

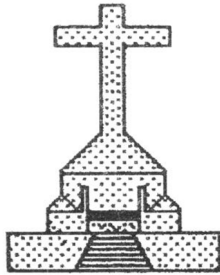
NUMBER 424: September 2026 : FREE

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

EUCCHARIST

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PRAY FOR US

**MEDJUGORJE
AFTERNOON OF PRAYER**

led by Fr. Martin Morris

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

18th October 2026

15th November 2026

St John Vianney

Hillhead Parkway
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 1DP



**Let us pray with the Holy Father:
Prayer Intention for
October 2026**

**‘For mental health
ministry’**



“

Let us pray that the mental health
ministry be established
throughout the Church, helping
to overcome the stigma and
discrimination of persons with
mental illnesses.

”

Pope Leo XIV

Medjugorje Centre

(North East)



MEDJUGORJE RETREAT AT MINSTERACRES

Spiritual Director Fr. Martin Morris

Cost is £205 pp

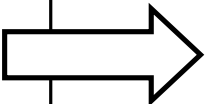
Fri 9th –11th October 2026

£50 Deposit required

Booking forms available from
Marian Fletcher Telephone 0191 4174413

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE 2027

led by Fr. Martin Morris



See back page

OUR LADY'S MESSAGE—To the World

Given 25th September 2026 to Marija Pavlovic



“Dear children, May this time be a time of prayer for peace. I am calling you to renew in your families the prayer of the Rosary for my intentions, so that I may be able to multiply your prayers and intercede for you before the Most High, [for Him] to heed your prayers and to give you peace. I am with you and like never before I pray for you and with you, my little children. 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, I have just returned from a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, and the presence of Our Lady in that place was very special, very real and dramatic. Pilgrims mentioned to me the special feel of the place, and this can only be explained through the maternal presence of Our Lady. This, **'I am with you'** that Mary says at the conclusion of this month's message, is the fundamental message of Medjugorje – she is with us, and we know in our hearts her presence in a special way. We need the Mother who is with us, and we too have been in her presence at that place. We need to take to heart the words, **'I am with you.'** Because without her presence, there is no way of explaining what we feel there. Our Lady begins this message by saying, **'May this time be a time of peace.'** Each of us have to decide for peace, for Peace within ourselves and

then for those around us. Our Lady comes to us as *'The Queen of Peace.'* She leads us to peace, and asks us to enter into communion with her Son, with Faith and love. It is prayer that is the foundation of Peace, Prayer that leads to forgiveness and Reconciliation, she calls us to love life, to protect it, and to avoid division and dis-unity. We have to make this time a time of peace, by deciding for peace in our own hearts.

"I am calling you to renew in your own families the Prayer of the Rosary for my intentions, so that I may be able to multiply your prayers and intercede for you before the Most High."

We have entered the month of October, traditionally the month of the Holy Rosary. It is indeed a time for renewing our devotion to this great prayer. To pray means to be with God. To pray the Rosary really means to be with Our Lady and her Son, Jesus, in all the events of their

earthly lives. To Pray the rosary means to Pray from a privileged point of view, from Our Lady's perspective on the life, death and Resurrection of her Son. To contemplate with her, the joyful, sorrowful, light and glorious mysteries, that say 'Your will be done' here and now in my life, in these circumstances. If we remain with Our Lady in the prayer of the Rosary then our lives will truly be changed, and the human heart will be touched at a deep level, because God reaches the heart of a person through the prayer of the Rosary.

Let us reflect on the presence of Our Lady at the wedding Feast of Cana. (John: 2: 1-11.)

She bring's to her Son's attention the looming disaster. "Son, they have no wine." (vs.30) Her intervention and her intercession, bring's about her Son's first miracle, the transforming of the water into wine, it's multiplying – 'Twenty or thirty Gallons.' (vs. 6)

When Our Lady completed her earthly life, she was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. She continues her maternal intercession, praying for each one of us, her children, mindful of our own destiny-eternal life, to be united with Christ in glory.

When Our Lady said at the visitation, "My soul 'Magnifies' the Lord" it tells us of her role in the church, both then and now. To 'Magnify' something means to make it bigger, more bright and clear. Our Lady hears and takes our prayers to the 'Most High.' She makes them more before God, she takes what we offer and increases them, as the miracle of Cana tells us. She reminds us that God hears our prayers, and that the

fruit of prayer is peace. Whatever it is we truly ask for in prayer, the most important fruit has to be that of peace. Interior peace of mind and heart, peace of the human spirit, which is the effect of all our prayers.

In this month of October let us try and do as Our Lady asks to renew the prayer of the Rosary in our families. The family is under going a profound attack from Satan and the powers of darkness, resulting in terrible confusion and division in relationships. The crisis in the family and Marriage is very grave, and this is why Our Lady gives us the remedy of the powerful prayer of the Rosary. Let us not be afraid to promote the Rosary, to teach it anew, to speak about it, and remind our familie's of it's protective quality, and the blessing's it bring's to every home. *"The family that prays together stays together."*

We should note in a special way, the words of our Lady towards the conclusion of this message. **"I am with you and like never before I pray for you and with you."**

Our Lady's presence does not grow old, weary or stifled. Her presence is ever new, fresh and life- giving. She is praying with and for us 'like never before' because we need her like 'never before.' Her presence each and every day is gift from God Most High. She brings new life and hope; 'like never before' and that is why we should not tire of her call.

Fr. Martin



REPORT FROM SISTER EMMANUEL

of The Community of The Beatitudes
www.sremmanuel.org

Medjugorje, September 12, 2026
The Holy Name of Mary

Dear Friends, praise be to Jesus and Mary!

1. My sister's Guardian Angel.

September is dedicated to the Angels, so I would like to share a few instances here where they made themselves known. My religious sister Tamara recounts...

"From my earliest childhood, I have had a very strong relationship with my Guardian Angel. He was my playmate and my confidant; I lived in his presence. As I grew older, that relationship became more distant, yet the awareness of my Guardian Angel always remained very vivid within me. During my missions in Russia, I would 'hold his hand,' and on several occasions, he manifested himself in very tangible ways. Upon returning from a mission, I love to recount the Lord's wonders—here is one of them!"



One day, I was preparing for a humanitarian mission to Russia and had to drive our minibus alone to

Autrey, in the Vosges in France, to meet up with the rest of the team. I also had to hitch up a trailer loaded with supplies destined for Russia.

It was a cold winter morning... I had been keeping my trailer in the garden of a family friend in Meudon. Early that Monday morning, I looked for someone to help me hitch the trailer to the minibus, but everyone was heading off to their daily activities, and I found myself alone with an African teenager—about fifteen years old—who kindly offered to help. We did the best we could together, and then I set off...

Sometime later, I was driving on the highway in heavy traffic. Suddenly, other drivers signaled for me to pull over. Spotting a convenient embankment nearby, I parked there, though I didn't understand the situation. I can't say exactly how it all unfolded, but **just as I was trying to compose myself, I saw a white van appear**—seemingly landing right over my head—and pull up behind my car. A man in his thirties, wearing white overalls and exuding an air of trustworthiness, stepped out. **Then, everything happened without a word being spoken**, looking somewhat stern, he pointed to my trailer, which had actually detached from the minibus while driving and—fortunately—come to rest on the embankment. Had it veered into the traffic, it could have caused a major accident!

The man opened his vehicle's trunk, grabbed a toolbox, and took out a huge roll of white tape. Everything was white. He then retrieved my trailer and securely lashed it to the minibus with what looked like a massive bandage—all in no time and without saying a word. **I watched him, speechless** with astonishment; his face expressed kindness tinged with a touch of sternness.

I said to him, "Thank you so much! It was the Lord who sent you!"

He gave me a look that seemed to say, "You have no idea how right you are!" I briefly looked down at the work he had just finished. **But when I looked up again, everything had vanished**—the white van, the man, and his toolbox... there was absolutely nothing left.

That trailer stayed with us for years on the rough Russian roads of the 1990s, and years later, we actually had to saw through that patch of white tape to remove it."

As Don Bosco—that great Italian saint who also lived in the company of Angels—tells us: **"Our Guardian Angel's desire to help us is far greater than our desire to be helped by him."**

It must be said that on that day, Sister Tamara's Guardian Angel really did outdo himself!



2. None of us are alone! From the moment of our conception, the Creator has placed an Angel by our side. What a precious gift! We are the only person who that Angel is charged to look after. This Angel knows God's plan for us; he enlightens, protects, and defends us, and leads us to eternal life. From the immense richness of the lives of the saints, I have drawn a few examples to encourage us to strengthen our friendship with our own Angel and to put him to work—for he longs to help us!

Pope John XXIII recounts: "During a conversation I had with the illustrious Pontiff Pius XI, I heard him share a beautiful secret, confirming that the protection of one's Guardian Angel always brings joy, resolves difficulties, and diminishes obstacles. 'Whenever I have to speak with someone whom I know to be resistant to reason,' Pius XI confided to me, 'and when it is necessary to employ a certain form of persuasion, **I ask my Guardian Angel to brief the Guardian Angel of the person I am about to meet** on the whole matter. In this way, once an understanding has been reached between the two higher spirits, the conversation proceeds under the best possible conditions and is greatly facilitated.'" (John XXIII, September 9, 1962; ORF 38)

Saint John of the Cross testifies in his maxims on the spiritual life: "The Angels are our shepherds; not only do they carry our messages to God, but they also bring us His... Through their secret inspirations, **the Angels grant the soul a higher knowledge of**

God. They thus inflame it with a more ardent love for Him; they even go so far as to leave it utterly wounded by love."

Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus was deeply attuned to the Angels. Thanks to her excellent and holy parents, she maintained a close relationship with the Angels, and she wrote a poem that bears witness to her trust and reverence for them:

"To my Guardian Angel: Glorious guardian of my soul, you who shine in the beautiful heavens like a gentle, pure flame beside the throne of the Eternal—you descend to earth for my sake, illuminating me with your splendor! Beautiful Angel, you become my brother, my friend, my comforter! **Knowing my great weakness, you guide me by the hand,** and I see you tenderly remove the stone from my path. Your gentle voice ever calls me to look only toward the heavens. The more humble and little you see me to be, the more radiant your brow becomes. O you who traverse the vastness of space swifter than lightning, **I beg you: fly in my stead to those who are dear to me! With your wing, dry their tears;** sing of how good Jesus is, and softly whisper my name...

"During my brief life, I wish to save my fellow sinners. **O beautiful Angel of my homeland, grant me your holy zeal!** I have nothing but my sacrifices and my austere poverty. Present them, along with your heavenly delights, to the Trinity..."

Saint Philip Neri, the apostle of joy, encountered an Angel disguised

as a poor beggar. Just as he was about to give the man the little money he possessed, the Angel revealed his true identity. He explained that he had wished to test Philip's generosity; he smiled at him and then vanished.



Saint Padre Pio affectionately called his Guardian Angel "my little childhood companion." In letters to his spiritual directors, he recounted frequent encounters with these Angels, who gave him a foretaste of heavenly bliss and helped him withstand the attacks of the Evil One. Faced with so many supernatural phenomena, his confessor decided to test the veracity of these accounts by sending him letters written in Greek and French—languages the Italian Capuchin did not know. Upon receiving them, the saint understood everything and replied to his confessor: **"You know, my Guardian Angel explained it all to me."**

In her Diary, Saint Faustina Kowalska recounts numerous visions of Angels. She regularly sees her Guardian Angel by her side—in the garden, in the kitchen, or on the train—and receives tangible help from him during difficult times. One

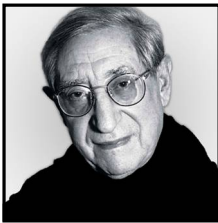
day, her Angel even showed her the place reserved for her in Heaven for fulfilling God's will...

Saint Angela of Foligno, a 13th-century mystic, left behind many writings recounting her visions of heavenly creatures. One day, during Mass, she heard a voice say to her: "At this moment, the Son of God, in His humanity and divinity, is present on the altar, surrounded by a multitude of Angels."



The saint declared: "Their presence brought me such joy, and their words filled my soul with such happiness, that **I never would have believed the most holy Angels were capable of bestowing such delights upon souls.**"

Closer to our own time, Father Matteo La Grua (1914–2012)—



a spiritual father of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, an exorcist and a renowned miracle-worker—evangelized a large part of Sicily. He celebrated Mass with profound

fervor, and on more than one occasion, **those close to him heard the singing of Angels during his celebrations.** This magnificent polyphony—heavenly songs impossible for humans to produce—was even recorded.

Dearest Gospa, O blessed Queen of the Angels, send us, above all, your Angels of peace in these perilous times! Help us pray to them fervently for our families and for all our needs! Do not let us leave idle these heavenly companions who are capable of great miracles for each of us, under their protection! Dearest Gospa, I beg you, speak to my Guardian Angel...

Sister Emmanuel,
Community of the Beatitudes

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

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Celebrated on Cross Mountain

"We always have the opportunity to find healing by fixing our gaze upon the Lord Jesus and His cross."

Ever since the early morning, numerous pilgrims from all over the world made their way up the Cross Mountain—a climb undertaken for nearly half a century now—while the parishioners of Međugorje have been ascending this hill above the village for almost a century to celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast is traditionally held on Cross Mountain on the first Sunday following the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The idea to build the cross originated in the Vatican. Pope Pius XI wished for crosses to be erected on high ground around the world to mark the 1,900th anniversary of Christ's passion and death. One of those who embraced this idea was Friar Bernardin Smoljan, the parish priest of Međugorje. He announced the plan to his parishioners in January 1934, and the parish enthusiastically accepted it.

The parishioners of Međugorje literally carried heavy loads up the hill—then known as Šipovac—on their own shoulders, completing the construction of the large concrete cross in just 52 days. On March 16, 1934, the parish priest blessed the cross and celebrated the first Holy Mass on the hill, which has since been known as Cross Mountain.

Cross Mountain has become an essential stop for the many pilgrims visiting Međugorje; every Friday

afternoon, parishioners and pilgrims gather there to pray the Stations of the Way of the Cross. Many pilgrims from neighboring parishes arrived on foot again today; many went to confession on Cross Mountain and prayed the Stations of the Cross during their ascent. Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Ivan Landeka Jr.,

parochial vicar at St. Anthony's Parish in Humac and novice master. The novices assisted at Mass, and the singing was led by the Međugorje parish priest, Fr. Zvonimir Pavičić.

At the beginning of Mass, Fr. Ivan Landeka recalled the event when the Lord revealed Himself to Moses on Mount Horeb and said to him: "Remove your sandals, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

"The same applies to this place where we are now. Many of you have truly come to this place even physically barefoot, having removed your footwear... But we are called, above all, to remove the footwear of our sins in this holy place. To remove the footwear of everything that makes us unworthy of this holy place. Therefore, at the beginning of this Holy Mass, as we thank the Lord that we can once again be in this holy place, let us remove the footwear of our sins in a sincere repentance, asking for God's mercy and forgiveness," said Fr. Ivan Landeka Jr. as he introduced the Holy Mass celebration this Sunday, September 13, on Cross Mountain above Međugorje. At the start of his homily, he noted that the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is an invitation to gaze upon Jesus' cross and listen to what it tells



us—what His holy wounds tell us, what His crown of thorns tells us, what His patience tells us, and what His immense love and goodness tell us...

He then spoke about the history of the construction of this cross—beneath which Holy Mass has been celebrated on Križevac since 1934—noting that during this Holy Mass, we remember and give thanks to those who built it. Yet, he added, "above all, we thank them for the faith and love they passed on to us, so that we, too, here at the foot of the cross today, might belong more fully to Jesus and be more deeply filled with His love and goodness."

He also remarked that today, many pilgrims—especially while praying the Stations of the Cross as they ascend this hill—find meaning in their own crosses and discover the strength to bear the burdens of daily life...

"These are all graces for which we thank the Lord here today. Let us also pray that His love—which shone upon us so brightly from the wood of the cross—may continually inspire us, so that by His grace and with His help, we might more easily carry our own daily crosses," said Friar Ivan Landeka Jr., emphasizing that "we always have the opportunity to find healing by fixing our gaze upon the Lord Jesus and His cross."

"That is why it has been so beautifully said that we are often too focused on our own crosses. If we were to look more often at Jesus' cross and contemplate it, our own crosses would become much lighter; for by gazing upon His cross and meditating on it, our crosses become lighter and more bearable... Even Saint Francis of Assisi—whom we are especially commemorating this year as we mark the 800th anniversary of his death—told his first brothers that, above all, it is necessary to read the book of Jesus'

cross." Let us, too, take away from this holy hill of Cross Mountain today that important message: to read the book of Jesus's Cross again and again, to learn from it, and to draw strength from it. Just as Jesus tells us: "Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls." And that is what we yearn for most: peace for our hearts, peace for our souls," said Fr. Ivan Landeka Jr., urging everyone to pray before the Cross—"something Our Lady has often called for in Medjugorje"—for beneath the Lord's Cross, one will "always find the spiritual strength needed for life's journey."

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 773 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.

"We all have crosses in our homes, in our families, in our rooms; many even wear them around their necks. Yet, let us strive to ensure that these crosses are not merely wall decorations, but truly something we gaze upon often—a source of inspiration and strength on life's journey," Friar Ivan urged, continuing: "That is why it is good, even during the day—perhaps when we are in a rush and short on time—to look

at Jesus's Cross and say: 'Lord, grant me strength for this day; grant me strength for the difficulties I may encounter; grant me strength for the cross I am currently bearing. May I, guided by Your Cross and inspired by Your example, walk patiently and follow You, just as You called me to do: "Whoever wishes to be mine, let him take up his cross and follow me."

MEDJUGORJE CENTRE NORTH EAST PILGRIMAGE

in conjunction with
NORTHERN STAR TRAVEL LTD
 (Tel: 0161 773 2115)



ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE 2027

led by Fr. Martin Morris

Important Information for Pilgrims – Medjugorje 2027

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 6th—13th June 2027

Cost per person: £830 sharing, £975 in single room
 (Deposit required £200)

Earlybird discount £15pp for bookings made before 31st October 2026

Flying from Newcastle to Dubrovnik
Half Board
Hotel Royal—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: **07802730537**