

Our Lady of Medjugorje



virtual
Pilgrimage
25th to 31st May 2020

A 'VIRTUAL' PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

In 1987, at Castelgondolfo, Pope St. John Paul II said to Mirjana, one of the visionaries, "If I were not Pope, I would be in Medjugorje a long time ago. I know everything, I have been following everything. Ask pilgrims to pray for my intentions. And take good care of Medjugorje because Medjugorje is the hope for the entire world..."

On April 6th, 1995, he made public his desire to go to Medjugorje and wrote to friends in Poland, "I every day return to Medjugorje in prayer." He concluded his daily private Rosary in the Vatican gardens with the prayer, "Our Lady of Medjugorje, pray for me." Pope St. John Paul II never managed to visit Medjugorje but, in his heart, he deeply desired to do so. His life-long Marian devotion was so great; every day he would open his heart to Mary, his Mother. During our Pilgrimage of the Heart we are invited to do the same as Pope St. John Paul II and make a daily spiritual pilgrimage to Medjugorje for these seven days.

THE GRACES WE CAN RECEIVE FROM MARY

Vicka, the visionary, said to Sister Emmanuel: "When the Gospa (Our Lady) appears to us (visionaries) she gives us great graces, graces which she has not given before and which she will no longer give afterwards." Sr. Emmanuel said, "So if I am next to you during the apparition, these great graces fall upon you, and not on me since I do not see her?" Vicka then exclaimed, "Of course they do fall on you too! You just need to open your heart to her coming!" "And do I receive them even if I'm in America or China, far from Medjugorje?" "Sure, sister! You see, what matters is that you welcome her into your heart when she comes."

Isn't that good news for all of us on this 'virtual' pilgrimage?

Each evening we will have the opportunity to remain silent for a few minutes at the time of Mary's coming (about 5:40pm our time) and to speak to her heart to heart, and start by thanking her. This is a rather short meeting that will unite us all firmly around our Mother, the Queen of Peace. Even a simple 'Hail Mary' would already be a great gift to her and for us. The evening activity each day will incorporate this time of silent heart to heart with Mary. After daily Holy Mass and Rosary this will be our third anchor to root us in the graces given through Our Lady of Medjugorje, Queen of Peace.

DAILY PILGRIMAGE ACTIVITIES

Every day, unless stated otherwise in this booklet, there will be an opportunity to join in with others throughout the day including Mass, Rosary and devotions.

Each morning at 10am; each afternoon at 1pm and each evening at 5:30pm.

You are welcome to join in with as much or as little as you prefer.

The choice is entirely yours. For those of you who have access to the internet at home this booklet will also contain an active link to access live-streamed or pre-recorded Holy Mass and devotions.

On Wednesday evening, from 5:30pm, we will pray for all your pilgrimage intentions.

If you would like to submit your intentions to be read out that evening

please email to parishfamilyevent@gmail.com

by the evening of Tuesday 26th May. Thanks.

Here is the programme for the week.

	Morning 10am	Afternoon 1pm	Evening 5:30pm
Monday 25th Day 1	Journey and Arrival	Holy Mass and Peace Rosary	Adoration Holy Hour
Tuesday 26th Day 2	Holy Mass and Hill Rosary	Prayer at the Blue Cross	On Apparition Hill with Mary
Wednesday 27th Day 3	Mysteries of Light Rosary	Holy Mass and Peace Rosary	Lit candle intentions
Thursday 28th Day 4	Holy Mass and Peace Rosary	Rosary at Fr. Slavko's grave	Divine Mercy at Risen Christ
Friday 29th Day 5	Stations of the Cross (Mount)	Holy Mass and Rosary	Veneration of the Cross
Saturday 30th Day 6	Holy Mass and Peace Rosary	Rosary at the Cenacolo	Adoration Holy Hour
Sunday 31st Day 7 Pentecost	Holy Mass for Pentecost	Rosary in Thanksgiving	<i>(no evening activity)</i>

DAY 1: MONDAY 25th May - THE JOURNEY AND ARRIVAL

JOURNEY: from the beginning God has spoken; often through His angels and men. The most important messenger God could ever send is His Mother, Mary. She has been speaking to us throughout the centuries but especially now, more recently, in places such as Lourdes and Fatima. As a Mother, Our Lady often appears to children and also to those adults, who like Her, are pure of heart or meek and humble of soul. Our Lady, Queen of Peace, has been appearing in Medjugorje since 1981. Why all this time? The Virgin Mary has said that these will be her last apparitions on earth. After this, it will no longer be necessary. Thus there is an urgency to Her messages. Look at the state of humanity and the world. More than ever, we are in desperate need of turning back to God. Our Lady's message as always is repent, convert, and pray and do penance for others so that they may be able to do the same in their lives. In this time of grace, God is making available through Mary incredible graces to bring humanity back to the right path; the path to Jesus. It will culminate in the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and usher in a golden age for humanity and the Catholic Church. But we need to do our part now.

How did this all begin? On 24th June 1981, the feast of St. John the Baptist, a beautiful and luminous young woman with a child in her arms appeared to some young people on what is now called Apparition Hill. They immediately understand that this is the Virgin Mary, even if the apparition does not speak and only makes the sign to approach her, but they are very scared and run away. The next day curious villagers gather at the Hill and Our Lady appears on a cloud and without a child, always beautiful and bright. That day the Virgin Mary chooses six visionaries, Ivanka Ivanković (15), Mirjana Dragičević (16), Vicka Ivanković (16), Ivan Dragičević (16), Marija Pavlović (16), and 10-year-old Jakov Čolo. She introduces Herself as the 'Queen of Peace.' This is why the anniversary of the Apparitions is celebrated on 25th June each year, as expressly decided by the Virgin herself. The Apparitions continue on a daily basis: as do the countless conversions and miracles. The Message of Medjugorje is the most important in modern church history.

Since 2019, pilgrimages to Medjugorje have been approved by the Vatican.

As we begin this pilgrimage together let us pray for a good and holy pilgrimage for all those taking part. We will pray the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary and offer it for all the intentions of the Pilgrimage. You can pray this by yourself at home using your own Rosary Beads and perhaps a Rosary Book with reflections on the Mysteries. If you have internet, you may like to use the Scriptural Rosary for the Glorious Mysteries which you can find and download from www.ourladyoflourdesssheffield.org.uk/rosary-prayers/ Alternatively join us live at 10am broadcast from www.facebook.com/parishfamilystocktonRC/ with Fr. Jeff Dodds.

ARRIVAL: we stand near to the Statue of Our Lady, pictured on the first page, in the grounds of the Church of St. James. St. James is the patron saint of Pilgrims. Let us thank Our Lady for the pilgrimage ahead and consecrate ourselves to Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. You may like to use this prayer.

O my God, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, sufferings and joys of this day, in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for the intentions for which He pleads and offers Himself in all the Holy Masses throughout the world: in thanksgiving for your favours, in reparation for our sins, for the conversion of sinners. We promise you, O glorious Mother of God and loving Mother of all people to dedicate ourselves with all our hearts to the service of devotion to you. Through the sovereignty of your Immaculate Heart, may we thus hasten and assure the coming of the kingdom of the Sacred Heart of your adorable Son in our own hearts as well as those of all people, in our own parish and country as well as in the whole world, on earth as in heaven. Amen.

HOLY MASS is broadcast live at 1pm from www.facebook.com/Stteresasheaton/ with Fr. Shaun O'Neill. This is followed by the Peace Rosary which is praying 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary and 1 Glory Be; seven times.

We find ourselves between the great feasts of The Ascension of the Lord and the Coming of The Holy Spirit at Pentecost – both are journeys or pilgrimages if you like. The Lord is journeying back to the Father in Heaven, and The Holy Spirit is descending from Heaven into the world. Both these journeys are the very thing we are called to

imitate and use as the perfect example of pilgrimage – this is what we will look at during Mass. To paraphrase Saint Augustine ‘on our pilgrimage of life we set out, only to return to where we began,’ but with this new encounter of the beginning we are not so much called to be in a new physical space but rather in a new spiritual space, hence we see for the first time that which has always been there: now we see with deeper eyes of faith, having journeyed with The Lord – there and back again!

Let us ask Mary, Our Lady who comes from Heaven into the world to help us on our pilgrimage to know the Trinity, to walk with us ever more powerfully in this coming week.

The Peace Rosary. This is a shortened form of the Rosary, consisting of seven Our Fathers, Hail Marys and Glory Be to the... Our Lady in Her wisdom gradually brought the young visionaries to the full Rosary through this Peace Rosary. We too walk gradually along the path of our pilgrimage from today into Pentecost.

OPEN OUR HEARTS TO MARY. At 5:35pm retreat to a quiet place. Sit comfortably, join your hands in prayer and close your eyes. Focus on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Thank Her for coming to us in our hearts. Pray a Hail Mary or three. At 5:39pm remain silent for a few minutes. Be aware that Mary is appearing now in Medjugorje. Open your heart to Mary to receive whatever she wishes to impart to you. After a few minutes thank Our Lady for the graces received.

ADORATION HOLY HOUR: Spend up to an hour in prayer and adoration focussed on Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Many saints when they couldn’t physically be present near to the Blessed Sacrament would simply ask God to bring them before Him spiritually in the nearest Catholic Church to them. Request this of God for you.

Choose some prayers, readings, music or hymns.

Intersperse these with silent adoration of Our Lord.

Alternatively, you may wish to join a live broadcast ‘Medjugorje Holy Hour Adoration’ with Fr. Lee Marshall from 7:30pm to 8:30pm at

www.facebook.com/StVincentMissionHub/

DAY 2: TUESDAY 26th May - APPARITION HILL

HOLY MASS is broadcast live at 10am from www.facebook.com/parishfamilystocktonRC/ with Fr. Jeff Dodds. This is followed by praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary on Apparition Hill.

MASS: In today’s 1st Reading St Paul calls the people to, ‘fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise.’

We can do this today through consecrating ourselves this morning to God, through the help and intercession of Our Lady of Medjugorje. May we see ourselves, others and the world, through the ‘eyes of faith.’ A reality filled with love, with healing and hope for us all. St Philip Neri reminds us, that as we strive for personal holiness our lives become an amazing adventure full of hope.

ROSARY: Mount Podbrdo, is the name of the 'mountain' that Our Lady first appeared on, to the visionaries of Medjugorje in 1981. After the apparitions began, it became known as Apparition Hill. It is a steep and rock-strewn path that ascends to the actual location where Our Lady appeared. Tens of millions have climbed this mountain, pilgrims from all over the world, and they tell of experiences that are deeply personal, intimate and life changing through the encounters they have had in prayer with Our Lady, the Queen of Peace, on this barren mountainside. It was from Apparition Hill where Our Lady first began inviting the world, through the visionaries and the village of Medjugorje, to respond to Her call. There have been literally thousands of apparitions of Our Lady on this mountain—apparitions that continue even to this day. A white statue of the Queen of Peace marks the site of the visions on the hillside, 2km from central Medjugorje.

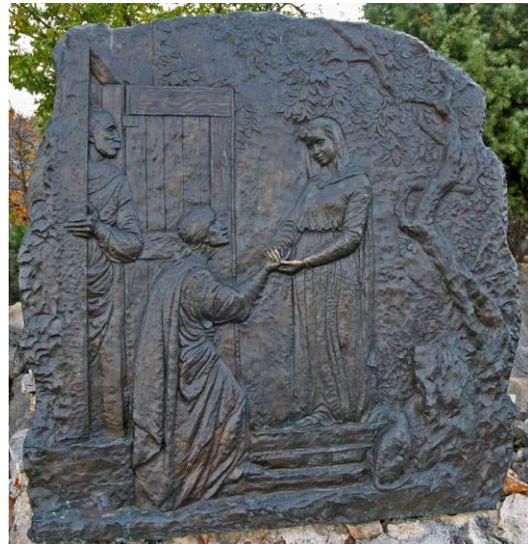
As we journey on this pilgrimage and approach Pentecost, we take note of Our Blessed Lady's Message to the world. *"...I desire to renew prayer with you and to call you to fast which I desire to offer to my Son Jesus for the coming of a new time—a time of spring...the Church is being renewed in the Spirit..."* 25th October, 2000.

By meditating on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, we accompany Mary and Joseph as they learn that Mary will bring the Son of God into the world, and we journey with them through Christ's birth and into his childhood. Becoming aware of the Communion of Saints, we now ask St Philip Neri to join us with a joyfulness of heart, which he was especially known for, as we recite this Rosary.

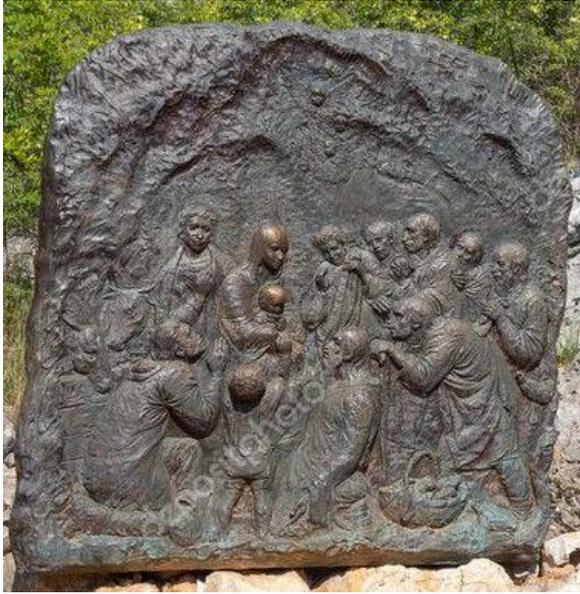
First Joyful Mystery - The Annunciation



Second Joyful Mystery - The Visitation



Third Joyful Mystery – The Nativity



Fourth Joyful Mystery – The Presentation



Fifth Joyful Mystery – The Finding of Jesus in the Temple



PRAYER AT THE BLUE CROSS: The Blue Cross is at the base of Apparition Hill. Our Lady has appeared there as well as at the top. We take time now to pause halfway through our day. We call to mind the morning experiences we have had. The encounters we have had with others and with God in prayer, which have hopefully enriched us. We ask ourselves with gentleness, 'How do you really feel?' You are welcome to join in with Fr. Jeff Dodds and Fr. Michael Whelan at 1pm on www.facebook.com/parishfamilystocktonRC/ using music and reflection to listen to how and why the Medjugorje Blue Cross has a message of encouragement for us. Our Lady Queen of Peace. Pray for us. Amen.



FR. MICHAEL'S REFLECTIONS:

BLUE CROSS: STORY AND PRAYER.

My name is Podbrdo. I came into life many billions of years ago in human terms. There was a big bang and suddenly I was hurtling through something called space into a friendly galaxy of other strange material and then I became part of something called a planet. I seemed like a mountain, full of amazing things like trees and streams. I knew that I had a purpose, something inside me said, 'just wait, and you will see.' So I waited, strong and powerful, a mighty mountain. Then the years passed and the weather wore me down. I lost heart. From being mighty I became small, worn and broken. No longer mighty trees adorned me but broken stones and wiry bushes, ready to tear human beings to pieces if they tried to climb me. I lost hope, but, there was still the little voice, 'not long now.' Just as I was ready to give up hope, suddenly, a light, more beautiful than I had ever dreamed of appeared. Then the gentle rustle of a wind and the patter of young feet swept over me, carried by that wind to reach the light. The light, that beautiful light, became a figure of such beauty. A beauty that didn't just float above me but filled me, transformed me. The God Bearer had come to me, a little hill, lost,

forgotten among the mountains and I carried her as a gift to the world, never to be forgotten.

Such is the story of our little mountain, now known as the Hill of the Apparitions, known across the world forever. Near the top is the beautiful cross where Mary, Theotokos or God Bearer, appeared on June 24th 1981 at 6pm to six young people. Now began a journey that continues to this day. At the foot of the hill is a space now known as the Blue Cross where Mary often appears to young people and pilgrims to help them on their journey. The spot was not chosen by pilgrims but became a place of refuge when Communist police, trying to stop these young people reaching the Mother of God, closed off the rest of the hill. A final fruitless attempt to deny to human beings the presence of God's love.

God our Father, you brought us to life. Always this creation of yours has but one purpose, to receive and return your amazing love. Help us as we gather, little people on your little mountain, to know and grow in your love. Help us to always await your presence, your light, that we might become bearers too, of that light to the world.

APPARITION HILL: STORY AND PRAYER.

This Hill of Apparitions, truly a mountain among mountains, places God's Word at the heart of this story and all stories of God's creative work. It sets it after the Exodus, the work of God freeing his People from all kinds of slavery. The Exodus story of the Bible is not a unique story of God's intervention in human history. God intervenes every day to set people free from the slavery brought by human sin. His care for creation is unlimited and unceasing. However, he has a plan to bring about a new world, a new creation. Amazingly it is our broken world, renewed and restored to life, resurrected. That plan is called the Word. That Word caused the world to be created in its image, startlingly revealed not as an 'it' but as a 'he', Jesus of Nazareth, the Anointed One, the Christ. The mountain in the desert of Sinai was the point when God and humanity came together to fulfil the ancient promises, to begin to fulfil the faith of Abraham. Time and time again mountains remind us of that promise of redemption. Even the Hill of Calvary points towards future fulfilment.

Now we have a little mountain again revealing the Mother and Child on that fateful day of June 24th 1981. Mary calls her children 'little angels' to describe not only her mission but theirs. Angels are messengers of God's promises to humanity. The messages of Mary reveal what her task is and the name she has been given, Queen of Peace. She proclaims that peace in a land that has undergone centuries of slavery and violence. A people tested by hundreds of years of persecution for their Faith in the redeeming power of Christ. Truly this is an Exodus story like the ancient story and like that story meant for the whole world.

God our Father, thank you for the gift of life through Christ your Son. He has set us free from our slavery to sin and the brokenness of our world. This we believe, and this we trust, despite our frailty and weakness. We pray for the strength to continue our journey of faith that on your mountain we may receive the grace of being, like Mary, messengers of your Peace.

FIVE STONES: STORY AND PRAYER.

All of the mountains surrounding Medjugorje seem like mountains of stones. To climb them means clambering over and around stones of all shapes and sizes, often jagged and broken. They are not beautiful like the Alps or many other mountain ranges covered with beautiful trees. They have a stark beauty that challenges our frail human capacity to master our world. The Cross Mountain which dominates our village is precisely that faith in the face of human suffering and weakness. The triumph of the Cross is the experience of reaching that Cross, with others, on our journey of faith.

The sign of the cross is the commitment to a journey of love. It is a sign of our brokenness and the power of God to bring healing out of that weakness. It is the sign of the Suffering Servant, so beloved of Isaiah, who sets his people free. This has to be our journey, embracing our wounds as signs of shared healing in company with others.

At the heart of the messages of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, is the cross. Many times they have been called the Five Stones, matching the Five Wounds of Christ. At the beginning of our journey these five messages draw us in the footsteps of Mary as she followed Christ on the way of the cross. Peace comes through embracing our wounds, our brokenness, and offering them to Christ through Mary. Shalom means 'may all your brokenness be made whole', hence the journey of the Cross.

1. Peace.
2. Faith.
3. Conversion.
4. Prayer.
5. Fasting.

God our Father, you call us to the journey of Peace. Help us to discover in our own hearts that mountain that leads to our peace that we might then be able to share that gift, through Mary our Mother, with our world.



WITH MARY ON APPARITION HILL TOP: after our usual silent heart to heart with Mary, at about 5:40pm, let us consider why we're here. It is said that everyone who goes to Medjugorje has been invited by Our Lady. Why do you think you've been asked? What do you feel Our Lady is saying to you?

Many people have their own testimony story about how Medjugorje has affected their lives. If you have internet then you can listen to some of these stories.

Here are a few links:-

conversion testimonies - www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPJ5isz0P5A

priest's testimony - www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPeWECth6Ao

healing testimonies - www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fZpmiuY-A8

These testimonies all have a common theme: how pilgrims were led to Jesus through Mary. Spending time with Mary, here at the top of Apparition Hill, what is Mary saying in your heart? How is the Mother of God desiring you to encounter her son, Jesus, in your life? We are all in need of continual personal conversion and renewal. Everyone one of us desires to be healed in some way, whether that be physical healing or emotional or spiritual healing. Do not our hearts yearn to be delivered and set free from our slavery to sin? Is there someone we really need to forgive? To be able to let go of a grudge? What is being revealed to you as the most important step to take now? Reflecting prayerfully on these words may help: Repentance, Forgiveness, Penance, Conversion, Renewal, Deliverance, Healing. Joy.

Jesus loves you. He wants to help you. Invite Jesus into your heart and your life.

Feel the love of Jesus and Mary for you.

After Medjugorje some people have gone on to help others in many different ways.

Perhaps you are also being asked to carry out such a Mission.

Is there something you feel called to do?

As Mary says, "Thank you for having responded to my call."

Join us at 5:30pm at www.facebook.com/Stteresasheaton/

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 27th May - MYSTERIES OF LIGHT

ROSARY: you may like to join Fr. Michael and Fr. Shaun live at 10am on www.facebook.com/Stteresasheaton/ to pray the Rosary.

Behind St. James' Church, along the path to the Risen Christ Statue, there are five beautiful mosaics depicting the Mysteries of Light. Let us contemplate their meaning as we pray these mysteries.

1. The Baptism of Jesus

2. The Wedding Feast at Cana



3. The Call to Conversion



4. The Transfiguration



5. The Institution of the Eucharist



May we be enlightened by Christ.

Fr. Michael's Reflections:

First Mystery of Light: Baptism of Jesus at the Jordan.

'The Spirit descended on him like a dove and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased'. Mk 1:10. Jesus had been conceived by the Holy Spirit, he was God and Man. Now the Spirit had another task for him. Tradition has it that he was thirty when this event took place. He must have journey from Nazareth, many miles away. A worker and the only support of his mother, she a widow. What was he thinking of? Thirty years was well on in those days of poverty and disease. Why did he think that something new was happening after all these years?

Nevertheless, he began a journey of faith, following in the dangerous footsteps of his cousin John the Baptizer. No matter what our age can we do the same?

Second Mystery of Light: Marriage feast at Cana in Galilee.

'Jesus changed water into wine, the first of his signs, and revealed his glory; and his

disciples believed in him.' John 2:11.

Now we know! The answer is Mary, his Mother, who calls him to step out and begin drawing disciples after him. Who wouldn't follow someone who can create copious quantities of wine! Mary knew what it meant. As a woman who had endured so much suffering already, she knew that this journey would not end well in human terms. She knew that her son was called to let go and follow the call of God, to be a prophet. Did she know just who he was? She was human but her faith was a special gift, it enabled her to see beyond the ordinary. She had the faith of Israel that a messiah would come to lead his people, so she said 'yes' again. Can we do the same?

Third Mystery of Light: Proclamation of the Kingdom and call to conversion. *'the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe the good news.'* Mark 1:15.

The real journey begins. Jesus proclaims the good news that God is our Father, truly an 'Abba', a loving parent not a scary judge out to get you! A Father into whose kingdom everyone of whatever race or colour is welcome. To let people burdened by hundreds of commandments know that only one thing is necessary, to love, God and neighbour. What freedom and what joy! Jesus doesn't stay in one place but reaches out to everyone, everywhere that he can reach. Responding to every cry for help that comes to him. He organises teams to reach out in front of him to every lost cave, hut or hamlet. To all the broken pieces of a broken and wounded humanity. Can we do the same?

Fourth Mystery of Light: Transfiguration.

'and he was transfigured before them, his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.' Matthew 17:2

Another Moses on another mountain top with the same mission, to heal God's broken world by creating one new people, the People of God. This was a revelation for Peter, James and John, but not to Jesus. He knew what his call was, but he had to show others that he was the fulfilment not the replacement. He was the plan from the beginning, the Word, the Logos, as John calls him. The journey continues because the plan continues, only Jesus now knows that the fulfilment will come soon, and he must be ready.

The Transfiguration is a foretaste of the resurrection and it is for us, so that we might know that resurrection life starts now. Are we ready to say yes?

Fifth Mystery of Light: Last Supper, the Eucharist. *'he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'this is my Body, given for you. Do this in memory of me.'* Luke 22:19.

A Passover meal celebrating in anticipation the forthcoming journey into freedom. But Jesus says 'this is my Body' here and now. It is his body before any death and suffering. How can this be? This can make sense only by taking it literally. Jesus is one with us now as we walk the journey with him. When the disciples received it, with all their weaknesses and failures, they became Christ figures, hidden under their brokenness. As we embrace our Eucharist, we embrace our weakness and woundedness, we embrace ourselves. Then the transformation begins, the cross and resurrection are made possible. Can we embrace our weaknesses in ourselves and others with faith in the presence of Jesus?

O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life. Grant, we beseech Thee, that by meditating upon these sacred mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY MASS is broadcast live at 1pm from www.facebook.com/Stteresasheaton/ with Fr. Shaun O'Neill. This is followed by praying the Peace Rosary.

We have a choice! We can either journey in the world in a worldly way or we can journey in the world with the protection of The kingdom of God around us. We will be tempted to walk down wrong paths and to veer away from the steps of the Pilgrimage Way. Jesus does not want us to be lost to the world but rather find our joy in Him – a Joy that will last. Jesus protects us and gathers us into one with Himself in the Trinity. Let us ask Mary Our Mother to place us her children under the protection of her mantle during our pilgrimage this week and beyond.



LIT CANDLE INTENTIONS: This evening we gather in the votive candle garden to pray for the pilgrimage intentions. We begin with our heart to heart with Mary. If you have a candle at home you may like to light it now for all your prayer intentions. (The priests will say a prayer just beforehand so that God may bless your candle if it is not already blessed. **N.B.** *never leave a burning candle unattended and always place it securely at a safe distance from other objects.*)

If you have internet you can listen to this beautiful Exsultet rejoicing in Christ Our Light. And if you don't have a lit candle this video has one for you to watch.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNdbTcVfnWA

Another hymn, Christ Our Light, is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJq3bhgdgQoc

Or join Fr. Jeff live at www.facebook.com/parishfamilystocktonRC/

at 5:30pm which includes the reading out of your submitted pilgrimage intentions for us all to pray for together.

DAY 4: THURSDAY 28th May - CHRIST THE HIGH PRIEST

HOLY MASS is broadcast live at 10am from www.facebook.com/parishfamilystocktonRC/ with Fr. Jeff Dodds. Today's Gospel is John 17:20-26. This is the latter part of what is called the 'High Priestly Prayer of Christ' where Jesus intercedes for His Church. Mass is followed by praying the Peace Rosary.



ROSARY OF INTERCESSION FOR PRIESTS: let us gather in the cemetery of St. James' Church in front of the grave of Fr. Slavko Barbaric. As a Franciscan priest, Fr. Slavko put himself ceaselessly at the service of Medjugorje pilgrims from 1982 onwards. He became parish priest of St. James' Church and spiritual director to the six visionaries. He has written many books about Medjugorje. Fr. Slavko died on 24th November 2000 at 3.30 p.m. at the top of Cross Mountain (Mt. Krizevac) after he had led pilgrims in the Way of the Cross. The next day Our Lady said "I rejoice with you and I desire to tell you that your brother Slavko has been born into Heaven and intercedes for you."

Let us now intercede for all priests.

In this Rosary, we contemplate Jesus our Eternal High Priest, and with Mary, the Mother of the Church, we pray for all bishops and priests. We meditate on five special mysteries written especially for this intercession:

1st Mystery: Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest

2nd Mystery: The Paschal Mystery and the Priesthood of Jesus

3rd Mystery: The Priesthood of Jesus in the Church

4th Mystery: Jesus - Priest and Shepherd

5th Mystery: Jesus Christ - Priest and Sacrament

We pray this Rosary.

You can find the Rosary for Intercession for Priests at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7YsAXjKDj4

Or broadcast live with Fr. Shaun at 1pm at www.facebook.com/Stteresasheaton/ from the Fr. Kevin Scallon CD 'In memory of me'

An alternative Rosary for priests can be found at www.traditionalcarmelite.com/pray/prayers-for-priests/a-rosary-for-priests/



DIVINE MERCY: This evening we gather at the Statue of the Risen Christ. First let us open our hearts to Mary as she appears at 5:40pm in Medjugorje.

A statue of bronze which leaks salt water, mainly from the leg of Jesus. When scientifically analysed, this water was of the same composition as human tears. Sometimes analysis has found rose oil in it too. There is no worldly explanation of why or how this water is appearing and yet it does! People come and use cloths to soak up the dripping water; this miraculously dripping water that sometimes smells of roses. Several healings have been connected with the faith-filled use of this water and so we enter into the miracle of The Risen Lord and ask for His Mercy to be poured into our hearts and into those whom we love and know.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet – a prayer offered from The Lord to the world through Sister Faustina. Jesus told Sister Faustina, 'Know, My daughter, that My Heart is mercy itself. From this sea of mercy graces pour out upon the whole world. No soul that comes to Me departs without being comforted. All misery vanishes in My Mercy.' Let us ask Mary to lead us to Her Son, The Risen Lord, so that we too may drink deep of His never ending Mercy.

You can download a copy of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena at www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.org.uk/merciful-prayers/ as an A5 Booklet:

and also listen to the Divine Mercy Chaplet being sung at www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5TGfisOKMM

At 5:30pm, join Fr. Shaun at www.facebook.com/Stteresasheaton/ to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

DAY 5: FRIDAY 29th May - THE HOLY CROSS



Stations of the Cross on Mount Krizevac:

Cross Mountain has been the scene of many dramatic signs and miracles. The Cross was erected by the villagers of Medjugorje in 1933 to commemorate the 1900th anniversary of Christ's death.

Since then, the Way of the Cross has been prayed by millions of people. When Our Lady was asked if she is really appearing at the foot of the Cross, she responded: *"...Almost every day I am at the foot of the cross. My Son carried the cross. He has suffered on the cross, and by it, He saved the world. Every day, I pray to my Son to forgive the sins of the world."*

31st December, 1981.

As a pilgrim arriving in Medjugorje, the first thing you want to know is - When are we going to climb Cross Mountain? The physical effort it takes your body to climb the high mountain and descend is enormous. You need to prepare mentally and spiritually for this key pilgrim event. We can also prepare for today's liturgy from our home. Climbing Cross Mountain can be a journey for us of profound deep prayer. A new awareness of the suffering that Jesus undertook on the road to Calvary. As we recite the Stations of the Cross may the intercession of Our Lady of Medjugorje bring us strength of faith to live and follow the ways of Jesus.

You may download 'Mary's Way of the Cross' as an A5 booklet from

www.ourladyoflourdessheffield.org.uk/rosary-prayers/

Join Fr. Jeff at 10am at www.facebook.com/Stteresasheaton/

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND CROSS MOUNTAIN – Father Joe Ekpo

My Dear Friends as you meditate on the Stations of the Cross, I suggest that you put into consideration the Holy Scripture Passages from the Old Testament which I am putting below for you. I choose these because I want you to see how the Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in the Person of Jesus Christ in His Sacred Passion. For those of you who had suffered/suffering one way or the other, try and apply the passages to your own individual situation, remembering the Words of Jesus when He invited us that if we are to be His followers, we must take up our cross and follow him. Then He added: "No servant is greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also" (John 15: 18-20).

BONUS READING: Read The Book of Sirach, Chapter 2.

OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES THAT CAN HELP YOU IN YOUR MEDITATIONS DURING THE STATIONS:

- Isaiah 53:1-3: Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the

parched earth; there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, no appearance that would attract us to him. He was rejected and avoided by men. A man of suffering accustomed to infirmity. One of those from whom men turn away, and we held him in no esteem.

- Isaiah 63:2-5: why are your clothes red, and your garments like those of the wine presser? The wine press I have trodden alone, and of my people, there was no one with me. I trod them in my anger, and trampled them down in my wrath. Their blood spurted on my garments and I stained all my clothes. I looked about, but there was no one to help. I was appalled that there was no one to lend support. So, my own arm brought about the victory.
- Lamentation 1:12 and 16: Come, all you who pass by the way. Look and see whether there is any suffering like my suffering. Suffering with which the Lord has afflicted me on the day of his blazing wrath. At this I weep, my eyes run with tears. Far from me are all who could console me. Far away are any who might revive me.
- Job 5: 18; Psalm 69: 21 and 22: Insult has broken my heart and I am weak. I look for comforters, and I found none. Rather they put gall in my food, and in my thirst, they gave me vinegar to drink.
- Psalm 142:2-5: With a loud voice I cry to the Lord; with a loud voice I beseech the Lord. My complaint I pour out before him; before him, I lay bare my distress. When my spirit is faint within me, you know my path. In the way along which I walk, they have hidden a trap for me. I look to the right to see, but there is no one who pays me heed. I have lost all means of escape. There is no one who cares for my life.
- Psalm 22:2-3, 15-19: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Far from my prayer, far from the words of my cry? O my God, I cry out by day, and you answer not. I cry out at night and there is no relief for me. All my bones are racked. My heart has become like wax melting away within my chest. My throat is dried up like baked clay. My tongue cleaves to my jaws. They have pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones. These people stare at me and gloat. They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe.

At the end of the 14 stations, you may conclude with the following prayers:

Remember me O Lord! Remember your compassion and kindness from of old. In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness O Lord. To you I lift up my soul. Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress. Put an end to my affliction, my pains, my sicknesses, and my sufferings, and take away all my sins. Preserve my life, and rescue me. Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. Deliver me from every evil. Heal me with your saving Hands O Lord, and I will live to sing your praises. Let integrity and uprightness protect and preserve me, for my hope and trust are in you O Lord my God.

Glory be to the Father, and to Amen.

Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia. Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.

RECOMMENDED: Psalm 25, Psalm 31, Psalm 71 and Psalm 103.

Please Keep me in your prayers and know that you are always in my prayers.

Take care and God bless you and protect you from COVID-19 and all forms of evil.

Fr. Joe Ekpo

HOLY MASS is broadcast live at 1pm from www.facebook.com/Stteresasheaton/ with Fr. Shaun O'Neill. This is followed by the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

Often on a pilgrimage there may come a time when we are called to journey into a place we would rather not go. Today we are reminded of this with the reading about St Peter. To what depth of love are we prepared to go to, in order to show our love of The Lord to The Lord and to others? Peter finds this very difficult; to fully love, and he is told that he will be led into a place he would not naturally journey to.

Let us ask Our Lady to shine her courage and her 'yes' upon us so that we too like her may be able to go to places we would not naturally choose. May Mary help us to say no to the world and yes to the Kingdom of God, and indeed to say yes to God Himself.

VENERATION OF THE CROSS HOLY HOUR begins from 5:30pm with our heart to heart with Mary as she appears in Medjugorje.

Spend up to an hour in prayer and adoration focussed on the Crucifix.

Choose some prayers, readings, music or hymns.

Intersperse these with silent adoration of Our Lord on the Cross.

As we gaze and look upon the Cross we express our humility before Jesus' suffering and sacrificial death. Through music and prayer, we seek the healing that Jesus brings – *'But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.'*

Isaiah 53:5.

Please join Fr. Jeff and Fr. Michael for the holy hour at www.facebook.com/parishfamilystocktonRC/

Fr. Michael's reflections on the Cross

THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

The Five Wounds of Christ is a traditional devotion that allows us to enter the meaning of Christ's suffering and death and to make it our own as we follow our cross journey. It has the same meaning and purpose as the Stations of the Cross. To journey with Christ is a journey into his freedom, to penetrate his wounds is to face our own and discover our own liberation. Today as we identify with the cross of Jesus, we see the pattern that the Gospa has set before us in her messages of hope. We follow her path as she walked in the footpath of our Saviour.

His Sacred Head: Peace.

As we see the wounds that the thorns made in his head, thorns that penetrated deep into his skull, we see the shape of a crown. Meant to shame and demean the source of the Word it reveals instead how that Word is rooted in human frailty and vulnerability, not power. Crowns normally signify wealth and power, that ability to control and command. This crown reveals a Word of mercy and compassion, embedded not in greed but in love. The Word was made flesh as Prince of Peace. The Word gives us the plan, the vision for our journey, without which the people die.

His Sacred Hands: Faith and Conversion.

Two wounds that seem to divide and separate what should naturally be brought together in embrace. The hands nailed apart yet open in an embrace. Faith is a reaching out to the other, conversion is a turning back to the other. How like the

Prodigal Father and his Prodigal Son. The two go together: without faith, conversion becomes impossible; without conversion, faith loses its way. Faith has to be constantly renewed by the power of constant conversion; only then can the journey be continued together.

His Sacred Side: Prayer.

The lance penetrates his heart, the source of his love. In the Scripture the heart is not just the source of affection but the seat of will and commitment. From the heart comes the power to go on, to drive forward, to follow the vision. The lance tries to stop that movement but ultimately it fails and does the opposite. From the side of Christ flows blood and water, everything we need to empower us in our journey of faith. Throughout his life and ministry Jesus went apart for prayer with his Father, his Abba. It was the driving force of his ministry. All the saints, canonised or not, have testified to that power of prayer. Mary tells us again and again 'Pray, pray, pray.'

His Sacred Feet: Fast.

All the prophets fasted and travelled, sharing their message with God's People. John the Baptist fasted, and Jesus fasted, both in the desert. So, fasting is not just about food. Our Lenten journey constantly reminds us that it is fasting from injustice and oppression that is true fasting. The disciples of Jesus do not fast until it is time for their journey, as Church, just like the forty days that Jesus spent fasting preparing for his mission. The desert is not a place to stay but to travel. It is a means to an end, in the Scripture. It is a witness of the Exodus journey that began with slavery and ended with the Promised Land of freedom. To nail the feet of Jesus is to try and stop him bringing that message of freedom and the real Promised Land. The nails failed, as did the other wounds, to stop the new Exodus of Resurrection life.

DAY 6: SATURDAY 30th May - FROM SORROW TO JOY

HOLY MASS is broadcast live at 10am from www.facebook.com/parishfamilystocktonRC/ with Fr. Jeff Dodds.

This is followed by praying the Peace Rosary.

On this eve of Pentecost, we take inspiration from St Paul. He is speaking of his time in prison. Though most of us do not spend time behind bars, sometimes it seems that circumstances beyond our control are inhibiting our freedom. Other times, the bars are limitations of our own creation. When we are 'in chains', we tend to think that we can do something useful once we are free. Once we get to 'the other side of this', we'll be able to love, give or serve.

St. Paul is showing us another way. He is showing us that we don't have to wait for our situation to improve - we can proclaim God's goodness even when life is difficult. Sometimes the very act of loving, giving or serving others when we feel least able to do so, is the key that fits the lock and sets us free.

May the Peace Rosary set us free to know God, and through this to know ourselves. We are amazing disciples of Jesus, with potential to renew the face of this world.

ROSARY AT THE CENACOLO: this afternoon we gather at the Community Cenacolo in Medjugorje. The Community was founded by an Italian nun, Mother Elvira Petrozzi, in 1983. For many years she had been concerned by the destruction she had seen among people of all ages through drug abuse and she longed to help them. Mother Elvira, together with two companions, Sr. Aurelia and a teacher, Nives Grato, were given an abandoned old house in Saluzzo in Italy, and so Community Cenacolo was born. Today there are houses worldwide with over 2,000 men and women. You can hear Mother Elvira's story (with English Subtitles) on <https://youtu.be/pSLTBcBR7tA> - 'Nothing is impossible for God'.



Cenacolo is a place of hope! It is not a "Detox" or a "Rehab". It is a place of hope, certainly for those seeking to escape from addiction (drug/alcohol/gambling etc.) but also for those disaffected by life who want to experience a simpler Christian life. In Cenacolo there are no psychiatrists or social workers; this is a "peer-led" community where people live together, respecting each other, themselves and the firm rules of the Community. Here you are among friends who will generally have gone through similar experiences to you. The main foundations of the Community are: Friendship, Work and Prayer. In the UK there is one in Kendal.

You can listen to short testimonies from a woman at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oC_h9BJhr5w

and a man at www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRSDNBiiYCA

Please join Fr. Shaun live at 1pm on www.facebook.com/Stteresasheaton/ to listen to his story of Cenacolo and to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

Cenacolo and the Joyful Mysteries. Out of sorrow comes Joy.

Out of darkness comes Light. Out of brokenness comes Healing.

Out of death comes Life. Out of addiction comes Freedom.

Let us commend all those who are struggling with any sort of addiction to the care of our Mother Mary, comforter of the sorrowful.

OPEN OUR HEARTS TO MARY. At 5:35pm retreat to a quiet place. Sit comfortably, join your hands in prayer and close your eyes. Focus on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Thank Her for coming to us in our hearts. Pray a Hail Mary or three. At 5:39pm remain silent for a few minutes. Be aware that Mary is appearing now in Medjugorje. Open your heart to Mary to receive whatever she wishes to impart to you. After a few minutes thank Our Lady for the graces received.

ADORATION HOLY HOUR: Spend up to an hour in prayer and adoration focussed on Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Many saints when they couldn't be physically present near to the Blessed Sacrament would simply ask God to bring them before Him spiritually in the nearest Catholic Church to them. Request this of God for you. Choose some prayers, readings, music or hymns. Intersperse these with silent adoration of Our Lord. Alternatively, you may wish to join a live broadcast 'Medjugorje Holy Hour Adoration' with Fr. Lee Marshall from 7:30pm to 8:30pm at www.facebook.com/StVincentMissionHub/

DAY 7: SUNDAY 31st May - PENTECOST

HOLY MASS: please join Fr. Jeff at 10am on www.facebook.com/parishfamilystocktonRC/ for Pentecost Sunday Mass.
"Renew, Your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost." By Pope St John XXIII
*'Come, O Holy Spirit.
Come as Holy Fire and burn in us,
Come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within,
Come as Holy Light and lead us in the darkness,
Come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance,
Come as Holy Power and enable our weakness,
Come as Holy Life and dwell in us.
Convict us, convert us, consecrate us,
until we are set free from the service of ourselves,
to be your servants to the world. Amen.'*
By St John Henry Newman.

HOLY MASS: for a later Mass please join Fr. Shaun at 11am on www.facebook.com/Stteresasheaton/ for Pentecost Sunday Mass.
To paraphrase Scripture, 'Just as the Word of God does not come down from Heaven and return without completing what it was sent to do,' then we too are on a journey back from our time in Medjugorje and are called to fulfil what the Lord, through His Mother, has asked us to do in the year ahead. It is the Holy Spirit that will give us the wisdom and the courage to speak out boldly about our relationship with The Lord – just as the Apostles discovered they could do two thousand years ago – and it is the same Spirit then, as it is now, and will ever be. Let us thank our Mother for the graces she has bestowed on us during this pilgrimage.

THANKSGIVING: this afternoon we give thanks for sharing this pilgrimage together. We pray for the grace to be able to continue to live Medjugorje at home. What will help us? Franciscan Priest, Fr. Jozo Zovko was parish priest of St James, Medjugorje, when the apparitions began. He used an example of five stones. You can read the full article at www.patheos.com/blogs/mysticpost/2017/11/13/the-five-stones-of-medjugorje/

Here is a short version.

Goliath was a strong man; undefeated in battle. The Lord chose a young boy, David, and told him to gather five stones. Trusting in God, David defeated Goliath.

Our Lady has chosen you, like David; you who are small, just as you are.

She offers you five stones: **Prayer, Fasting, Holy Mass, the Bible and Confession.**

With these simple weapons we overcome the world.

Prayer: Our Lady insists upon prayer. Prayer is a gift. He who prays knows how to love; he who loves knows how to pray. The Church is a family that prays, a family that loves. Prayer transforms the world.

Fasting: from unhealthy habits, from television, from evil thoughts, from negative influences, and from food. Fasting is medicine and a sacrifice.

Holy Mass: without Mass the Church does not exist. The Mass is not simply a rite; it is a mystery and a gift of the Lord. Mass transforms the Christian, transforms the Church, because with the Mass Jesus is offered completely to the Church. Therefore you must not just listen to the Holy Mass but live it.

The Bible: is born from the heart of the Lord; it is His Word. Therefore it must be in first place within the family, and be sacred for us. It must be the source of our prayer.

Monthly Confession: today people rarely confess. Humility leads to confession and conversion. To confess well we must prepare ourselves with fasting and prayer. The proper attitude is that of opening ourselves up before the Lord: "I have brought you my heart. Transform it for me, and give it back to me renewed." This is what occurs in Confession, which is both a sacrament and a mystery.

Through these five stones we, and the world, are healed.

Let us pray the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. You may like to use the Scriptural Rosary at www.ourladyoflourdesssheffield.org.uk/rosary-prayers/ or join us at 1pm on www.facebook.com/parishfamilystocktonRC/ Many thanks for joining us on this Pilgrimage.

Thank you to all our contributors: with special thanks to Melinda Dumitrescu and Roland Patzleiner who have given their copyright permission for all the Medjugorje Music used. Please pray for them both and their intentions. Thank you.

Fr. Leon Pereira, chaplain to English-speaking pilgrims in Medjugorje, shares his personal experiences of Medjugorje at www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gb4FJx4kTQ

Thank you everyone for joining us on this virtual pilgrimage to Medjugorje. It has been a wonderful journey of receiving and experiencing God's grace. We have all been enriched to be disciples of Jesus; as are the parishes that we all belong to back at home.

We priests - Fr Michael, Fr Paul, Fr Shaun, Fr Jeff and Fr Lee are so grateful for your daily prayers, love and support. Please continue to pray for us as we will for you. Together, through the intercession of Our Blessed Lady of Medjugorje, Queen of Peace, may we journey along the road of life towards heaven.

Fr. Jeff



Fr. Michael



Fr. Lee



Fr. Shaun



Fr. Paul

