

# THE MEDJUGORJE MESSAGE



*Message of Our Lady given to Marija, April 25, 2012*

*Dear children! Also today I am calling you to prayer, and may your heart, little children, open towards God as a flower opens towards the warmth of the sun. I am with you and I intercede for all of you. Thank you for having responded to my call.*

## **MARCH 25th MESSAGE TO MARIJA**

Dear children! Also today, with joy, I desire to give you my motherly blessing and to call you to prayer. May prayer become a need for you to grow more in holiness every day. Work more on your conversion because you are far away, little children. Thank you for having responded to my call.

## **THE MONTH OF MAY**

● "May is a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Our heart rejoices at the thought of the moving tribute of faith and love which will soon be paid to the Queen of Heaven in every corner of the earth. For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne... Since Mary is rightly to be regarded as the way by which we are led to Christ, the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise. For what other reason do we continually turn to Mary except to seek the Christ in her arms, to seek our Savior in her, through her, and with her?"

• Pope Paul VI, April 1969

**DEAR CHILDREN, THANK YOU  
FOR RESPONDING TO MY CALL...**



***It is impossible for us to refrain from speaking of what we have seen and heard.***

**I am with you and I wish to teach you to pray with the heart. In prayer with the heart you shall encounter God.**

**Therefore, little children, pray, pray!** *Medjugorje message, October 25, 1989*

● **In a recent catechesis, Pope Benedict XVI echoes the words of Our Lady's messages from Medjugorje and her emphasis on prayer. Our Lady's words are highlighted in blue.**

### **VENERATING THE MOTHER OF GOD MEANS LEARNING TO BECOME A COMMUNITY OF PRAYER**

*Vatican City, 14 March 2012*

● **During his general audience this morning the Holy Father began a new cycle of catecheses, dedicated to the subject of prayer in the Acts of the Apostles and the Letters of St Paul. The Pope focused his remarks today on the figure of Mary as she appears in the Acts, when with the Apostles she awaits the coming of the Holy Spirit.**

***"My heart carefully follows your progress..."***

Benedict XVI told the more than 10,000 pilgrims gathered in St Peter's Square that "it was with Mary that Jesus' earthly life began, and it was with her that the Church took its first steps... She discreetly followed her Son's journey during His public life, even unto the foot of the cross. **Then, with silent prayer, she continued to follow the progress of the Church**", he explained.

***"...in the silence of your heart, seek salvation for your soul and nurture it with prayer."***

The stages of Mary's own journey from the house of Nazareth to the Upper Room of Jerusalem "were marked by her capacity to maintain an ongoing state of contemplation, **meditating upon each event in the silence of her heart, before God.** The Mother of God's presence with the Eleven after the Ascension... has great significance because with them she shared the most precious of things: the living memory of Jesus in prayer".

***"Pray, little children, that the Holy Spirit may come to dwell in you in fullness, so that you may be able to witness in joy to all those who are far from faith."***

After Jesus' Ascension to heaven, the Apostles met with Mary to await the gift of the Holy Spirit, without which it is not possible to bear witness to Christ. "She, who had already received the Spirit in order to generate the



## **MARY TEACHES THE NEED FOR PRAYER**

incarnate Word, shared the entire Church's expectation of the same gift... If it is true that there could be no Church without Pentecost, it is also true that there could have been no Pentecost without the Mother of Jesus, because she had a unique knowledge of what the Church experiences every day by the action of the Holy Spirit".

***"I am with you and I wish to teach you to pray with the heart."***

The Pope went on to recall how the Vatican Council II Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium* had emphasised this special relationship between the Virgin and the Church. "We see the Apostles before the day of Pentecost 'constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women including Mary the mother of Jesus", he said. **"Mary's place is in the Church,** 'wherefore she is hailed as a pre-eminent and singular member... and as its type and excellent exemplar in faith and charity'.

***"...pray for peace, pray together with your Mother for peace."***

"Venerating the Mother of Jesus in the Church means, then, **learning from her how to become a community of prayer**", the Holy Father added. "This is one of the essential aspects of the first description of the Christian community given in the Acts of the Apostles".

***"I desire for my, Jesus' and your heart to become one heart of love and peace."***

Our prayers "are often dictated by difficult situations, by personal problems which cause us to turn to the Lord in search of

light, comfort and aid. But Mary invites us to open prayer to other dimensions, to address God not only in moments of need and not only for ourselves, but unanimously, perseveringly, faithfully and with 'one heart and soul'".

***"The great love of God sends me to lead you to salvation."***

Benedict XVI also pointed out that Mary "was placed by the Lord at decisive moments of the history of salvation, and she always responded with complete readiness as a result of her profound bond with God matured through assiduous and intense prayer... Between the Ascension and Pentecost, she was 'with' and 'in' the Church, in prayer. Mother of God and Mother of the Church, Mary exercises her maternity until the end of history".

***"Pray, because in prayer each one of you will be able to achieve complete love... I wish all of you to be the light for everyone and that you give witness in the light."***

The Pope concluded by saying that "Mary teaches us the need for prayer and shows us how only through a constant, **intimate and complete bond of love with her Son** can we courageously leave our homes... to announce the Lord Jesus, Saviour of the world".

## **APRIL MESSAGE TO MIRJANA**

***Dear children, As the Queen of Peace, I desire to give peace to you, my children, true peace which comes through the heart of my Divine Son. As a mother I pray that wisdom, humility and goodness may come to reign in your hearts – that peace may reign – that my Son may reign. When my Son will be the ruler in your hearts, you will be able to help others to come to know him. When heavenly peace comes to rule over you, those who are seeking it in the wrong places, thus causing pain to my motherly heart, will recognise it. My children, great will be my joy when I see that you are accepting my words and that you desire to follow me. Do not be afraid, you are not alone. Give me your hands and I will lead you. Do not forget your shepherds. Pray that in their thoughts they may always be with my Son who called them to witness him. Thank you. April 2, 2012***

***"With silent prayer she continued to follow the progress of the Church..."***





## ROBERTO MANCINI VISITS MEDJUGORJE

● The Manchester City football club manager Roberto Mancini made a surprise visit to Medjugorje at the end of March during a brief break in his club's challenge for Premiership title.

Accompanied by his wife and daughter, the 47-year-old Italian flew by private jet to Mostar and from there made the short journey to Medjugorje. "I have come as a pilgrim," he said.

Mancini wasted no time in starting his pilgrimage and immediately on arrival he and his family made their way up Apparition Hill. They also climbed Mt Krizevac, attended Mass, met with three visionaries, Vicka, Mirjana and Jakov, and also some of the Franciscans, during their three-day stay.

A press conference was arranged by Fr Miljenko to pacify the trailing media interest and during this meeting the City manager answered questions about his visit. He said that he had wanted to come for a very long time and had first heard about Medjugorje from an Italian priest 25 years ago.

"Faith has helped me a lot, I'm not talking about my career but my personal life. Our Lady and the Lord has more important work to see to than my job in football.

"Here in Medjugorje you can recharge your batteries, the people are wonderful and if everyone was like this the world would be a better place."

He concluded, "Millions of people come here, and I will come again. I believe more and more that Medjugorje will change the world for the better."



*Pictures show Roberto Mancini being prayed over by Vicka, meeting with Mirjana, with local guide Mate Vastlj, walking with Fr Miljenko and Mika Vasilj, and photographed at the Blue Cross.*

## ANNUAL MESSAGE TO MIRJANA

● The visionary Mirjana Dragicevic Soldo celebrated her 47th birthday on March 18, the day she received her annual apparition promised to her by Our Lady. Several thousand pilgrims gathered with Mirjana at the Blue Cross in the afternoon for the apparition that began around 2:00pm and lasted five minutes.

**Dear children! I am coming among you because I desire to be your mother – your intercessor. I desire to be the bond between you and the Heavenly Father – your mediatrix. I desire to take you by the hand and to walk with you in the battle against the impure spirit. My children, consecrate yourselves to me completely. I will take your lives into my motherly hands and I will teach them peace and love, and then I will give them over to my Son. I am asking of you to pray and fast because only in this way will you know how to witness my Son in the right way through my motherly heart. Pray for your shepherds that, united in my Son, they can always joyfully proclaim the Word of God. Thank you. March 18, 2012**

The message was appropriate in that it was entrusted on the fourth Sunday of Lent, a day traditionally celebrated to honour all mothers and often referred to as "Mothering Sunday".

In this message Our Lady stresses her important role, familiar to all mothers, as an advocate and mediator wanting to help her children to obtain and share in the graces which God generously provides. Her role as Mother of the Church means that she prays and intercedes for the Church, and her bonding role as a Mother is recognised and honoured by the Church: The Catechism teaches:

*"This motherhood of Mary in the order of grace continues uninterrupted from the consent which she loyally gave at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross, until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation . . . Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix." (969)*

## 30,000 PEOPLE FOR APPARITION IN SICILY

The Medjugorje visionary Marija Pavlovic gave her testimony in Palermo, Sicily, last month to an audience of



30,000 gathered in a local sports stadium. Our pictures show some of the vast and enthusiastic crowd that travelled from all over the island to be present for Marija's visit and the apparition of Our Lady.



**"I believe Medjugorje will change the world for the better..."**



**VICKA'S HOUSE HAS NEW PRAYER ROOM**

● The famous house in Bijakovici, Medjugorje, where the visionary Vicka received her apparitions for many years has undergone some refurbishment and one of its rooms converted into a prayer room open to visiting pilgrims.



Vicka still meets regularly with pilgrims to give her witness on the steps of her grand-mother's house. The back room where she received her apparitions has a new floor and new furniture. The balcony has been tiled, and the outside wall has new windows and a new door fitted with a

blue cross emblem.

While pilgrims have always been welcomed in Vicka's former home, access has been limited. Now with one of the upper rooms converted for use as a prayer room, pilgrim groups can be accommodated more easily and comfortably.

• The building mania continues in Medjugorje... The Galacia restaurant and the row of shops either side have been demolished and a new building project is underway.



**FRESH START FOR POPULAR NEWSLETTER**

● The popular Medjugorje newsletter, *Echo of Mary*, has reverted back to its original title, *Echo of Medjugorje*.

Founded in November 1984 by the late Fr Angelo Mutti, the Italian newsletter is published in 14 languages and its 700,000 circulation has grown to reach all continents. The title switch to *Echo of Mary* was made in January 1995, but now in its 28th year and with the 219th edition the newsletter is

published under the banner of *Echo of Medjugorje*.

Fr Angelo was the editor until his death in March 2000. His position was later filled until recently by Stefania Consoli when the newsletter's Board of Directors decided to end the collaboration with Sr Stefania and the Queen of Peace Community, associated with the laicised Franciscan priest, Tomislav Vlasic.

It appears that this connection and the "off-message" editorial policy taken by Sr Stefania prompted the Board of Directors to make changes.

The *Echo of Medjugorje* is published bi-monthly and relies entirely on the generosity of readers for its worldwide distribution and financial support. The 14 published languages are: Italian, English, German, French, Spanish, Catalan, Polish, Slovak, Romanian, Portuguese, Swedish, Ukranian, Latvian and Russian.

**STAMP PRICES SOAR**

● It came as no real surprise when Royal Mail announced a near 40% increase in the price of a second-class stamp, from 36p to 50p, to be introduced at the end of April. I had heard rumours of the extraordinary postage increase some weeks before.

I am estimating that the overall cost to post out the Medjugorje newsletter will rise by an average 35%. In monetary terms that's another £250 added to the cost of sending out the publication each month.

I shall keep on publishing the newsletter but perhaps not always on the monthly frequency as has been the norm for most of the past ten years. I have always felt that because Our Lady gives her message every month it should be disseminated on a monthly basis too. However, her monthly message is more easily and quickly accessible these days with the advance of the internet and new communication technology, and perhaps the Royal Mail route of distribution will eventually prove to be no longer a viable or practical way of spreading her messages.



Our Lady's message and much of the material in the newsletter is available at the blog: [www.crownofstars.blogspot.com](http://www.crownofstars.blogspot.com)

A pdf version, which can be printed, is also available online from the website: [www.medjugorjecalling.com](http://www.medjugorjecalling.com)

**AYLESFORD PILGRIMAGE**

● Another reminder that a pilgrimage day in honour of Our Lady Queen of Peace will take place at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Simon Stock, Aylesford, Kent on Saturday 2nd June 2012.

Visitors are warmly invited to join the Carmelite Community and friends for a day of gentle reflective prayer, music and companionship from 11am until 5pm.

The day will include testimony from Denise de Vallancy and Magnus McFarlane. There will be a children's rosary, talks, prayers for peace, for the London Olympics, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Commonwealth. Mass is at 12 noon, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available.

For further information please contact: The Shrine Secretary, The Friars, on 01622 717272 or visit the Priory's website: [thefriars.org.uk](http://thefriars.org.uk)

**UPDATE ON CLERGY PILGRIMAGE**

● It is now shaping up that the planned clergy pilgrimage to Medjugorje will be made up of two groups, one visiting in May and another later in the year.

Many priests have expressed interest in visiting Medjugorje but are unable to travel in May because of parish commitments, especially with First Holy Communions.

So now another date will be scheduled for those priests who wish to travel as a group but can't manage to go in May.

Thank you again for the wonderful response and support from readers who have pledged and sent donations towards the cost of sending clergy to Medjugorje. All contributions have been acknowledged.

**NUNCIO EXPECTS COMMISSION'S WORK TO BE OF 'GREAT GOOD'**

● Archbishop Allesandro D'Errico, the papal nuncio for Bosnia Herzegovina, has revealed that he has had two meetings with Cardinal Ruini who heads the Vatican Commission researching the Medjugorje phenomenon.

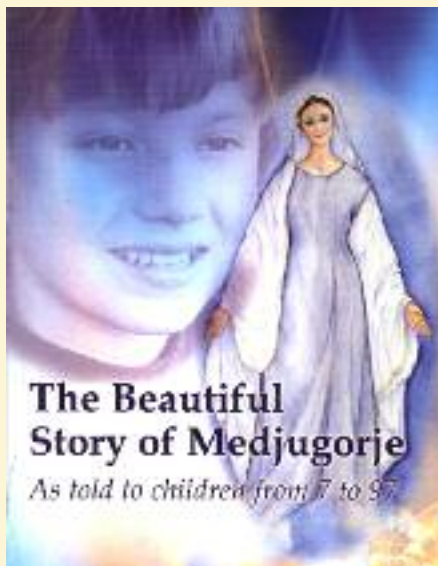
In an interview last week with Croatian newspaper Vecernji List, the Archbishop disclosed that his latest discussion about Medjugorje with cardinal Ruini took place in November 2011 and that it was a long, working meeting. The archbishop said that he admired the clarity of the study work and the seriousness with which the Commission is

**"My heart carefully follows your progress..."**



undertaking its mission. He added that he is sure that when the work is finished, it will be of great good.

The papal nuncio stressed that in his opinion the commission operating under the auspices of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith (CDF) is a research commission without violating the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Mostar.



#### NEW BOOK FROM SR EMMANUEL

● Sr Emmanuel has added another title to her publishing work with a new book: "The Beautiful Story of Medjugorje, as told to children from 7 to 97". The 48pp booklet is priced at three euros and is available through shops in Medjugorje and also from [www.childrenofmedjugorje.com](http://www.childrenofmedjugorje.com)

#### TAX ON BEDS AND PILGRIMS

● The Citluk Municipal Council is set to enforce a temporary ban on new builds in Medjugorje, particularly in the vicinity of St James Church, and will only permit construction for "appropriate use" in the future.

The council is also introducing a "bed tax" on property accommodating pilgrims. The revenue raised is to be allocated for environmental improvements, notably sanitation and drainage systems. The tax was introduced in July last year but could not be applied at the time because legislation wasn't finalised. The new charges are effective from April 1 this year. There are three band rates. For Medjugorje it is likely that the top band of 60 KM (30 euros) per bed, per year, will be applied.

An ecological tax will also be introduced for owners of accommodation and charged against each pilgrim over the age of 12 on an overnight basis. It is not known yet what this charge will be. The revenue raised from this tax is specified for construction and maintenance of drainage and waste water systems,

conservation and restoration of cultural and aesthetic assets, and maintenance of public areas.

The village of Medjugorje has developed rapidly over 30 years without much restriction and while there have been some improvements in infrastructure, utility and road systems are coming under growing pressure with the number of visiting pilgrims and tour buses arriving in the village increasing year on year.

In reality it will be the pilgrims that will bear the burden of the new taxes through increased charges for lodging and transport. A restriction on new builds will also drive up the cost of accommodation, especially during the very busy main season, April to October.

#### CALL TO FAST... BY SCIENTISTS!

● Our Lady has been calling the world to fast ever since the apparitions began at Medjugorje in 1981, and now a group of research scientists are pointing to remarkable health benefits for people who regularly fast one or two days a week.

It was on the third day of the Medjugorje apparitions, June 26, 1981, that Our Lady first called the people to fast. She appeared unexpectedly to Maria Pavlovic as the young visionary was making her way down Apparition Hill ahead of the other seers and gave her this message for the people:

"Peace, peace, peace! Be reconciled! Only Peace. Make your peace with God and each other. To be at peace it is necessary to believe, to pray, TO FAST, and to repent of your sins."

The following month the visionaries asked Our Lady which was the best way of fasting and she replied, "Fast on bread and water."

In July 1982 Our Lady presented herself in an unexpected apparition to Ivan Dragicevic and asked the Medjugorje visionary to relate her message to the people.

Contained in the message was her first ever call for the people to undertake strict fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Now scientists at the National Institute on Ageing in Baltimore are claiming they have found evidence which shows that periods of halting all food intake for one or two days a week could protect the brain against some of the worst effects of Alzheimers, Parkinson's and other ailments.

While Our Lady's call to fasting is focused on spiritual development and confirmed as a grace by the seer Marija Pavlovic in a recent radio interview, these latest scientific opinions steer towards the link between fasting and physical well-being.

● More on this can be found on the The Guardian website:  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/feb/18/fasting-protect-brain-diseases-scientists>



#### BIKERS GATHER IN MEDJUGORJE

● Hundreds of bikers are preparing to gather in Medjugorje next month for a three-day pilgrimage. It is the fourth year that the bikers from as far away as Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Macedonia and nearer to home Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia, have participated in the project organised by the Brontnjo Motorcycle Club.

As well as joining in the prayer programme and climbing Apparition Hill and Mt Krizevac, the pilgrimage bikers also plan to visit Mostar.

The riders will repeat their traditional parade through Medjugorje and afterwards meet with one of the visionaries, Ivan, to listen to his testimony. This will be followed by a blessing of bikes and riders.

As well as raising funds for Mother's Village the bikers will be encouraged to discover new paths on their pilgrimage to Medjugorje and foster new friendships with each other.

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR ROSARY BEADS

● The response to a recent appeal for rosary beads was magnificent. Thousands have been donated and sent to Michael Blackburn. He and his colleague in Australia, Deacon Tony Cunningham, are now busy redistributing them to those in need around the world.

Michael and Tony wish to convey their appreciation to everyone concerned. Rosary beads can be sent to:

**Michael Blackburn**  
164 Green Park Road  
Halifax  
West Yorkshire  
HX3 0SP

#### MICHAEL GRAHAM

● The recent news of Michael Graham's death came unexpected to many who had shared his company on visits to Medjugorje. Michael had led several groups from Scotland on pilgrimage over the years. Here Michael is pictured 'stepping out' in Medjugorje with another long-term group leader, Kath Gambin, from Leicester



**"I wish to teach you to pray with the heart..."**



## MARIJA IN LEBANON

by Renée Namih

● **The Beirut Forum, a huge hall situated about four miles north of the city, was full to capacity with over 50,000 people who had come from all parts of the capital and beyond (a group came from neighbouring Syria and Jordan) to attend the two day prayer meeting organised by Friends of Mary Queen of Peace, with the blessing of the Maronite Patriarch, in honour of the visit of Marija Pavlovic to Lebanon.**

*Friends of Mary Queen of Peace* is an association founded by Albert Nassar (now deceased) in order to spread the messages of Medjugorje; the association organise prayer meetings modelled on the Medjugorje programme as well as pilgrimages to Medjugorje which has allowed thousands of Lebanese over the years to experience the peace of the small village and receive many blessings through Our Lady.

Sana Nasar, daughter of Albert and president of the association said: "We have been inviting the Medjugorje visionaries to come to Lebanon for the past 25 years and we are overjoyed that one of them, Marija, has finally accepted our invitation; we are particularly happy that she is one of three visionaries to whom Our Lady still appears daily."

The Beirut Forum was transformed into a church with an altar at the front decorated with a profusion of white flowers. On one side stood the choir with the musicians, and on the other side was a beautiful statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. Several giant viewing screens relayed to the people inside and outside the hall. The front seats were allocated to people with disabilities.

At 6:00pm, the evening began with the prayer to the Holy Spirit and the Act of Contrition. The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary were then prayed in both Croatian and Arabic. Marija knelt before the statue of Our Lady. When the Rosary ended she invited the people to kneel and prepare for the apparition. A priest said a prayer of consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, ending with the Hail Mary prayer.

Marija then began to pray the Peace Chaplet and half-way through, around 7:45pm, Our Lady appeared to her. Marija had earlier said to the crowd that she would present all the people there, and their intentions, to Our Lady during the apparition.

The silence was impressive considering the vast number of people present. The apparition lasted for five minutes and then Marija prayed the Magnificat and the Gloria

### *Our Lady's special message for Lebanon...*

***"When I presented you to Our Lady and asked her what message she would like to give to the Lebanese people, she said: 'Do not forget that I am your Mother and that I love you.'"***

*Marija Pavlovic, Sunday 11 March, Beirut.*

### *Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony... John 4 : 39*

before taking her seat amongst the crowd.

Holy Mass then followed. More than 50 priests were present as well as many nuns from various religious orders. Mass was celebrated on both prayer days by bishops, Msgr Paul Boulus on Saturday and Msgr Antoine Andary on Sunday.

At the end of Mass the Blessed Sacrament was processed through the hall and outside. The faith of the people in the Real Presence was obvious as they applauded and threw rose petals during the procession.

The Sunday meeting was broadcast live by the Christian Lebanese TV station, Noursat.

The final part of the evening was devoted to Marija's testimony summarised here:

**"I would like to thank the Lord because during the last two days we have experienced a bit of heaven. Now**

**we have to come down from Tabor and go back to our homes, to our struggles.**

**"Our Lady calls us to be the salt of the earth. It is not easy to pray every day for the world, to kneel down. Every time we see Our Lady she gives us the strength to say that God is love, to say it to unbelievers, to those who have lost hope, to those who do not believe in Our Lady.**

**"God calls us to wake up, to come to faith, to the faith of our fathers... simple, humble... saying short prayers. Through her love, Our Lady has awakened our faith; we feel God's love and mercy.**

**"Put God first in your life. In these times of crisis, economy and political crisis, crisis for vocations, crisis in marriage, young people without hope, Our Lady gives us hope. She guides us with her love for each one of us and presents us to Jesus, as she stood beneath the cross when the disciples had lost hope seeing Jesus dead. But Jesus is risen and this is our hope.**

**"To you young people, pray. Give time to God. Your parents have given you nice things, material things, but not God. Put God in the first place. Our Lady calls us to holiness. If we are holy there will be no more divorce, no abortion. Our homes will be full of blessings. The Mother of God is calling us to be a blessing in our home, our parish, workplace, a blessing for our country.**

**"When I was in Sicily, the people wanted to consecrate themselves to Our Lady during the apparition. They did. During the apparition I was looking at Our Lady looking at the people and she said that they will not regret; neither them, their children, or their grandchildren. Our Lady blessed their land and the rain they received was a blessing.**

**"I am sure that to you present here this evening, Our Lady gives the same message.**

**"When I presented you to Our Lady (Sunday) and asked her what message she would like to give to the Lebanese people, she said: 'Do not forget that I am your Mother and that I love you.'**

**"I am here because Our Lady has chosen me and I will say until the day I die that God loves us!"**

***"I will say until the day I die... God loves us!"***



## **PILGRIMAGES TO MEDJUGORJE FOR 2012... ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority**

**ATOL protects you from losing your money or being stranded abroad. It does this by carrying out checks on the tour operators and travel organisers it licenses, and requiring them to take part in a financial guarantee scheme managed by the Air Travel Trust (ATT) which provides the funds to protect customers should a firm fail. In some cases a licence holder will also provide a bond, which is lodged with the ATT and provides additional funds. If a tour operator goes out of business, the CAA will ensure you do not lose the money you paid over, or if you're abroad, it will arrange for you to finish your holiday and fly home. Check that you have ATOL protection. [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)**

<i>Date</i>	<i>leaving from</i>	<i>cost from</i>	<i>contact</i>	<i>telephone</i>	<i>other information</i>
APR 29 to MAY 6	LONDON		Pat Gallagher	0208 452 4826	
MAY 6 to 13	BIRMINGHAM	£534.00	Theresa Griffith	0121 604 4061	via Dubrovnik
MAY 13 to 20	BELFAST	£519.00	Reggie Donnelly	02890 300980	or Jean Reynolds 02844 830979
MAY 13 to 20	EAST MIDLANDS		Pete Marshall	01302 885358	
May 13 to 20	LEEDS		Katherine Bayliss	01423 734828	
MAY 19 to 26	BIRMINGHAM	£534.00	Bernard Gallagher	0121 429 8349	A few places still available
MAY 19 to 26	BRISTOL		Philip Illsley	01443 203305	
MAY 20 to 27	LONDON		Barry & Marie Authers	01959 523619	FULL
MAY 20 to 27	LEEDS		Patricia Oakshott	01482 802483	
MAY 24 to 31	MANCHESTER		Josie Clintworth	0151 4865205	
MAY 27 to JUN 3	LEEDS	£534.00	Marie Bedingfield	01642 530739	
JUN 3 to 10	BELFAST	£519.00	Marguerite O'Kane	0775 329 7993	Spiritual director, Fr Stephen Crossan CC
JUN 5 to 12	GATWICK		Carol Wynn Jones	01932 843070	
JUN 5 to 12	GATWICK	£514.00	Ian Walker	020 8863 3635	via Dubrovnik
JUN 5 to 12	GATWICK		Fr S. Stapleton	0208 5781363	
JUNE 17 to 24	BELFAST	£519.00	Reggie Donnelly	02890 300980	or Jean Reynolds 02844 830979
JUNE 20 to 27	EDINBURGH		Roger Foster	01475 793987	Medjugorje 31st anniversary
AUG 1 to AUG 8	LEEDS		Katherine Bayliss	01423 734828	International Youth Festival
AUG 14 to 21	GATWICK	£514.00	Ian Walker	020 8863 3635	via Dubrovnik
AUG 19 to 26	BELFAST	£519.00	Reggie Donnelly	02890 300980	or Jean Reynolds 02844 830979
AUG 31 to SEP 7	GATWICK		Joe Lam	0203 5567591	
SEP 6 to 13	MANCHESTER		Josie Clintworth	0151 4865205	
SEP 8 to 15	GATWICK		Mary Gillespie	01582 579120	
SEP 8 to 15	GATWICK		Barry Henwood	01202 398216	
SEP 8 to 15	GATWICK		Caroline Leszczar	01293 851281	
SEP 9 to 16	EAST MIDLANDS		Patricia Oakshott	01482 802483	
SEP 15 to 22	NEWCASTLE		Marie Bedingfield	01642 530739	
SEP 15 to 22	BIRMINGHAM	£534.00	Theresa Griffith	0121 604 4061	via Dubrovnik
SEP 16 to 23	GATWICK		Jan Cavanagh	01473 730426	
SEP 16 to 23	EDINBURGH		Roger Foster	01475 793987	
SEP 20 to 27	MANCHESTER		Ann Molloy	0161 8815129	
SEP 22 to 29	BRISTOL		Philip Illsley	01443 203305	
SEP 22 to 29	GATWICK		Barry & Marie Authers	01959 523619	Children of Medjugorje group
SEP 22 to 29	GATWICK		Niki Murrill	01737 210794	
SEP 23 to 30	EAST MIDLANDS	£534.00	Kath Gambin	0116 234 0103	via Dubrovnik
SEP 25 to OCT 2	BIRMINGHAM		David & Myrna Harwar	012926 771384	
SEP 29 to OCT 6	BELFAST	£519.00	Reggie Donnelly	02890 300980	or Jean Reynolds 02844 830979
SEP 29 to OCT 6	GATWICK		H. Hauschild	07810 310316	
SEP 29 to OCT 6	GATWICK		Joe Chavez	0774 8638402	
OCT 6 to 13	GATWICK		John Hoskins	07956 297503	
OCT 14 to 21	EAST MIDLANDS	£534.00	Kath Gambin	0116 234 0103	via Dubrovnik

**The ATOL number for Marian Pilgrimages is 10206**

## RECONCILIATION

*a force for evangelisation*

- **What has become the most visible and fruitful witness to the Medjugorje phenomenon was highlighted recently by Pope Benedict XVI as an important aspect of new evangelisation.**

Speaking to a gathering of 1,300 priests and deacons in Rome, the Holy Father noted that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is essential to the life of faith and is closely associated with the announcement of the Gospel.

His Holiness said, "True conversion of hearts, which means opening ourselves to the transforming and regenerative action of God, is the 'motor' of all reform and turns into an authentic force for evangelisation. During Confession, the repentant sinner, thanks to the gratuitous action of divine Mercy, is justified, forgiven and sanctified... Only those who allow themselves to be

profoundly renewed by divine Grace can internalise and therefore announce the novelty of the Gospel."

He added that new evangelisation itself "draws life blood from the sanctity of the sons and daughters of the Church, from the daily process of individual and community conversion, conforming itself ever more profoundly to Christ."

The Pope reminded his audience that, in administering the Sacrament of Penance, priests are instruments facilitating the meeting between mankind and God. The repentant sinner feels a profound desire to change, to receive mercy, to re-experience, through the Sacrament, "the encounter and embrace of Christ."

"Thus you will", the Holy Father added, "become collaborators and protagonists of as many possible 'new beginnings' as sinners you encounter... New evangelisation also begins in the confessional, in the mysterious encounter between man's

endless plea... and the mercy of God, which is the only adequate response to humankind's need for the infinite." If the faithful are truly able to experience the mercy of Christ in the Sacrament "they will become credible witnesses of sanctity, which is the goal of new evangelisation."

Medjugorje is often referred to as the "confessional of the world" because of the long lines of penitents that travel to the village from around the globe. Priests frequently report the quality and intensity of confessions at Medjugorje bear witness to the special grace present there. There are many reports of people returning to the Church and Sacraments after decades of absence.

- **Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, on his visit to Medjugorje two years ago, gave a catechesis on Divine Mercy and said, "When you look at a place like Medjugorje, you can see a superpower of mercy. Many merciful deeds were born here or they were supported here."**

In September, 2009, at Ars in France, the Cardinal said: "There are certainly strongholds of Confession today. I think particularly of Medjugorje. I dare speak of that because for 28 years it has become one of the greatest strongholds of Confession. Thousands and thousands of people go to Confession!"

Recently the parish added a further 36 new confessionals to the 25 existing boxes that stand outside the Church.

**PRAYER REQUESTS...** Murray Alan, Fionna Myrlees, Pam Veal, Mifter, Eva Smithson, Toby & Amanda, Anthony Jones, Justina Orton, Nicky Carroll, Sue & Nathan Purcell, Bridie Duigan & family, George Mealey, Pat McCarthy, Margaret Faloon & family, Fr Kieran, Harkin family, Maggie Dillon & family, Claire, Marie, Maureen.

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## THE FRIARS AYLESFORD KENT

Pilgrimage  
in honour of  
**OUR LADY  
QUEEN  
OF PEACE**

**SATURDAY, 2ND JUNE**



<b>11.00 am</b> <i>Prayer at the heart of my life</i> <b>DENISE DE VALLANCEY</b> Prayer Guide	<b>3.15 pm</b> <b>Rosary Procession</b> Prayer with the Blessed Sacrament
<b>12.30 am MASS</b>	<b>4.15 pm</b> <i>Personal faith - Practical expression</i> <b>MAGNUS MCFARLANE-BARROW</b> CEO Mary's Meal
<b>2.45 pm</b> <i>Virtues of Mary. God's gift of Peace</i> <b>MOST REV. JOSEPH CHALMERS</b> O.Carm. Prior General of the Carmelite Order (1995-2007)	<b>5.00 pm</b> <b>Benediction of the Sick</b>

Prayers on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee - Wear national dress  
Bring international flags to wave - Share your national food at a 'Jacob's Table'  
Prayers for Peace - Peace Garden - Pax Christi Peace Icon - Consecration to Our Lady

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**visit... [www.crownofstars.blogspot.com](http://www.crownofstars.blogspot.com)**