path of light.

Come Holy Spirit of Jesus.

God Bless,
Fr. Martin



REPORT FROM SISTER EMMANUEL

of The Community of The Beatitudes

www.sremmanuel.org

1. The tenderness of my father-in-law

The inhabitants of Heaven are our friends, and some show us their love with a gentle touch and a particular type of humor, like my father-in-law (I call St. Joseph my father-in-law, since he is the spouse of my Heavenly Mother). Every year, we offer him a thirty day consecration: we pray for 30 days before his feast day on March 19th. But during a short stay in Italy, I missed four of the thirty days. What a shame!

Back home, I realized I had lost the key to our "little Bethlehem," a peaceful place in our garden where I go every day to pray, in the intimacy of the Holy Family. There, I find life-size statues of St. Joseph, Mary, and the baby Jesus lay on the straw...



The statues in this Nativity scene were built by the Sisters of Bethlehem

<https://www.bethleem.org/fr/>

Unable to find the key, I prayed to St. Joseph and asked him to find it for me. But nothing happened... Knowing his kindness, I figured he must have a good reason for not granting my wish, but what could it be? After March 19th, I made up the four days I was missing

from my thirty day commitment. Then behold, on the evening of the fourth day, I took my handkerchief out of my pocket, and... there it was, the key!

It made me smile! St. Joseph is very good at counting, which is to be expected from a carpenter! And he seemed to be saying to me, "You promised me thirty days, so I waited until you finished them all before answering your call!"

This is also a beautiful lesson for our prayer life: **every prayer offered from the heart is of great value to the Lord**; He awaits it like a precious treasure, which He will use divinely. Making a holy hour in prayer or not makes a significant difference to the Lord, for ourselves and for the world. Through negligence, **we miss so many opportunities to grow in holiness!** We remain in our lowliness instead of being enriched by the true peace of God, which is what we most long for!

We Will celebrate st. Joseph the Worker on May 1.... Don't Miss Him!!

2. How far does Mercy extend?

Screams, bloodcurdling howls, insults, blasphemies, the most abject obscenities, and relentless threats... **It's a very young voice that cuts to the core.** It almost sounds like a child.

Mother Teresa's sisters—the Missionaries of Charity—found Pearl in the street and took her in half-dead, as they do for most of the residents of this impoverished shelter. For years, Pearl has borne the deadly marks of AIDS on her body. Since her arrival, she

has violently unleashed her despair on anyone who comes near her.

Surprisingly, this house is not located in a poor neighborhood of Calcutta but in one of America's most prestigious cities: Washington, D.C. Has **Mother Teresa, the champion of the poorest of the poor**, changed her mission and begun working within one of the world's wealthiest cities? What is she doing here, in her small cotton veil and worn sandals?

Accompanied by a few sisters, her goal was to find people like Pearl, condemned to a slow death because they were born into poverty and unable to escape it.

Mother Teresa's sisters feared nothing! They had seen everything, heard everything, and learned to overcome horror with a smile. **For them, it was about sowing love where violence reigned**, about eradicating evil of any kind, by acting in the same way as Jesus, their divine Master: with gentleness, love, patience, mercy, and joy.



Every day, every moment, the sisters take turns tending to Pearl, condemned to an untimely death. They provide food and care, change her clothes and sheets, trim her toenails, and show her immense kindness. Pearl, for her part, hurls insults and abuse at the sisters in despair, as if seeking revenge for all the atrocities during her miserable existence. **Yet the sisters,**

unperturbed, continue to serve her, their smiles undiminished.

One day, a glimmer of hope pierces the antechamber of death. Pearl begins to open her heart, seeing the sisters' continued kindness toward her. She asks one of them, **"Why are you so nice to me when I constantly insult you?"**

This is the moment the sister has been waiting for, the moment to break the ice. She must seize the opportunity. She replies, **"Our God told us that you are the body of Christ. That is why we treat your body with respect and love."**

Pearl is stunned. She thinks she's dreaming. No one has ever spoken to her like this! The sister isn't joking! After a moment of silence, Pearl's tone completely changes. She asks, "Now wait... You mean your God told you that?"

"Yes," the sister replies.

"Well then, **I would really like to know your God! If this God tells you to treat me this way, I want to know that God!**"

The sisters then quickly called the priest, the Chaplain of the home. He came to see Pearl several times. He shared the Word of God with her frankly, explaining the most significant moments in the life of Jesus. Pearl didn't miss a word of it. **Fascinated, she listened intently, her eyes wide with wonder.** She was thirsty for more. When the priest spoke to her about the Eucharist, explaining the meaning of the Last Supper and the Mass, she exclaimed, "If that's what Mass is, then I want to receive Communion!"

There wasn't a second to lose. The priest baptized her, administered the

sacrament of Confirmation, and gave her her First Holy Communion. After welcoming Jesus into her heart, she said, "**This is the first time a man has entered into me, not to take advantage of me, but to give me everything!**"

She then confided the tragedy of her life: "My mother was a drug addict. When I was ten, she forced me into prostitution on the street. She needed the money I earned to buy her drugs. How many men, and sometimes women, have abused me these past ten years... I can't even count them anymore! I contracted AIDS and now **I'm going to die; I'm only twenty... But now I'm so happy to have Jesus!**"

For the first time in her life, Pearl felt a profound inner peace. The next day, Pearl exchanged a few words with the nuns and noticed they were wearing wedding rings. She asked them, "Are you married?"

"We are not married to a man," they replied. "**But we are the spouse of Jesus.**"

"What? One can become the spouse of Jesus? Is that true? Is that possible? **Then I want to become His bride too!** But... why would he want to marry a failure like me, who was a prostitute for ten years and is going to die of AIDS?" **The sisters had tears in their eyes.** They looked at each other in silence, overcome with emotion, unable to hide it.

As night fell, they wondered, "What can we do? How can we give her what she wants? **We must call Mother Teresa immediately!** She will tell us what to do. This girl is going to die soon..."

Mother Teresa's answer seemed obvious to them. She understood everything at once. There was no room for discussion. **Not a single moment should be wasted.**

Now what happened the next day remains a secret of their community. Nevertheless, a few days later, **Pearl went back to the heavenly Father, wearing the habit of the Missionaries of Charity.**

- **Come to me, my name is Mercy**

*Dearest Gospa, what will you do with the countless lost sheep who today, like Pearl, cry out their despair in the face of this cruel world? We beg you, go to them and enfold them in your maternal tenderness! **Awaken us from the sleep of our souls;** we want to work with you so that the miracles of Mercy may multiply!*

Sister Emmanuel,
Community of the Beatitudes

Medjugorje Youth Festival 2026

1st—6th August

*“Ad Fontem!”
(To the Source)*

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.

**14th Anniversary of Fr. Ciaran
McDonnell RIP**

(Former Spiritual Director of
Medjugorje NE 1993 -2012)
and PP of St. Augustines,
Leam Lane.

**Died: Ascension Sunday 20th May
2012 aged 64**

Fr. Ciaran will be remembered during
the 45th Anniversary of Medjugorje
Apparitions at Our Blessed Lady
Immaculate, Washington,
NE38 7HS

Holy Mass will be offered during Our
next Pilgrimage to Medjugorje.



Fr. Ciaran had a deep
love for *Mary, the
Mother of God* and
led many Pilgrimages
to Medjugorje. A
few years ago he
went to *Medjugorje*
on sabbatical where
he ministered to the English speaking
Pilgrims, hearing daily confessions.

Pax Christie

*Priest and Servant of
the Love of God*

**Act
of Personal Consecration
to the
Holy Spirit**

O Holy Spirit, love that proceeds
from the Father and the Son, font
of inexhaustible graces and life, to
You, I desire to consecrate my
person,

my past, my present, my future,
my desires, my choices, my decisions
my thoughts, my affections all that
I am, all those whom I encounter
whom I think of, whom I know,
whom I love and all that with
which my life makes contact.

From, the power of your light, from
the warmth of your presence, from
your peace, are all your blessings.

You are the Lord and giver of
life, and without your strength
nothing is without fault.

O Spirit of eternal love, come into
my heart, renew it and make it
evermore like the heart of Mary,
so that I can become now and
always, temple and tabernacle of
Your Divine Presence.

(Fr. Ciaran)



**Easter message of the Apostolic Visitor with a special role for the
parish of Medjugorje,
Archbishop Aldo Cavalli**

Many times I am told: "Did the apostles physically see the risen Jesus? Did they encounter his person? Did they eat with Him? Did they see Him? Did they hear Him? Did they touch Him? They saw him risen with the wounds of passion, but no longer in the suffering of passion. They saw Him, they saw Him with their own eyes. And we? We do not see Jesus physically. We do not touch His person. We do not eat with Him. How do we see Him?"

We and the apostles have only one great principle for seeing and understanding Jesus - the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit the apostles would not have written what they wrote about Jesus - alive and risen. Without the Holy Spirit the apostles would not have preached what they preached about Jesus, about what He did and what He said. Without the Holy Spirit we would not have understood that God the Father, at a certain hour, in the fullness of time, sent his Son among us: born of the Virgin Mary. The Holy Spirit completely changed them - Pentecost - the Church was born there. And Pentecost means: the Holy Spirit in them, the Holy Spirit in us. This is how Saint Paul is understood when he writes: no one can say "Jesus is Lord", "Jesus is Christ", "Jesus is the Son of God", unless the Holy Spirit in him says "He is Lord". Like when the apostles, while fishing, saw that man

on the shore of the lake, and John said "It is the Lord" - without the Holy Spirit he could not have said that.

In the Holy Spirit we see. We see the risen Lord in the Eucharist. That bread and that wine, transformed by the Holy Spirit and by the words of the living Jesus, are a sign of His presence, the reality of His presence. Indeed,



when I consecrate the bread and wine and look - what do I see? Bread. What do I eat? Bread. What do I see? Wine. What do I drink? Wine. What do I say? My Lord and my God - in the Holy Spirit. Then I come before you, offer you that consecrated particle and say "Body of Christ", and you say "Amen" in the Holy Spirit, which means "Lord, I believe and I cling to you". In the Holy Spirit we understand His presence in the Eucharist. In the Holy Spirit we understand His presence in the Bible. In the Holy Spirit we understand His presence in baptism. The Holy Spirit is the one who incarnates the Lord Jesus Christ with that sign and those words and we see. In the Holy Spirit you are married and become a visible sign of the invisible unity of Jesus Christ and the Church.

In the Holy Spirit, when I was young, the bishop called upon the Holy Spirit, laid his hands on me and said a prayer - in the Holy Spirit he transformed me. In the Holy Spirit we will see Him in heaven as He is. But in the

Holy Spirit we live and relive his presence here. We live and relive the Eucharist: celebrating the memorial of the death and resurrection of Jesus. But He died only once. He rose only once. The commemoration means making His death and resurrection present here. I see Him, I make Him present and then I say:

“My Lord and my God”. Here is the real and true presence of the Lord Jesus among us.

Happy Easter! Happy Easter to all! And may the Holy Spirit, especially on the Easter Vigil, grant us to see the risen Lord.

Happy Easter to all!

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**

Medjugorje Centre

(North East)



MEDJUGORJE RETREAT AT MINSTERACRES

Spiritual Director Fr. Martin Morris

Cost is £205 pp

Fri 9th –11th October 2026

£50 Deposit required

Booking forms available from
Marian Fletcher Telephone 0191 4174413

Let us pray with the Holy Father:

Prayer Intention for May 2026

**‘That everyone might
 have food’**



“

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

”

Pope Leo XIV

OCTOBER PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

11th Oct – 18th Oct 2026

**Cost £839pp sharing
 £979 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 733 2115**

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

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.