



February 2021

With the appearance of snowdrops we know that Spring isn't far away. It's been a tough year for everyone. We miss seeing everyone at Mass and catching up on any family news.

If you would like a chat or would like us to pray with you, please contact Jan on 01473 310017 or Kathy on 01473 311384
God bless Jan and Kathy



Here is the message from Our Lady, Queen of Peace of Medjugorje for January 25, 2021:

"Dear children! I am calling you at this time to prayer, fasting and renunciation, that you may be stronger in faith.

This is a time of awakening

and of giving birth. As nature which gives itself, you also, little children, ponder how much you have received. Be joyful bearers of peace and love that it may be good for you on earth. Yearn for Heaven; and in Heaven there is no sorrow or hatred. That is why, little children, decide anew for conversion and let holiness begin to reign in your life. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Prayer for the sick

Most merciful Father, your beloved Son showed special compassion to lepers, tenderness to those long sick, and healing to the infirm laid before him. We place before you all those who are ill and in need of healing grace. May the love of the Divine Physician raise up all who suffer from sickness and restore them to health and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus.
Father Peter John Cameron, O.P.

Our beloved dead

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|-------------------|-------------|
| Marjorie McCarthy | 4 Feb. 2012 |
| Pat Gallagher | 7 Feb 82 |
| Frank Keegan | 7 Feb 77 |
| Anne Hearne | 18 Feb 99 |
| Maureen McCarthy | 20 Feb 78 |
| Mabel Willett | 20 Feb 94 |
| John Chapman | 23 Feb 2015 |

Prayers please

We would ask you to pray especially for Ellen Kirby at this time. Ellen has been having cancer treatment for nearly 4 years and has recently been in and out of hospital with liver and other problems.

Please let us know if you would like prayers for anyone and we will share them with our amazing prayer warriors.

Recently departed

We pray for Paul Cowell who died in January and ask for prayers for Ruth and the family at this sad time.

Also for Moira Beavis' father-in-law who died very recently. Again our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Rest in Peace

Lord, be good to them,
And show them all your love.
Lord, be kind to them,
And grant them peace above.
Lord, be merciful to them,
And wipe their sins away.
Lord, be generous to them,
With all my heart I pray.
Lord, be gracious to them,
For the good that they have done.
Lord, be gentle to them,
For sufferings undergone.
Lord, may we meet again at last,
When heaven's crown's been won.

Fr. Patrick Sayles SSC
www.theprayertrust.org

If you ever feel distressed during your day - call upon our Lady.
Just say this simple prayer:
Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.
This prayer has never failed me.
Blessed Mother Teresa



Living Stones prayer group

Living Stones Prayer Group are currently meeting weekly on Zoom: Mondays 6.30 to 7.30pm. We are a charismatic prayer group, open to the spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:8-10) and fruits (Gal 5:22-23) of the Holy Spirit, and seeking to grow in faith, discipleship and service of the God's church. Come and join us for praise and worship, thanksgiving, to listen to God's word, quiet reflection and intercession.

If you'd like to join us contact Clare Fox: 07906 523496

Prayer from St. Ignatius of Loyola

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will, all I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours. Do with it what You will. Give me only Your love and Your grace. That is enough for me.

A joke for Senior Citizens

A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbour and says "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure how to get started." Her neighbour asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The little silver haired lady says "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster." Her neighbour decides to go over and help with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, turns to her and says "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster."

He takes her hand and says "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then" he said with a deep sigh.....

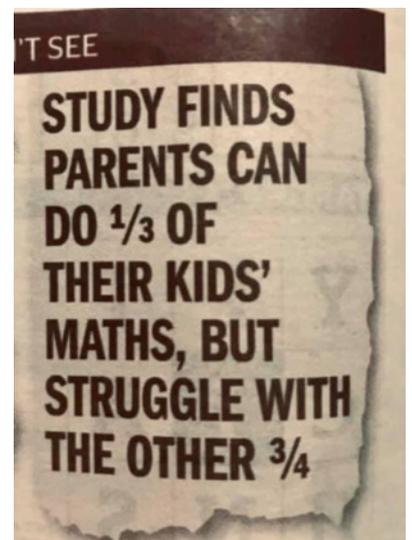
"Let's put all the Corn Flakes back in the box."

THE WORLD'S FAITH DEPENDS ON #CHRISTIANUNITY: IN FACT, THE LORD ASKED THAT WE BE ONE "SO THE WORLD MIGHT BELIEVE" (JN 17:21). THE WORLD WILL NOT BELIEVE BECAUSE OF OUR CONVINCING ARGUMENTS, BUT BECAUSE WE HAVE BORNE WITNESS TO THAT LOVE THAT UNITES US AND DRAWS US NEAR. #PRAYER

AFTER THE LAST SUPPER, JESUS PRAYED FOR HIS OWN, "THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE" (JN 17:21). THIS MEANS THAT WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACHIEVE UNITY WITH OUR OWN STRENGTH. ABOVE ALL, UNITY IS A GIFT, IT IS A GRACE TO BE REQUESTED THROUGH #PRAYER #CHRISTIANUNITY

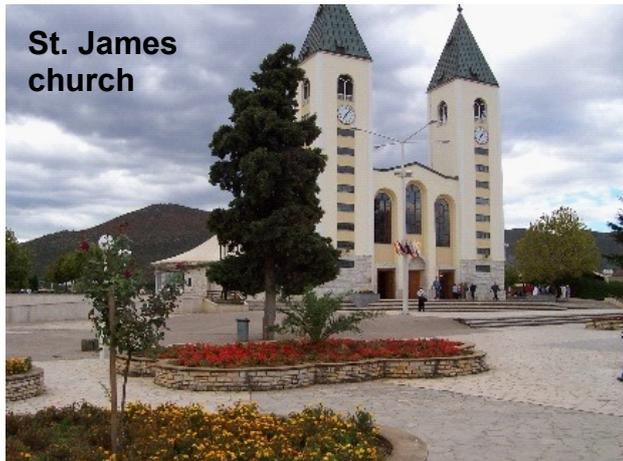
POPE FRANCIS
JANUARY 20

When home schooling is a challenge.....

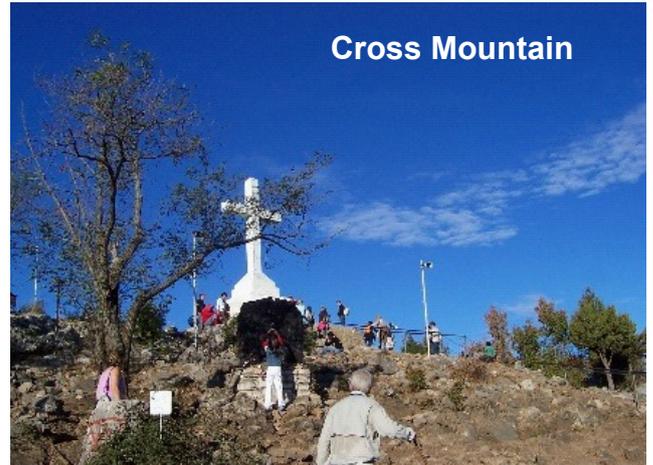


Medjugorje (Bosnia Herzegovina) and Bihac by *Chris McEwen*

It is a new year, and I am excited. I am praying that we will be able to go on pilgrimage to Medjugorje this year. I first went with Jan Cavanagh's group in September 2007 and have returned almost every year since. I am "hooked" and want to go back!



St. James church



Cross Mountain

Perhaps inevitably, my first visit was the most remarkable. Medjugorje is a truly spiritual place in the Christian part of Bosnia. The overgrown village's centre has an iconic church in the middle of a valley with Apparition Hill on one side (where our Lady first appeared) and Krizevac or Cross Mountain on another which was a local place of pilgrimage since 1933.

As so often happens, it is not only the place, but the people who make pilgrimages special.

When I first went in 2007, it was only 12 years after the "Peace Accord" signed in December 1995 that brought an end to the terrible war in the former Yugoslavia. Medjugorje itself was virtually untouched and avoided bombing, but the villages and towns around it were not so lucky. An orphanage in Medjugorje, Mother's Village, helped children from the conflict. The bus journey from the airport took us past a former military camp and buildings damaged by shelling, bombing and small arms fire.

A pilgrim from another group told us about refugees from the war who had been largely forgotten. They were living in very basic conditions in the next town, Capljina. Some of us visited the camp taking toys for the children and money for their parents. We met Nensi and her family of five who had been living in a tin shed about 12ft by 12 ft for most of the 12 years since the end of the war. They shared a central sanitation block in the camp with broken plumbing and rats. This served about 70 families. Although it was obvious that the homes were freezing in winter, Nensi said that the heat in the summer was far worse.



Scenes from Capljina camp 2007



Most of the families relied on Italian pilgrims bringing food and clothing. The Authorities regularly turned off the electricity. I was shocked that this "forgotten refugee camp" in a town called Capljina was in Europe, less than half an hour's drive from Medjugorje.

Bosnia Herzegovina is a troubled country. It is politically unstable, with a rotating presidency of Serbs, Muslims and Christians. There is and has been corruption, and when I asked Nensi in 2007 who was to blame for the problems in her camp, she said “they are all as bad as each other”. The EU gives money, but it does not get through to the people who need it.

Today in Bosnia there is another refugee and migrant crisis near the Croatian border. Bosnia has become a bottleneck for thousands of migrants hoping to reach Western Europe. Most of them are stuck in Bosnia’s northwest Krajina region as other areas in the ethnically divided nation have refused to accept them.

There are thousands of refugees and migrants who are stranded without shelter in mid-winter. Hundreds of migrants have been stranded in a squalid, burned-out tent camp in Bihac. The camp in near-by Lipa, “home” to thousands more migrants, is little better.



In late December, the International Organization for Migration’s chief of mission in Bosnia, tweeted. “Snow has fallen, sub-zero temperatures, no heating, nothing. This is not how anyone should live. We need political bravery and action now.”

I am sure that, like many, I have a special place in my heart for Medjugorje but we don’t think about Bosnia. Can I ask everyone to remember Bosnia Herzegovina in their prayers. The country is in a mess. Can we particularly remember the refugees and migrants.

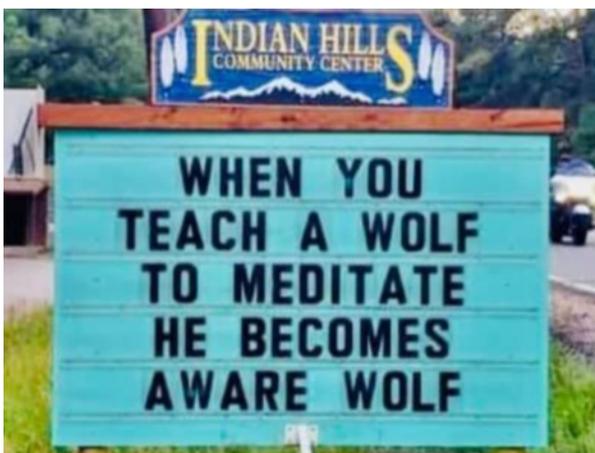
Nensi and her immediate family are now living in Lincolnshire, England, having received help from many people. Her husband Vinko is a construction worker.

Chris McEwen

The UN refugee agency - UNHCR - support refugees in Bosnia. You can donate through them: www.unhcr.org/uk/refugees.html

If anyone is interested in joining the pilgrimage to Medjugorje in September, please contact Jan Cavanagh on 01473 310017 or email: jan.s.cavanagh@gmail.com

And on a lighter note.....



If we run out of Drs & Nurses we may need to use vets. Have you seen how they take temperatures? Stay home & be safe.