

# THE MEDJUGORJE MESSAGE



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

Dear children! At this time, in a special way I call you:  
'pray with the heart'.

Little children, you speak much and pray little.

Read and meditate on Sacred Scripture, and may the words written in it be life for you.

I encourage and love you, so that in God you may find your peace and the joy of living.

Thank you for having responded to my call.

## **PILGRIM PRIESTS...**

● I still have a few places available for the clergy group travelling to Medjugorje from Birmingham on May 19. If you know of any priest that may wish to join this group please contact me on 0121 429 8349, or email [medjugorjeuk@gmail.com](mailto:medjugorjeuk@gmail.com) – You can also reach me at the address printed at the foot of the back page. Thank you to everyone who has pledged and given support to this project.

**Once again I call you to pray for your shepherds. Alongside them, I will triumph.** *October 2, 2010*

## **MEDJUGORJE 'WONDERLAND'**

● A winter wonderland of snow descended on Medjugorje in February. The local people hadn't seen such a heavy fall for many years. It piled high enough to even cover the seating outside St James' church and brought Medjugorje almost to a standstill.

But that didn't stop many of the pilgrims from climbing the hills and sharing some fantastic photographs on the internet. The picture of the Risen Saviour sculpture shown here was taken by photography student from Northern Ireland, Naomi Carson.



THE RISEN SAVIOUR  
*photo by Naomi Carson*



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

## MARIJA IN LEBANON

● Up to 100,000 people are expected to attend a two-day prayer event in Lebanon early in March to which Marija Pavlovic, the Medjugorje visionary, is invited.

The prayer meetings were originally scheduled for the weekend March 17/18 but brought forward a week because the visionary had also been listed to give witness at the Spring Festival closer to home in Como, Italy.

Marija still receives daily apparitions from Our Lady and the visit to Lebanon is expected to attract huge attendances by both Christians and Muslims in a country where Mary is greatly revered by both faiths.

The visionary's visit precedes the Feast of the Annunciation two weeks later. The



Annunciation, March 25, is jointly celebrated by Christians and Muslims in Lebanon and is a national holiday instituted two years ago by the Lebanese government as a national Christian-Muslim day, something that has never occurred before in the history of Christian-Muslim relations in the country.

Sheikh Mohamed Nokkari, one of the principal organisers of the holiday, said he hoped that such a holiday would spread to other parts of the world, and that it was fitting it began in Lebanon, which the late Pope John Paul II had described as "a message of pluralism for the East and the West." The Sheikh added, "Mary is the best woman ever on earth and in eternity for she is above all women, a symbol of unity between the two faiths."

The Council of Maronite bishops said "the holiday helps in bringing hearts together"

## MEDJUGORJE UPDATE

### CIRCLES OF PEACE AT AYLESFORD

● 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. It will include the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a children's rosary and processional rosary in the gardens, Mass at 12 noon, a guest speaker, picnic lunch, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction of the sick with prayers for the Diamond Jubilee and Olympics celebrations.

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

### DAVID PARKES AT MIDDLESBROUGH

● Singer, musician, performer and the Marian Pilgrimages representative in Medjugorje, David Parkes, is booked to visit Middlesbrough next month, April 28. The visit has been arranged by Marie Bedingfield and as well as providing an evening of prayerful music, David will give witness to his remarkable healing at Medjugorje from Crohn's disease, an illness that left him at death's door. The event takes place at St Alphonsus Church, Westborough Grove, North Ormesby, Middlesbrough preceded by Holy Mass which starts at 6.00pm. For further information please contact Marie on 01642 530739.

### MEDJUGORJE CALLING...

● *Medjugorje Calling* is a UK mission to promote Medjugorje prayer groups in homes and parishes and provide ongoing support and guidance through its website and organisation.

It now has a new prayer card available on its website that can be downloaded in pdf format. This Medjugorje Message newsletter is also available at the same website as a pdf.

[www.medjugorjecalling.com](http://www.medjugorjecalling.com) also gives information about how to start a prayer group and guidelines for prayer group leaders. The mission sends out regular information to anyone wishing to subscribe to its email list.



### LIVE THE FAST CHALLENGE

● An American bakery has come up with a product range for Lent – fasting bread! Andy Valee, one of the owners of the family owned LaValee Bakery in Boston was inspired to bake fasting bread for customers following a life-changing experience at Medjugorje. He promotes the venture with the slogan: *Live The Fast Challenge* and encourages customers to sustain their fast with bread made from natural ingredients.

Andy pointed out: "If you walk down the

supermarket aisle, or you walked into many of the bakery departments of these stores and you grabbed bread, you know 90 percent of those breads are going to have preservatives, additives, and dough-conditioners that are going to help you defeat the fast, not encourage the fast. Breads with additives can actually cause a person to feel hungry.

"Being in the bakery business and being a devout Catholic it was a layup," added Andy, making a basketball analogy to demonstrate seeing an opportunity to live his faith still further through his business.

Information about Valee fasting bread can be found at [www.livethefast.com](http://www.livethefast.com)

### THE GREEN DREAM

● In February, pilgrims in Medjugorje were met with an unusual sight. It wasn't supernatural but a brightly coloured electric car that was on its way to Switzerland and the Geneva Motor Show. The vehicle, manufactured in Croatia, despite its claims of cost-effectiveness doesn't come cheap. It is expected to go on sale later this year priced at 60,000 euros (although the way the euro is performing these days, that may be a good buy in six months time!



**Lebanon... a country where Mary is revered by Christians and Muslims...**



● The witness of Fr Jozo Zovko OFM, parish priest of Medjugorje when the people of the village reconciled with God and each other...

● The man who didn't believe in those first days is speaking to you. But now I believe – I very much believe. I would like to tell you why I didn't believe and why I believe now. I would like to invite you and tell you why you should accept this and believe.

Six years, three months and twenty-one days ago, Our Lady decided to choose Medjugorje and to get in touch with the Church. We still haven't recovered from what she did. The children who first saw her were nearly lost when they tried to tell people what they saw. Nobody believed them at first. Later on, however, it was a different picture. To the unfaithful people, Heaven was starting to talk through the apparitions and many miracles. The sun was turning into a shining mass that moved the crowds as if it would consume them. People were afraid. Then the people started listening to the children with their hearts. The children didn't say anything except that they saw Our Lady and she blessed them. And she also gave them instructions on a day-to-day basis. That's how the first six days passed.

During that time, various miracles in nature invited people to come, and many said, "Let's go, let's see the miracles." That kind of curiosity was closing my heart, so I said, "No, that's not Our Lady." But it is interesting that all the schoolchildren believed the visionaries. The children were the first to believe. And it is also interesting that nobody was envious of them.

I think back to those days when I didn't believe. At that time I had many reasons for not believing, but now I can sum them up into one: I was too proud.

We cannot come to Medjugorje and say, "I want to pray for grace; I want to show Our Lady that I have plans to help her, and they should be approved." Medjugorje is the place where Our Lady invites her children to be obedient, to obey like Jesus.

What does Our Lady want of us? When she came into the church (St James) she said "Convert." I didn't understand that, even though I thought I did. I thought, like all my parishioners, that Our Lady was finally inviting all who had stopped praying, to start again, that she was inviting drunkards to stop drinking, or those who were destroying family life and Church to stop doing that. The next three evenings I gave three sermons about these things. But nobody converted. Really and truly, nobody.

Why? How come that I spoke and nobody heard?

## MEDJUGORJE'S GREATEST MIRACLE

by Fr Jozo Zovko ofm



*The man who didn't  
believe in those first  
days is speaking to you.  
But now I believe...  
I very much believe.*

She came with the message of the meaning of conversion, and she invited us to pray. We prayed for a whole afternoon. Our Lady said that we should pray the Rosary every day. The people seemed happy and joyful, and that day they decided not to go home, but to continue in prayer. They all felt that Our Lady was joyful because of our prayer.

That same day, after the Mass and during the prayer, Our Lady appeared in the church. She blessed the gathered people. She was full of joy. Then I said to the gathering, "You who believed were right! Our Lady is really

here." The people were glad my faith was awakened. We prayed all night and gave thanks. The people started spreading Our Lady's messages to pray, and they intensified prayer in their homes.

But our prayer wasn't always the prayer of love, Our Lady brought us a message saying, "Don't pray with your lips; when you pray, pray with your heart." I had trouble understanding that, and Our Lady spoke to me in my heart, and to the visionaries. She said:

"Today, before prayer, may everyone of you forgive your neighbour. Today may everyone find in his heart all of his enemies, and may he show them to the Father with joy. May he pray for them. Let him wish full joy and blessing upon them."

I thought it was simple.

In the afternoon I told all the people what Our Lady had said and asked them if they understood me. And all of them said, "Yes." "Can you do that?" I asked. Everyone was silent, and it was an uneasy situation, turning into endless desert. I was a little afraid, and I tried to enter that desert with my voice and said, "We will try now to pray for conversion, for the gift of forgiveness."

There was silence for about twenty minutes. It was terribly long. We didn't know where to go. Then the greatest miracle in Medjugorje that I know of happened. The church was crowded with people, and one man in the middle of the church shouted with a powerful voice: "Jesus, I have forgiven!" And he went on, crying bitterly.

Suddenly, that's what everyone of us did. Can you imagine, thousands of people crying, and praying, "Jesus, I have forgiven, forgive me!" Everyone was looking for a hand to squeeze and to say, "Forgive me!" It went on for a long time, and we went on praying Rosaries after that. It was an unforgettable prayer.

Our Lady let us experience something that was absolutely new. We felt that a whole new space of prayer was in our hearts. We felt, as if from an immense well, from deep in our hearts, that prayer was pouring out into the world, giving love, joy and happiness. It was the great prayer.

After that we celebrated the Mass. It was truly a feast of love. We experienced something mystical, something wonderful, as if we were sitting at supper with Jesus. He was present with us on the altar – everyone felt that. The teachings of Medjugorje had begun.

• From a homily by Fr Jozo Zovko ofm, October 15, 1987

• In Testimony, Priestly Reflections on Medjugorje (Riehle Foundation)

***"Don't pray with your lips; when you pray, pray with your heart..."***

## MARIJA IN RUSSIA

by Fr René Laurentin

● In October 1990 the Medjugorje visionary Marija Pavlovic travelled to the Soviet Union to bring the message of Our Lady to the people. This is an account by Fr René Laurentin of that visit.

Fr Leonard Orec and Msgr Hnilica, Czech bishop and confidant to the Pope, took Marija to the Soviet Union in October 1990. The trip, full of inconveniences, permitted the travellers to see the real Russia.

To begin with, due to cancellation of a flight from Bratislava to Moscow, it became necessary to travel more slowly by car to reach the Russia fronts. That enables Maria to visit a Slovak doctor (a victim of 18 years imprisonment). She had her apparition at his home.

On Saturday, October 19, to cross the Russian border, Msgr Hnilica dressed in his episcopal dress with pectoral cross and violet sash and skull cap. This helped him to pass in front of an endless line of cars. His luggage, filled with medals and holy pictures, received a benevolent inspection made easy by some presents to the custom officials. The time of the apparition was approaching. They entered



the first little church which they found. Courageous people were reciting the rosary there. Maria told them: "Many come to Medjugorje from throughout the world, but less from Russia. That is why I have come to you."

On October 21, 1990, at Serdno, Msgr Hnilica conferred the sacrament of confirmation to 170 people. Maria was moved when she saw a poor woman without

shoes. She took her to a store to buy her some, but lo, there were none. In Mocassevo that same day, the travellers visited a church dedicated to the Coronation of Mary. Closed and abandoned for a long time, it had been saved by two little girls who had been inspired to go and pray there every day; other people followed.

On Monday, the twenty-second, in Uzzhorrod, county seat of the province of South Carpathia, a Polish priest welcomed them to his very poor residence. Since Croatian is a Slavic language, Marija, who is gifted, understood many things.

Finally, on Wednesday, October 23, they arrived at Moscow. The travellers were welcomed to a poor house, that of Michel, father of four children. He is in charge of the parish since there was a lack of priests. At 6.00pm they had a Mass at the only Catholic church open in Moscow, St Louis of the French.

"The lot of the world is not decided either in Moscow or in New York, but in the sanctuaries where one prays," preached Fr Leonard Orec.

Marija's apparition took place after the Mass in the Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes, to the right of the main altar, at the same time and with the same prayers as in Medjugorje.

"Now, it is Mary's time," explained Marija. "Even here, you see the fruit of the blood of martyrs and of prayer by all. The Gospa (the Blessed Virgin) undertook the spiritual direction of the Church through prayer."

That same day the travellers visited the Lenin mausoleum. The guards forced the bishop to remove his hat. That prevented him from taking from his pocket the miraculous medal which he wanted to leave in a corner near the lights which radiated the deified Lenin. But, is it not so that after having renamed Stalingrad, one hastens to do the same thing to Leningrad!

On Friday the twenty-fifth, there was a second Mass at St Louis of the French, where prayer does not end. The people stay and continue. Fr Leonard Orec invited them to come to Medjugorje, promising to find them lodging.

Marija and her friends spent a miserable night. On the evening before, a pickpocket had relieved her of her wallet with passport and plane ticket. It was then a race against time to have her picture taken, a new passport prepared, and all the necessary procedures to make the flight that day, October 25th, the day of the message to the world. It was on the plane from Belgrade that Marija received it. The word "peace" appeared in it six times, at the time when war was still on delay.

"Offer your sacrifices and good works for the peace of the world," the Blessed Virgin said.

## Medjugorje Moments...

### "Spread the message" picture cards

Spread the Medjugorje message with this set of ten postcard-size prints.

The cards provide a simple way of reaching people with Our Lady's messages.

Give them to family and friends, neighbours and co-workers, parishioners and priests – even strangers.

Each card is printed with a Medjugorje image on the front and a message from Our Lady on the reverse. The cards are 6 x 4 inches in size and printed to a high standard.

There are 10 different cards in this first series pack.

For further details or to receive an order form, contact:

Bernard Gallagher on **0121 429 8349**, or email [medjugorjeuk@gmail.com](mailto:medjugorjeuk@gmail.com)



*"His luggage received a benevolent inspection..."*



From the talks improvised by Marija at each of her stops, we present these:

"Nine years ago the Blessed Virgin came to our parish as Queen of Peace. She asks us to pray for peace which comes from God alone: first in our hearts and then prayer in our families. When peace has been established in our hearts and in our families, then we can pray for peace in the world. The Gospa has asked us to live more as Christians, not to leave the Most Blessed Sacrament in solitude. She requested formation of prayer groups, and many have been established."

Marija explains her own spiritual development thus:

"We were not children who prayed very much. We were like others, but we took the Blessed Virgin seriously, and began to pray. The Gospa is guiding us; she has asked us to put God first in our life. Medjugorje is a school of prayer."

She stresses the simplicity of this teaching: "Careful! When we are in church, we are good and holy, but outside we become pagans again. It is necessary to give witness wherever we are,

## POPE'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters, today the Church celebrates Ash Wednesday, the beginning of her Lenten journey towards Easter. The entire Christian community is invited to live this period of forty days as a pilgrimage of repentance, conversion and renewal. In the Bible, the number forty is rich in symbolism. It recalls Israel's journey in the desert, a time of expectation, purification and closeness to the Lord, but also a time of temptation and testing. It also evokes Jesus' own sojourn in the desert at the beginning of his public ministry, a time of profound closeness to the Father in prayer, but also of confrontation with the mystery of evil. The Church's Lenten discipline is meant to help deepen our life of faith and our imitation of Christ in his paschal mystery. In these forty days may we draw nearer to the Lord by meditating on his word and example, and conquer the desert of our spiritual aridity, selfishness and materialism. For the whole Church may this Lent be a time of grace in which God leads us, in union with the crucified and risen Lord, through the experience of the desert to the joy and hope brought by Easter.

• Pope Benedict XVI

even at school. When we begin to change, everything changes around us. The Blessed Virgin made us understand that evil exists. She has never said 'Do this or that,' but 'Decide for yourselves for good over evil.' She respects our freedom. She guides us as a teacher, but she loves us like a mother. The eyes of the Gospa which we see every day help us to enter into the depth, for they are blue and deep like the sea. Once we asked her how it was that she was so beautiful, and she responded: 'I am beautiful because I love.'

"Then we also decided to love more. She calls us to choose the way of sanctity. She has shown us that another life exists and the only thing that we carry with us to the beyond is holiness. Several times she said: 'Now this is the time of grace.'"

On her return from her pilgrimage, Marija thus summarised for me what had struck her.

"The Russians have an extraordinary love for the Blessed Virgin. During the apparition, many cried. In contrast to the pilgrims in Medjugorje, they do not ask for any physical cure, but only for interior and spiritual cures. It is a shame that many people come here as curious tourists. In the USSR I did not meet any curious people, but the people gathered for God and for Mary, eager for the meeting and the message. It is necessary to pray for those who do not recognise this grace. I met many people who had heard of Medjugorje without having been able to go there. The trip was directed by God beginning with Czechoslovakia, where many priests have spent 20 to 30 years in prison. Only prayer helped them survive. The Blessed Virgin was very present with them.

"In the Ukraine, Catholics have recovered a number of their churches which were confiscated. They had become warehouses, some office structures, some museums. They were defaced. They cleaned them, purified them. They decorated them. These people are poor; they have only basic furniture. They have given carpets and little treasures which they possessed to revive their churches. Since there were no other places, it was there that we gathered, and at times it was the place of our meals.

"A large number of people were baptised each week. They are very active in asking for more freedom and to organise it. These people, who have been deprived for such a long time, hunger for God. For them, he is the first. In Medjugorje, when I speak to some pilgrims, I at times experience fatigue, distraction; whereas there, the desire for God is striking: 'Lord, always give us hunger and thirst for you, us who do not know how to keep you in first place.'"

• Adapted from René Laurentin's book: *Ten Years of Apparitions* (Faith Publishing)

## VATICAN COMMISSION TO CONCLUDE IN 2012

● The Italian news agency ASCA reported in February that Cardinal Vinko Puljic, Archbishop of Sarajevo and a member of the Vatican commission investigating the Medjugorje phenomenon, said he expects the commission's work will be completed this year and a final report presented by the end of 2012.

The head of the Bosnia & Herzegovina bishops' conference stated, "Later this year we want to finish our work and give our opinion to the Pope. I cannot talk about what the commission does because I am bound to secrecy. Our work is still going on, but this year we must finish it."

A few days after this report the Medjugorje visionaries Ivan Dragicevic and Jakov Colo were in Rome to meet with the Commission. It was also speculated that Marija and Mirjana had been recalled at the same time, but not for interview.

● In March 2010 Archbishop Alessandro D'Errico, Apostolic Nuncio to Bosnia & Herzegovina, said: The Holy Father was always very much interested in Medjugorje. He was involved in everything, starting with the time when he was Head of Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He is aware that this is the issue of special importance, and he, as supreme authority of the Church, needs to give his precise statement about that matter.

Holy Father is very much familiar with Medjugorje phenomenon; he even mentioned that to me personally. He is aware of huge amount of positive and good influence of local priests, religious, Franciscans, lay people, and therefore, it is very difficult for him to perceive that there can be so many opposing information about the same matter.

"That is why he wanted to establish this Commission that is on really high level. He wanted to establish this Commission in order for him to have broad picture about this matter, but according to the people who have highest qualities and skills. That is why he invited Cardinals, Bishops and experts from different parts of the world to be part of this Commission."

**"The Holy Father is aware that Medjugorje is an issue of great importance..."**



## SEMINARIANS VISIT

by Lianne Dussouy

● Six Notre Dame seminarians visited Medjugorje for the first time during the recent Christmas and New Year period, in hopes of deepening their relationship with the Blessed Mother and her son.

They agreed God's timing was perfect as they were able to celebrate the feast of Mary the Mother of God on January 1 with fireworks and midnight Mass on Mary's holy ground. Joining the seminarians on the pilgrimage were two priests and 20 lay people from around the United States.

Rather than expect miracles, they said they sought inner peace, affirmation and direction from the Blessed Mother. The serene and prayer-focused atmosphere created a unique retreat in which their prayer life flourished, they said.

Birmingham seminarian Beau McMinn, in his second year of pre-theology studies, said he didn't expect Medjugorje to be so beautiful and described the mountains as breathtaking. "I prayed I'd bring that home and live in peace, and Our Lady answered that prayer," McMinn said. "I gained a tremendous amount of trust in God's providence."

Notre Dame seminarian Charles Dussouy was blown away by how peaceful it was and by how many people were praying 24/7. "There was always a Mass, rosary or Stations of the Cross being said," Dussouy said. "It's a realisation that God controls everything and is holding you in turmoil and in happiness. It's like being in your heavenly Father's arms and knowing he is going to take care of everything."

The group met two visionaries on their journey, whom they described as joyful celebrities. One, Ivan, welcomed them into his private chapel as he received his daily visit from Mary.

McMinn recalled a young child screaming in the chapel who was calmed when Ivan's apparition began. "The child began to behave and said 'hello' aloud a few times, as if he sensed Mary's presence," McMinn said.

Dussouy found it special when Ivan said Mary was praying over them during her

appearance and that she has an affection for her priests. A great peace came over Dussouy in that moment as he heard Mary calling him to be a spiritual father and lead others to Jesus, like St Joseph.

The second visionary was a fragile woman with a childlike glow and demeanor named Mirjana, whom they met in a bigger group. The seminarians were inspired by her kindness and joy, illuminating God's love.

An English-speaking translator shared Mary's message with the crowd, which included Mary's five instructions for reparation of our sins: go to Mass and have a greater devotion to the Eucharist; read the Bible and come to know the word of God; go to confession; pray especially the rosary; fast on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The seminarians shared a few interesting experiences: climbing a cold and rocky trail barefoot up Cross Mountain, where the Stations of the Cross are said for penance, and visiting with recovering addicts who have been uplifted and healed through God's mercy and love.

Reuben Dykes, first year theology, encourages those who feel called to visit Medjugorje to do so without expectations of miracles or other phenomena, but rather with hopes to rest in Mary's arms and in her peace. "The deepening relationship with Mary transcended the physical location of Medjugorje," Wyman Winston, second year pre-theology, said. "I came back with a renewed sense to make my life more simple and less cluttered with things that aren't of God."

Dykes summed up the spirit of the pilgrimage by pointing to a spiritual transformation. "The greatest thing we can receive is the transformation of our hearts, the inner peace that comes from knowing Christ," he said. "That's Our Lady's mission and her greatest desire; that we let her lead us to Jesus so that he can transform us and live in us."

• Lianne Dussouy can be contacted at [makingroomforbaby@gmail.com](mailto:makingroomforbaby@gmail.com)

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## PEACE MAKING QUEEN

**Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.**

Letter of St James 3 : 18

● Our Lady, Queen of Peace, is a peacemaker and has tirelessly worked for peace these past 30 years, teaching and encouraging the ways of peace through her messages and apparitions from Medjugorje.

She consistently emphasises that we should pray, and keep praying (working), if we are to bear fruit in holiness, that closeness to the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

## LET IT RAIN....

Dear children! At this time, in a special way I call you: 'pray with the heart'. Little children, you speak much and pray little. Read and meditate on Sacred Scripture, and may the words written in it be life for you. I encourage and love you, so that in God you may find your peace and the joy of living. Thank you for having responded to my call.

February 25, 2012

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you...

Colossians 3 : 16

Lord, you have the message of eternal life. John 6 : 68

Thus says the Lord: As the rain and snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do. Isaiah 55 : 10-11

**"They sought peace, affirmation and direction..."**

## 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



## IT MADE ANGELS FALL

by Bernard Gallagher

● Some straight talking by Our Lady in her February message given to Mirjana made many sit up and take notice.

Dear children; I am with you for so much time and already for so long I have been pointing you to God's presence and his infinite love, which I desire for all of you to come to know. And you, my children? You continue to be deaf and blind as you look at the world around you and do not want to see where it is going without my Son. You are renouncing him – and he is the source of all graces. You listen to me while I am speaking to you, but your hearts are closed and you are not hearing me. You are not praying to the Holy Spirit to illuminate you. My children, pride has come to rule. I am pointing out humility to you. My children, remember that only a humble soul shines with purity and beauty because it has come to know the love of God. Only a humble soul becomes heaven, because my Son is in it. Thank you. Again I implore you to pray for those whom my Son has chosen – those are your shepherds. February 2, 2012

When Our Lady speaks of humility and a humble heart, I understand this as a call to repent and confess our sins. It is the Holy Spirit who inspires repentance. It is not possible to confess without the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. Therefore when I pray to the Holy Spirit for my heart to be illuminated I become aware of my sinfulness and my pride begins to melt,

### ILLUMINATING CONFESSION

● I remember once being in Medjugorje and deciding to go to confession very early on in the week because someone said to me that this was the best thing to do, "Go early, it will open you up for the rest of your pilgrimage." So I took this advice, even though I had attended confession just a few days before, back home. I got off to an awkward start. I told the priest I couldn't really think of anything I needed to confess as I had only recently made a confession before I arrived in Medjugorje. And the priest replied: "Let's start with pride!"

So when I read Our Lady saying that pride has come to rule, I now know exactly what she means!

creating a desire to confess and be healed of all arrogance and the pride that has kept me at a distance from God.

I should never forget that pride made angels fall from heaven. There is no room for pride in heaven. It is difficult to make room for Jesus when pride rules my heart. When I keep hold of pride my heart will struggle to experience heaven, to know and live the love of God. Pride puts me in the camp of fallen angels. Confessing my sins and letting go of my stubborn pride is an action that can open the door of every room in my heart for Jesus to enter.

### PRIDE... A PIERCING THORN

*In my weakness, Lord, be my strength,  
And your grace enough for me.  
May your power be at its best  
When the thorn is piercing me.  
Pride made angels fall, unseated Saul,  
is dipped in gall, accuses all.  
Pride just builds up walls, is deaf to calls,  
won't play ball, won't cross the hall.  
Pride is a heart unkind, is less inclined,  
leaves love behind, won't walk the line.  
Pride is a poisoned mind, a path that winds,  
a chain that binds, is blind to signs.  
In my weakness, Lord, be my strength,  
And your grace enough for me.  
May your power be at its best  
When the thorn is piercing me.*

BG July 2009

### THOUGHTS ON THE MARCH MESSAGE

● Our Lady, as Mother of the Church, walks with the Church, is in harmony with the Church and its liturgical seasons. We can view this message in the context of Lent:

1. Our Lady reminds us that GOD LOVES us and sends his Blessed Mother to help us...
2. Lent is a season of turnaround when we reflect on our sinfulness and return to the arms of Jesus...
3. We are reminded of our responsibility to others, to love our neighbour, to be concerned for them, to pray for them, to assist them, especially those without hope...
4. It is by our own good example that others will come to know the love of God in their lives, and that they can meet with God in this way...
5. But for this to happen we have to remain in Jesus, and this is achieved through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit that Jesus sent to us... **Pray to the Holy Spirit for my Son to be impressed within you...** (I like the phrase 'impressed within'. It has a sense of permanency.)
6. It is the Holy Spirit that enlightens all hearts and we are asked, through prayer, to become bearers of this light, to share this

### MARCH MESSAGE TO MIRJANA

Dear children; through the immeasurable love of God I am coming among you and I am persistently calling you into the arms of my Son. With a motherly heart I am imploring you, my children, but I am also repeatedly warning you, that concern for those who have not come to know my Son be in the first place for you. Do not permit that by looking at you and your life, they are not overcome by a desire to come to know him. Pray to the Holy Spirit for my Son to be impressed within you. Pray that you can be apostles of the divine light in this time of darkness and hopelessness. This is a time of your trial. With a rosary in hand and love in the heart set out with me. I am leading you towards Easter in my Son. Pray for those whom my Son has chosen that they can always live through him and in him the High Priest. Thank you. March 2, 2012

gift with those who are in darkness, to be a witness to the love of God in our hearts and our lives...

7. Lent is a time of trial and sacrifice, a time we walk with Jesus in his most difficult time, to share in his passion and help carry his cross. There are always opportunities for us to carry a cross for others, especially within our families, our closest neighbours.

8. Praying the Rosary is walking with Jesus and we can reflect on his passion by reciting and meditating on the Sorrowful Mysteries. Our Lady will walk with us and even take the lead. When we join her then we will also have the opportunity of meeting with Jesus during the Way of the Cross... Self sacrifice is **love in the heart...**

9. Our Lady always leads the way to her Son, and new life... to Resurrection and to living in Christ our Saviour... "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I in them..." John 6 : 54

10. **Pray for those whom my Son has chosen that they can always live through him and in him the High Priest...** This refers to consecrated priests, but in reality through God's mercy, we are all a chosen people, chosen to be an Easter people. "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people at all and now you are the People of God; once you were outside the mercy and now you have been given mercy." (1 Peter 2 : 9-10)

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