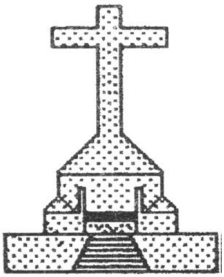
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MEDJUGORJE CENTRE NORTH EAST
(Established since 1989)



www.medjugorjene.co.uk

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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 November 2026

20th December 2026



St John Vianney
Hillhead Parkway
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 1DP

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**

OUR LADY'S MESSAGE—To the World

Given 25th October 2026 to Marija Pavlovic



"Dear children, A fire of hatred and wars is spreading in the hearts of people who do not want peace but their own weak interests. That is why, little children, you be prayer and my extended hands of love and peace for all those who are far from my motherly heart. Pray more strongly and more for the peace that God desires to give you but you do not want it. I am with you and I am praying that peace may prevail and reign in every heart. 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 begin our reflection on this months message, which is both sobering and urgent in it's call.

Our Lady calls us to two things; To pray more strongly, and to pray more for the peace that God desires to give us. In teaching us how to pray, Mary has over the years reminded us that when we pray, we should do so not according to our own desires, but according to the desires of God. In other words, to abandon ourselves to Gods will, to surrender to him, and open our lives to his will. It is so easy to become focused on our own 'weak interests' and to be closed to the ' Peace that God desires to give us.' Our Lady asks us in this message to be mindful and to pray for all who are far from her motherly heart.

"A fire of hatred and wars is spreading in the hearts of people who do not want peace but their own weak interests." Let us look at what is happening in the world at present. With dreadful wars in the Middle East and Ukraine, and violence throughout Europe, we can see the fire of hatred and wars that is a hellish experience - a hellish reality. This situation has come about Our Lady tells us because of those who seek their own 'weak interests.' For some people war is money, and power.

In every human being there is a resistance to peace. We all have our own interests, but the Gospel of Jesus calls us to conquer this attitude for the good. Sad, as it is there are powerful people in the world who misuse their power for destruction.

This is the reason for us to take Mary at her word , and to take her seriously. **"Pray more strongly, and**

more for the peace that God desires to give you but you do not want it." What does it mean to pray more strongly. ? Each of us can only ask ourselves this personally in the quiet of our minds and hearts. Strong prayer is when we pray from the heart, with faith and love. When we pray carefully, and with conviction. When we go beyond words and offer our hearts to God in prayer. The Rosary, Holy Mass, and Sacred Scripture are the ways our Lady has recommended us to pray in these times. Can we be stronger in these? Remember that prayer is a meeting with God. When we pray the Rosary we meet with God. When we ponder his Word we are in his presence. All prayer is contact with God, and it is helpful to remember this each time we decide for prayer.

Our Lady wants to lead us all to peace in a special way, and that Peace, is the peace that comes from God. Man needs no other form of peace than the peace that comes from God. This is real peace, that knows no conditions, weak interests, , but only conversion of life, prayer, fasting, and permitting oneself to be led. But we have to 'Want' this peace, by our openness to God, and with Our Lady say to him, "Here Iam I come to do your will." Let us become as Our Lady asks, '**Be my extended hands of love and peace for all those who are far from my motherly heart.'** Only through love and prayer can we become the means for others to find their peace in God, through the motherly heart of Our Lady.

God Bless,
Fr. Martin

Medjugorje, Our Lady's Message on October 14, 2026 Given to Ivan



"Dear children!
Today, as you are gathered in this cathedral, I wish to call you again: open your hearts to God!
Little children of mine, the world today is wounded. Many hearts have lost peace, many families have lost shared prayer, and many people live as if God does not exist.
Do not allow fear to be stronger than your faith, nor to let hatred be stronger than love, nor to let the darkness of this world extinguish the light that my Son Jesus wishes to give to you.
Dear children, peace does not begin in the great palaces of the world. **Peace begins in your hearts, in your families,** in your forgiveness, and in your prayer. That is why I am calling you: return to prayer! Return to Holy Mass! Return to confession! **Return to my Son Jesus, because without Him there is no true peace.**
Little children, **do not wait for tomorrow to change your lives.** Do not wait for the world to become better. Begin today with yourselves. Be the light where darkness reigns. Be a voice of peace where there is talk of war. Be the hands of love where people are suffering.
I am calling you to pray especially for your families, for the youth who are seeking the meaning of life, for priests, for the Church, and for peace throughout the world.
Have no fear of the future while you are walking with God. Do not lose hope when you see the crosses of life. **My Son Jesus has conquered death, and in Him lies your hope.**
Thank you for responding to the call to prayer and peace."

children of Medjugorje

REPORT FROM SISTER EMMANUEL

of The Community of The Beatitudes

www.sremmanuel.org

Medjugorje, October 17, 2026

Dear Friends, praise be to Jesus and Mary!

1. He was wearing His crown of thorns. The scene takes place in Medjugorje, just after Mass. Among the faithful is the "locutionist" Jelena Vasilj (see PS1), who, to her great surprise, sees Jesus outside near the church. She alone sees Him. The vision is deeply painful, for Jesus appears to her as He did during His Passion: He wears His crown of thorns, His cheeks are covered in blood and spittle, and His eyes express an endless sorrow. He looks at Jelena and, in a few words, reveals the cause of His suffering: "When my children receive Me in Holy Communion, they return to their places, make the Sign of the Cross, and dismiss Me."



Is that it, then? Is the encounter over? When we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, He comes to us like a lover, bearing a multitude of graces, blessings, treasures, and divine gifts—for **He knows the emptiness and the thirst of our hearts.** But if the heart is closed, He cannot force the door open; He must withdraw, His heart broken with sorrow. All that remains is a void, for we have missed the most beautiful encounter of our lives.

2. A priest sobbing, caught on live stream. No one expected it, yet Heaven had prepared this grace to awaken us. It is not a miracle—but in some ways it is better than a miracle: **a profoundly powerful, deeply moving, and irrefutable sign.**

In the parish of Hopkins, Minnesota (USA), Father Brent Bowman was celebrating Mass for the school students on September 14—the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. As usual, the Mass was being broadcast on YouTube.

At the moment of the consecration of the wine, Father Brent was overcome with emotion. He slowly pronounced the words of consecration—the very words spoken by Christ at the Last Supper: "This is my Blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me." As the wine was transformed into the Blood of Christ at the priest's words, Father Brent clutched the chalice; however, he found himself unable to lift it, for it had become incredibly heavy. **He began to weep. Long minutes passed.** When he finally managed to raise the chalice, his hands were trembling. He then knelt down, and there, at the foot of the altar, he continued to weep.

What had happened? **A personal, intimate experience of a mystical nature.** He explains it with great simplicity, and here is a summary…



I received an interior knowledge of the power of these words and the reality of their effect… With each word, I became more physically overwhelmed, to the point where I could no longer speak. With each word, I gained a palpable sense of the weight of God's power descending upon the altar. **I felt the weight of the substantial presence within the chalice I held in my hands… The chalice had become too heavy,** and I was granted the grace to understand more deeply the bittersweet nature of Our Lord's Passion and all the blood He shed for the immense burden of our sins.

Father Brent prays that his testimony "touches all our hearts, and that we may contemplate more deeply the mystery of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, in the Precious Blood."

Thank You, Lord, for this extraordinary sign You chose to reveal to the world, to strengthen our faith and our gratitude toward You! This testimony will help us experience the moment of the consecration of the bread and wine differently—with the eyes of the heart, rather than being distracted. We will contemplate Jesus truly present on the altar. Imagine how the Blessed Virgin Mary must have contemplated her Son Jesus descending alive upon the altar when Saint John celebrated Mass in her presence!

3. A light dies which leads to endless fruitfulness! In Medjugorje, the Franciscan celebrated with great joy the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis, who passed away on the night of October 3–4, 1226, at the age of 44.
On the evening of October 3, a vast crowd of pilgrims gathered to celebrate the *Transitus*—Saint Francis's passing from this world to the next.
Let us not forget that, to mark the eighth centenary of his death, **the Church has declared a Jubilee Year in honor of Saint Francis, running from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027.** This offers the faithful the same graces and spiritual benefits found in a traditional Jubilee Year, such as the one in 2025.



4. Free a priest from Purgatory! Since we can obtain the release of a soul from Purgatory during the Jubilee Year (one per day), why not take the opportunity to offer this grace to our deceased loved ones?
Perhaps one of them is suffering greatly and awaiting our prayer to enter Heaven? Why not also pray for the release of a priest, **knowing that priests in Purgatory suffer in a unique way?**

We can ask Our Lady herself to choose a priest. Overjoyed to be freed from Purgatory, that priest will be eager to help his brother priests on earth—especially those who have strayed into sin and are in danger of being lost. They will then be able to return without

delay to the Christ who called them and choose the path of holiness. **What an immense blessing this will be for the Church and for our deeply wounded world!** All our prayers are good, but the offering of one or more Masses is the most fruitful means of delivering a soul from Purgatory.

Video "Help Your Priest!"

5. October, the month of the Rosary! Many saints have recommended praying the Rosary and extolled the priceless fruits it bears in the soul! For my part, I like to view the Rosary as a lifeboat during storms—especially since there is no shortage of storms these days!
Look up online the 15 promises Mary made to those who pray the Rosary daily—promises received by Blessed Alan de la Roche!

Dearest Gospa, I cannot help but share here your cry of maternal love: "Dear children! If only you would open your hearts to me with complete trust, you would comprehend everything. You would comprehend with how much love I am calling you; with how much love I desire to change you, to make you happy; with how much love I desire to make you followers of my Son and give you peace in the fullness of my Son..." (August 2, 2013)

Sister Emmanuel,
Community of the Beatitudes

PS1. Jelena Vasilj was 11 years old when the apparitions began. Our Lady chose her—not to receive apparitions, but to receive interior locutions and visions. For seven years, Jelena led the prayer group founded by the Blessed Virgin Mary in Medjugorje in 1982 and guided by Her.

Mothers Village—Medjugorje

Mother's Village is an institution for the preschool education and social care. Fr. Slavko Barbarić decided in 1993 to open an institution for the children who lost their parents due to war or other causes and that is how the first house was opened in Bijakovići (parish of Medjugorje) to care for them. The land was donated by the municipality of Čitluk. Mother's Village officially began its work on September 8, 1996. Hundreds of children, young people, and single mothers have passed through it.



Biography of Fr. Slavko Barbarić (1946.–2000.)

Fr. Slavko Barbarić was born in Dragićina, Herzegovina, parish of Čerin, on March 11, 1946. He completed the elementary school in Čerin (1953-1961) and high school in Dubrovnik with the Jesuits (1961-1965). He completed his theological studies in Visoko (1966-1967), Sarajevo (early 1969 - summer 1970) and Schwaz in Austria (1970-1972). In the meantime, he served 18 months of military service in the Yugoslav People's Army (summer 1967 - late 1968) in

Danilovgrad in Montenegro, and the last months in Mostar.



He put on the Franciscan habit in Humac on July 14, 1965, made his perpetual vows in La Verna on September 17, 1971, was ordained a deacon on December 18, 1971, and a priest on December 19, 1971 in Reutte, Tyrol. He first worked briefly in pastoral work in Frohnleiten, Austria (1972-1973), and then served as the assistant parish priest in Čapljina for five years (1973-1978). He then went on to postgraduate studies in Freiburg (1978-1982).

There he earned a doctorate in the religious pedagogy (1982). Upon his return to Herzegovina, he first worked as a chaplain in Mostar (1982/83). He was then transferred to Medjugorje, with which he would remain inseparably connected until his death, even when he worked in other places. He was first an assistant parish priest in Blagaj (1985-1988), then an assistant master of novices in Humac (1988-1991). From 1992 until his death, he lived permanently in Medjugorje. He was one of the most famous Franciscans and Croats in the world for many years. He is known as a penitent, a prayerful person and the most zealous spreader of Our Lady's messages of peace throughout the world.
He organized countless spiritual gatherings in Medjugorje and throughout the world: prayers of the rosary on the Apparition Hill, the Way of the Cross on Cross Mountain, adoration, New Year's Eve in Medjugorje for young people, the summer youth festival in Medjugorje. In the Domus Pacis house of prayer, which Fr. Slavko bought, countless prayer seminars have been held to this day. He held numerous spiritual retreats for priests from all over the world. He organized military pilgrimages to the Queen of Peace. It is truly difficult to list all of his activities. He was tireless. He founded several charitable institutions, including the Fund for Friends of Talents (for poor students), the Fund for Children of Veterans, and the particularly important Mother's Village (for neglected children). He took permanent care of the community of addicts Cenacolo in Medjugorje.



He died on November 24, 2000 on Cross Mountain, where he had just completed the regular Way of the Cross on Fridays, at the age of 54, 35 years as a monk, and 29 years as a priest. He was buried in the Medjugorje cemetery in Kovačica on November 26, 2000, in the presence of tens of thousands of pilgrims from all over the world.

For years he collaborated with NASA ognjište/Sveta baština, publishing articles of spiritual content, especially interviews with famous people from all over the world who had made a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. Both the newsletter of the Medjugorje shrine, Glas mira, and the Herzegovina annual Kršni zavičaj, are full of his articles. He has written numerous books of spiritual content, most of which have been translated, some into twenty world languages, and printed in huge editions.

Places of Prayer in Medjugorje

Međugorje has become one of the most famous Catholic shrines in the world, attracting millions of pilgrims. The centers of the spiritual life and prayer are the parish church of St. James, the Apparition Hill (Podbrdo), and Cross Mountain.

Apparition Hill



This is now the name of the place above the hamlet of Podbrdo in Bijakovići where the visionaries first saw Our Lady. It was at the end of June 1981. Since then, the faithful have gathered at this site to pray the Rosary. Groups of pilgrims can be seen both day and night ascending to the place where the statue of Our Lady stands. Along the ascent path are reliefs of the Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, and along the descent path are reliefs of the Glorious Mysteries. At the foot of the hill is another important place of prayer – the Blue Cross.

Cross Mountain



Cross Mountain is the hill above Medjugorje. Here, in 1934, the parishioners together with their pastor, Fr. Bernardin Smoljan, erected an eight -meter-high concrete cross in the commemoration of the 1900th anniversary of the death of Jesus. At the intersection of the two arms of the cross are embedded relics that the parish priest received ad hoc from Rome. Groups of the faithful and individuals perform the devotion of the Way of the Cross here, moving from station to station. Cross Mountain has developed into a privileged place of veneration of Christ's Passion. Twice a year, Holy Mass is celebrated on this site: for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (the first Sunday after the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary) and on the last day of the Youth Festival.

Parish Church



The parish church and the area around the church are places of prayer, celebration of the Eucharist, and the sacrament of confession. This space should always be filled with peace and a prayerful atmosphere. The church was completed in 1969. It is dedicated to St. James the Greater, apostle and patron of pilgrims. Next to the church, an outdoor altar was erected in 1991 for prayer program during the summer months when a large number of pilgrims are present. West of the church, behind the confessionals, a prayer space was built where the faithful can light a candle and pray. Near the church, a chapel for Eucharistic adoration has also been constructed. Behind the outdoor prayer area is a path with the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, leading to the statue of the Risen Christ, which is also a place of reflection and prayer.

Medjugorje Centre (North East)



MEDJUGORJE RETREAT AT MINSTERACRES

Spiritual Director—Fr. Martin Morris

Oct 9th– 11th 2026

It was a truly wonderful weekend at Minsteracres from 9-11th October. Father Martin Morris guided 26 of us scripturally through 3 Mysteries over the course of the 3 days showing us how we can relate to each mystery in this present time and what it teaches us about the real person of Mary and how she continues to watch over us and be Mother to us.

Father Martin first reflected on the latest message (25 September 2026) to the world from Our Lady, in which she reminds us that she is with us and is praying for us and with us ***as never before***. It seems this time is unique, a time of great grace. During the weekend we experienced beautiful Masses, holy hours, an opportunity for reflection and to pray the Rosary together. The talks that followed each one were captivating and gave much food for thought, prayer and reflection. Anxious not to lose the essence of these talks, I felt compelled to write down much of what Father said and what follows is a paraphrasing of some of the things he taught us.

Reflecting on the Annunciation, firstly we have the word 'Hail' which translated from the Greek means Rejoice /Be glad. Our Blessed Lady often uses these words in her messages. Heaven always brings us gladness. At the time that the Gospels were first being written and going out to the Greek people, the world was very pagan, a dark place. The word 'Rejoice' from the early Christians and the message that a true and loving God exists would have been radical and absolutely transformational. Our Lady in our times brings US good news and liberates us from darkness, fears and uncertainties. Her Immaculate Heart showers joy upon us and kindness. She invites us to be her extended hands and transmitters of joy.

The Angel Gabriel said 'Do not be afraid Mary'. Mary would have remembered this instruction many times in her earthly life when she had so much uncertainty and faced great challenges and sadness. The Queen of Peace also asks the same of us when we face fear, loneliness and sickness. We have her Immaculate Heart as our refuge. Mary was courageous and faithful enough to say 'I am the servant of the Lord', opening up the doors of salvation to the whole of humanity with her Yes. She invites us to say this Yes too despite reluctance and doubt, to be brave and say Yes to God each day because it is the best way.

The Visitation was the second Mystery we focussed on. In this decade we can meditate on the action and power of the Holy Spirit between

Elizabeth and Mary. Firstly there is the courage of Mary as she travels 70 miles immediately after the Annunciation filled with joy and the Holy Spirit to see her cousin Elizabeth, who just on seeing her cousin is also filled with the Holy Spirit. Mary declares 'My soul doth magnify the Lord'. She is overflowing with gratitude and grace. Mary is full of generosity too with us and says in her latest message …'so that I may be able to multiply your prayers and intercede for you before the Most High, to heed your prayers and give you peace'. Everything to do with Heaven is bountiful, overflowing, as Mary is, full of grace. This mystery highlights our Lady's generosity, her desire to help with haste, her kindness and her motherly heart which goes out to others.

This is also shown in our final mystery for reflection 'The Wedding Feast at Cana' which is only written about in St John's Gospel. Saint John writes from the very privileged position of having lived with Mary in the Holy House which still stands in Ephesus, Turkey, after Jesus' death and resurrection. Surely he must have asked for her advice when wondering what to include. This beautiful mystery shows us Mary's attentive eye for what is happening. She notices what is going on, the wine has run out, and she intervenes. When something looks like going wrong, Our Lady intervenes, as she is doing on earth now. She is listening and wants to multiply our prayers. She asks us to 'do whatever he tells us'. She points us to her Son, and her Son to us.

The weekend retreat was really a heavenly experience. Everything and everyone played their part in making it so wonderful: the weather, the location, the kindness of volunteers, the wonderful company of fellow retreatants, the fabulous food.

We are indebted to Father Martin for his time and preparation and to Marian Fletcher who once again put everything together and made it happen!

Retreatant

Let us pray with the Holy Father:

Prayer Intention for November 2026

'For the proper use of wealth'



"Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less."

Pope Leo XIV